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Beannachtaí na Nollag Christmas Blessings by Mary McSweeney

for information on this print see Page 3.



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

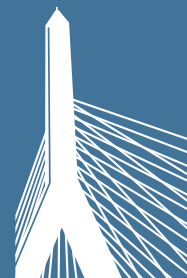
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GOP win stokes anxiety among Irish who have overstayed visas

**By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF**

Perhaps unwittingly, Irish Americans who voted for Donald Trump have placed a large number of Irish immigrants in jeopardy of immediate deportation.

The president-elect Trump, during his post-election *60 Minutes* interview with Lesley Stahl, reaffirmed some of his hard-line campaign rhetoric about moving firmly to deport millions of immigrants, a move that apparently would open the door for US Immigration Services to summarily deport immigrants who came to the US on short-stay permits but have overstayed them by months and years.

A great many Irish men and women fall into this category, and under the strictures of the permit, those who signed them agreed to waive any recourse to judicial process. Immigration officers can arrest them, jail them, and summarily put them on a plane to their country of origin.

John P. Foley, Esq., one of Boston's pre-eminent immigration law attorneys, told the BIR in a recent interview that the short-stay visas contain "fine print that means you [i.e., immigrants on these permits] have no right to traditional processing and can be removed non-administratively from the US." He adds that "the immigration courts are already overflowing, and going after people on short-stay permits offer the government an easy way to remove a lot of immigrants."

In other words, he says, "The Irish and

other immigrants who have overstayed are low-hanging fruit for the government," adding that "I've been doing this [immigration law] for years now, but I've never seen so much fear in the immigrant community."

Foley relates that since Jan. 12, 2009, Irish citizens coming to the United States through the Visa Waiver Program have been required to file an application through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization, or ESTA. In effect, this is their travel permit. ESTA is not a US visa and applies only to foreigners visiting the United States by plane or ship. Any travelers entering by these modes must provide a "valid machine-readable passport or ePassport," according to ESTA guidelines. If someone from Ireland tries to take a US-bound flight without an approved ESTA Travel Authorization or a valid US Visitor Visa, he or she might not be allowed to board. If individuals overstay their allotted time—for the Irish it was good for two years—they are considered to be permanently out of the system and subject to immediate deportation.

As is the case with so many illegal immigrants from Mexico, Central and Latin America, Asia, and other parts of the globe, overstaying Irish immigrants have worked and raised families over the years in the US. Having launched his successful presidential campaign with a harsh anti-immigrant stance in which he vowed to build a wall on the Mexican border to keep out "rapists, drug-dealers," and all other illegal His-

panic immigrants, Trump also pledged to deport all foreigners who have stayed too long on their temporary visas.

Trump voters include millions of Irish Americans who cheered him on with his strident stance against Hispanics, but many of these same people appear taken aback at the prospect that men, women, and children from the "old sod" face the nearing prospect of summary deportation by a Trump administration.

Foley points out that throughout the presidential campaign, Trump asserted that he will revoke every one of President Barack Obama's executive orders, which include Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA. To the fury of the Republican Congress, DACA has allowed some three million children brought to the US by undocumented parents to come out of the shadows with legal status to remain in America without fear of deportation.

"If Trump keeps his promise to overturn DACA," Foley says, "he's talking about kicking out kids who all have clean records, are good students, and are positive in every way to America." He adds, "A lot of these kids are Irish."

Obama is deeply concerned that Trump will dispense with DACA. With regard to the Irish-American immigrant community, the simple fact is those who have overstayed their visas in recent years face the same fate as undocumented Hispanics and other groups.

In a post-election press conference Obama urged Trump and his pending administration "to think long and hard

before they are endangering the status of what for all practical purposes are American kids."

According to the *Irish Times*, Anne Anderson, Ireland's Ambassador to the US, commented on the dilemma a week or so after Trump's victory: "The immigration issue is, of course, so live. We know about the large numbers of undocumented Irish that have been living in the shadows. Many of them now are living in fear, and that is a huge issue."

Several Trump surrogates claim that his focus will be on illegal immigrants who have criminal backgrounds. Those words ring hollow, however, to critics who counter that Trump has not backed away from his promise to kick out immigrants who have overstayed their visas. On the campaign trail, he branded them as people who had played the system by grabbing every entitlement—welfare, food stamps, etc.—they could find. Of course, aware that some 40 million Americans claim Irish descent, he singled out Hispanics, conveniently sidestepping any overt references to Irish illegals.

Foley raises another issue: Trump's pledge that directly targets Irish students in Boston and throughout the US. During the campaign, he vowed to end the J-1 Student Work Program. Given that, young Irish men and women studying and working here face the reality that they might be forced to return home even though they have done nothing wrong.

Four get Silver Keys from Charitable Irish

The Charitable Irish Society presented Silver Key Awards to Gerard and Marilyn Doherty of Charlestown, Billy Higgins of South Boston, and Sister Maryadele Robinson, director emerita of the Laboure Center in South Boston – at an evening reception on Nov. 10 at Boston's Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel.

"We had a wonderful and highly successful Silver Key," said CIS president Christopher Duggan in a next day email to society members. "Our honorees spoke beautifully about their experiences serving those less fortunate in Boston

and Ireland over decades of service. A big 'Thank You' to all those who attended or contributed to this important event.

"The Charitable Irish Society's Silver Key Awards Reception is our primary annual fundraising event. Funds raised are distributed to or on behalf of individual immigrants and provides financial support and services to those in need."

The Charitable Irish Society was founded in Boston in 1737. It is the oldest Irish Society in the Americas and is unique in its inclusive membership of both Catholics and Protestants since its early



From the Charitable Irish Society's Silver Key awards event: Charitable Irish Society President Christopher A. Duggan and honorees Gerard Doherty, Sr. Maryadele Robinson and William Higgins. *Steve Allen photo*

days. From its beginnings, the Society's mission has been to provide aid and assistance to newly arrived Irish immigrants as they face the multiple challenges of adjusting to and assimilating into

a new city and country. Consistent with the Irish traditions of hospitality and charity, the Society has expanded its focus to include immigrants from other countries as well as from Ireland.

Walsh: City to defend everyone's civil rights

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh is pledging to support and defend undocumented immigrants living in the city as the incoming Trump administration is signaling a get-tough policy on illegal immigration.

"We defend and are going to defend people in the city – our friends, our neighbors, family members – from any efforts to exclude them from their rights here in the city of Boston," Walsh said in a Nov. 27 interview with the *Irish Times*. "Boston is a city of inclusion, welcoming diversity. We are a global city and we are going to stay that way. We are not going to stop being that city that respects immigrants, both documented and undocumented."

"It is unfortunate that

that is happening in parts of America today and I think that we need to stay true to our roots and where we are from," he told the newspaper. "I am a very proud to be the son of two immigrants who came to this country in the 1950s, who settled here and had their family here."

Added the mayor, who also discussed his policy last month in Boston with Ireland's Diaspora Minister Joe McHugh: "There is a lot of uncertainty right now and also a lot of confusion on what rights the federal government has to enforce some of these laws. It is going to be years before anything can be figured out. You can make a tough statement, but that doesn't actually mean that you can change the system."

Jack Dunn given a new post at BC

Boston College President William P. Leahy, SJ, has appointed Jack Dunn as associate vice president and director of the newly installed Office of University Communications. Dunn has served as News & Public Affairs director and university spokesman at Boston College

for the past 18 years. His resume includes stints as a freelance writer for the *Dorchester Reporter*, as a teacher and administrator at BC High, and time with Catholic Charities in Boston.

The Office of University Communications will include responsibilities for

news and information, media relations, social media, and promotional video, as well as a scheduled web redesign.

"Jack knows Boston College well and appreciates its challenges and opportunities in the areas of media, public affairs, and marketing," said Fr. Leahy. "I am confident that he will continue to be an articulate and effective advocate for Boston College and a strong leader of university communications."



Jack Dunn
Longtime BC spokesman

ABOUT PAGE ONE

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Modeling the spirit of Dr. Tom Durant

By Ed Forry

Dr. Tom Durant, the man the late Boston Globe columnist Dave Nyhan once called the “bantamweight archangel,” has been gone now for 15 years, but his legacy is very much alive.

The Dorchester physician found his medical anchor at Massachusetts General Hospital; his calling was bringing medical care to suffering people throughout the world.

In 1966, Durant began his humanitarian efforts as a medical adviser for refugees in war-torn Saigon. Over the next 35 years, his mission took him to Cambodia, Northern Ireland, Kosovo, Central America, Bosnia, Rwanda, Somalia, the Iraq/Turkey Border, and Afghanistan. This self-described “simple boy from Dorchester – with a passport” always wore his Boston Red Sox cap as he made his global rounds.

In 2011, his friend Joe Leary said, “Tom Durant brought happiness and comfort to thousands, even tens of thousands, during his lifetime. Tom had gifts that few of



us have. He could be tough as nails taking on authority figures who didn't pay enough attention to the weaker and poorer among us. And he was a humble man, frequently taking the overnight shift that everyone else avoided. He was the first to say, 'I'll go' when a disaster of any kind presented itself... Yet throughout his life, a bright sharp humor came forth with every step he took.

Smiles and laughter lay in his wake wherever he traveled.” Before he died, MGH established the Thomas S. Durant Fellowship for Refugee Medicine, annually selecting a staff nurse or doctor as a “Durant Fellow” to work in a far corner of the world where the need is great. Fellows receive a stipend and expenses, and work 3-9 months with existing organizations in response to acute humanitarian crises.

The 2016 Durant Fellow, Dr. Rachel Lampros, is a physical therapist who worked in Haiti, “the poorest country in the western hemisphere where 80 percent of Haitians live under the poverty line and 54 percent live in abject poverty,” she said in a report to Fellowship supporters. “There is no public health infrastructure making access to basic healthcare impossible for the majority. Half of the children in Haiti are unvaccinated and more than 10 percent die before the age of five. Mothers provide two numbers when asked how many children they have: how many born, and how many living. “This October, I embarked on my third trip to Haiti, my first trip as a Durant Fellow, revitalizing my purpose and polishing my practice,” Lampros wrote. “When we arrived, [hurricane] Mathew was still a tropical storm warning. Our team anticipated some rain, road closures and flooding; a recipe for inconvenient travel days at worst.

“Unlike the States where we were inundated with latest satellite imagery on Matthew's trajectory, there was little to no awareness that we were on the threshold of possible disaster. Despite closing the clinic for the day, we were swarmed with patients seeking medical attention. We triaged the patients that required emergent care and sent the remainder home emphasizing the severity of the storm. Projected winds of 145 mph and 25 inches of rain meant our neighbors living in tin sheds and tents would literally be swept away.

“The forecast was devastating. After Matthew decimated the southern peninsula, it took a hard westward turn away from our clinic. We sustained little to no damage and minimal surge. Our community was spared and our clinic reopened.

In the wake of Hurricane Matthew, this devastated country will become even more vulnerable to disease outbreaks and less equipped to manage its long-term sequelae. As more post-hurricane relief efforts respond and the devastating aftermath of the hurricane manifest, our work in Haiti surges to the forefront. “It is a privilege to represent the fellowship and to serve the victims of humanitarian disasters in our life, garnishing the spirit of Dr. Thomas S. Durant.”

For more on the Durant Fellowship, contact its director, Dr. Larry Ronan, at Ironan@partners.org.

Ireland awaits Trump moves on the corporate tax rate front

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Senior Trump economic adviser Stephen Moore, formerly with the conservative think tank Heritage Foundation, somewhat gleefully announced on BBC radio the day after the election that Donald Trump's new reduced tax rate would mean that many American companies now in Ireland would be leaving and returning to the USA. Moore based his statement on Trump's claim during the campaign that he will reduce the American corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 15 percent in order to bring back jobs.



Joe Leary

Nonsense! The United States accounts for about 5 percent of the world's population. For successful American companies to prosper they must consider all possibilities for growth. Senior business executives managing profitable organizations would be making a significant mistake if they did

not try to market their products in the rest of the world. Their stockholders and workers would demand it.

Ireland, without any major natural resources except its people, has decided to compete for this inward investment business.

Back 40 and 50 years ago, Ireland was a desperately poor country with its young people leaving by the tens of thousands. There were no foreign corporations interested in locating there. In 1950 Ireland was almost a brand new country. It had not participated in World War II and its leader, Eamon de Valera, who was very protective of Irish sovereignty, kept the country mostly closed.

But at the same time there were some very smart men in Ireland who wanted to modernize the country and its moribund economy. To encourage new corporations they set a corporate tax rate of 10 percent. A new agency – the Ireland Development Agency (IDA) – was set up to attract foreign investment.

In the half-century since, their plans have been extraordinarily successful. Much to the envy of similar agencies. It was the Irish people's natural ability and brain power and the ideas of far-reaching thinkers that made the difference. Superior free education for all, a government willing to create the right atmosphere for incoming companies, and a large diaspora in the United States loyal to their home heritage also helped make that difference.

Today 700 American companies have created

Off the Bench

The plot has brightened considerably

By James W. Dolan
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

It was quicker than anticipated. After lamenting the loss of my wife and pondering the chances of meeting someone else, it happened. A friend told me about a widow I might like to meet. Why not? I figured; it's better than sitting at home feeling sorry for myself.



James W. Dolan

I called and as luck would have it, she agreed to go out to dinner, my first blind date in almost 60 years. I was as nervous as was she. She told me later that she kept my number to call in case she chickened out. Fortunately she didn't, and the date went very well. I brought flowers (I may be out of practice, but I didn't just fall off a turnip truck).

It turned out that we have much in common and she has many of the qualities I admired in my late wife. We are both Democrats, although she claimed she was a liberal independent, which to me was the same as being a Democrat. She is ecumenical; a summer Catholic and winter Episcopalian. She is a nurse, a mother, and a grandmother. I like her independence. Between family, a wide array of friends and homes in Massachusetts and Florida, I doubted she'd have time to fit me into her schedule.

Early on we established that neither of us wanted to re-marry. Having both had very good marriages, we were looking for a connection, a special friendship that would enable us to be close without interfering with the lives we had already established. A comfortable relationship, that is, more like a summer romance in the autumn of our lives.

At times I felt a little awkward, but I was having so much fun after many lonely months that there was no way I would return to the gloom. Having finally got off the cancer train, I enthusiastically boarded the merry-go-round. It has been a long time since I had a girl friend and I had forgotten how enjoyable it could be. “Get a life!” was a favorite expression of my wife when people started to complain about their situations. I take that as a form of approval since that's what I'm doing.

subsidiaries in Ireland, creating some 140, 000 jobs that are a huge benefit to the Irish people. They are there because Ireland offers an English-speaking environment to which American management can easily adapt, a superior, highly educated, and available work force, and very cooperative governments that have all made inward investment comfortable and profitable as an entry point into Europe and other locations outside the United States.

The Irish corporate tax fate remains famously low, although it was raised to 12.5 percent in 2003. This helps Ireland compete not so much with the United States but with Germany, Britain, and France all of whom have much greater resources. British Prime Minister Theresa May has just announced that Britain is considering a lower corporate tax rate, maybe lower than Ireland's, to prevent damage from the Brexit movement.

Pfizer arrived in Ireland in 1969 and now has 3,300 employees there; Intel came in 1989, and now has 5,000 workers; and Boston Scientific arrived in 1994 and now has 4,500 employees in Ireland. All three companies have continued to make new investments in plants and facilities over the years.

Through the efforts of the IDA, more than 20 percent of America's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Europe comes into Ireland. That means, of course, that 80 percent goes elsewhere on the continent so Ireland has to work hard to maintain its competitive position.

The American tax laws that may be changed are meant to encourage the growth of American companies throughout the world. Pfizer, Intel, and Boston Scientific must pay Ireland its 12.5 percent tax on profits and is liable to the United States for the difference below the American tax rate of 35 percent, but only if they bring the profits back to the United States. Many companies simply use these profits to expand their operations overseas. So if Intel makes \$100,000 in profit in Ireland, it must pay Ireland \$12,500 and can use the remaining dollars to build another plant or invest in a sales office somewhere until they decide to bring the profits back to the USA.

There may be some discussion warranted concerning repatriating profits to the USA along with the reduction in the USA's corporate tax. Campaign promises will require some change, but, in any case, it is highly unlikely that after investing hundreds of billion dollars in Ireland any of the big companies will close their operations there. And jobs at Intel, Pfizer, and Boston Scientific may not be duplicated here in the United States.

I introduced her to my entire family at our annual reunion and, as expected, she was a hit. Her easy manner permits her to fit comfortably into almost any situation. That she obviously makes me happy helps. There may be some unspoken misgivings, but my children and grandchildren profess to be happy at my good fortune.

These are uncharted waters for both of us. After long and successful marriages, it isn't easy to turn to someone else without hesitation. The death of a spouse does not end the relationship. The love, the shared experiences, the joys and sorrows remain. They are to be cherished and preserved in memory. But the capacity to love is never exhausted; the heart remains open, ever willing to expand. The love of one child is not reduced by the birth of another. In a similar way, the love of a deceased spouse is not replaced or reduced by loving a new friend.

That's not to say that all love is the same. In this most complex of emotions, there are different depths, feelings, and variations. Love can be shallow and selfish or deep and generous. True love is unconditional; you want to make the objects of your affection happy and do whatever you can, even at great sacrifice, to assure their well-being.

Love is intimidating; it involves exposing vulnerabilities. In so doing there is the risk of rejection, disappointment, or exploitation. It is trusting another person to a degree that can be uncomfortable. We are reluctant to love unless we know we are loved in return and even then, we often find it hard to express. “Shower the people you love with love” is a grand sentiment, but too few are willing to openly embrace it.

So here I am with a special friend in what I feared would be the last gloomy chapters of my life. The plot has brightened considerably. The end of this book may just turn out to be as interesting as the earlier chapters. Who knows? But for all those who have lost a spouse on the cancer train, be patient: There may be better days ahead.

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

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By Ed Forry
BIR STAFF

Some 400 family members, friends, and political and community leaders assembled last Saturday morning in South Boston as the city officially re-dedicated the Marine Industrial Park on the waterfront in honor of former Boston mayor and ambassador to the Vatican Raymond L. Flynn.

The 90-minute ceremony, led by Mayor Marty Walsh, featured remarks by a number of current and former officeholders, including 1983 mayoral rival and frequent Flynn partner Mel King.

The newly named Flynn Marine Park, once the site of the Boston Army Base and a US Navy dry-dock facility, is a 191-

acre site reaching out to Boston Harbor from Summer Street. Flynn's father worked there as a longshoreman and the former mayor himself still holds an ILA union card from the time when he had his first job working the docks there.

The park includes the Massport-owned Black Falcon terminal, where dozens of cruise ships put into port while visiting the city. The terminal was also named in honor of Flynn. In a surprise announcement, Walsh revealed that the Summer Street bridge that connects the waterfront district with the larger South Boston neighborhood has also been named in honor of Flynn.

"Naming this facility



Mayor Martin Walsh and former Mayor Raymond L. Flynn are pictured in front of a new sign at the Marine Industrial Park that has been re-named in honor of Flynn. Don West photofotografiks

and bridge for Ambassador Flynn is symbolic of so much of what he has fought for every day over a 45-year career in

public life," said Walsh. "Ray Flynn, with his family roots in Ireland and the labor movement, has fought every day for the

rights of all working families. This historic port symbolizes what Ray has represented throughout his public life: reaching out and welcoming people from every background, working with people to build one city, with one set of rules for all.

The dedication came at the recommendation of a city commission established to recommend ways to honor Flynn that was co-chaired by City Councillor Bill Linehan of South Boston and longtime Flynn confidant Frank Doyle of Dorchester.

"Naming this facility for Ambassador Flynn is symbolic of so much of what he has fought for every day over a 45-year career in public life," said Doyle.

Speakers at the Saturday event included Bishop John Borders of the Morning Star Baptist Church; US Rep. Stephen Lynch; state Sen. Linda Dorcea Forry; MassPort chief Thomas Glynn; state Rep. Nick Collins; former state representative and 1983 mayoral finalist Mel King; City Councillor Bill Linehan; and Rev. John Casey, representing Cardinal Sean O'Malley.

Numerous dignitaries from government and organized labor, including Angela Menino, widow of the late Mayor Thomas M. Menino, and dozens of former Flynn Administration officials attended. Ray and Cathy Flynn were joined by their six children and 17 grandchildren.

Commentary

He won; now let's get back in the arena

FACTS, FALSEHOODS, AND AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Wading through the swamp of the 2016 presidential election

By Bill Forry
EDITOR

Is the American experiment in democracy equipped to survive a Trump presidency? Our E-day-plus-one answer is, "Of course it will." And it is the responsibility of our leaders, especially the vanquished Democratic ticket, to re-affirm this bedrock belief.

Our republic has weathered numerous constitutional crises, including a secessionist movement leading to a four-year-long armed conflict to restore the Union; invasion by a foreign army; obscene acts of terrorism both homegrown and imported, including chattel slavery; and economic depressions so grave that they many times threatened to engulf much of the nation in abject poverty.

This was not a crisis, it was an election. The winner, Mr. Trump, earned his title of president-elect on Wednesday morning and, in proper sequence, Hillary Clinton and President Obama spoke eloquently and with dignity about what we — as loyal Americans, even those of us dismayed by the outcome — must do next.

"That's the way politics works some times," observed the president, who noted that he's been on the losing end of elections before. "If we lose, we learn from our mistakes, we do some reflections, we lick our wounds, we get back in the arena."

Suck it up, we're told. Choose to engage with our political foes, not as one would with a bitter adversary but as a competitor in an "intramural scrimmage," as the president put it on Wednesday.

That's tough medicine for those of us — including this writer — who are horrified by the reality of a once-unlikely Trump presidency. It's particularly disheartening in the context of the eight years that preceded this moment. It seems incomprehensible that the same electorate that brought us the Obama family now offers us the Trumps.

It's a bitter reminder that the ebb and flow of our federation rarely allows for the sustained empowerment of any one side — progressive or conservative — beyond two terms. The instinct of the voting populace is predictable only in that they will regularly choose to disrupt the control of any one party after a certain amount of time.

It is a shame that the beneficiary of this wave of change is a candidate who has engendered such divisiveness in his remarks and their tone, who seems hard-wired to insult and demean; and whose personal behavior — as revealed on tape and by accusers — is revolting and dishonorable.

The American experiment in democracy will be tested, perhaps to its limits, in the comings weeks and months. But we must resolve that no one individual or administration — however distasteful — can compromise its future. Our republic is built off far sturdier stuff than that.

To friends and neighbors given to despair in the aftermath of this election, find a way to make peace with it on your own terms.

Andre Kearns, an African and American friend who dedicates much of his time to the study of his family's ancestral roots, put it this way in a note online that also admonished friends contemplating an escape from the United States after the Trump win:

"My ancestors have lived in this country since 1619 when the first 'twenty and odd Negroes' arrived in Jamestown on slave ships and since before then as indigenous peoples. For the last 400 years they lived through times much more difficult than these and through their lives they've helped to bend the arc of the moral universe in America a little bit closer to justice for all.

"My commitment to them is to do the same, no matter who sits in the Oval Office," he wrote.

He's right. We must follow President Obama's counsel to adhere to the "presumption of good faith in our fellow citizens... a respect for our institutions, our way of life, of the rule of law."

By Peter F. Stevens
BIR STAFF

"Facts are stubborn things." In his defense of the British soldiers on trial for the infamous Boston Massacre (1770), John Adams used those words, which are often attributed to him even though they appeared long before he deployed them with telling effect. In regard to the presidential election of 2016, a slight revision is all too apt: "Facts are *fleeting* things."

Voters — Republicans, Democrats, and spurious Independents alike — and much of the media willingly or blindly parted ways with the facts throughout perhaps the most discouraging and cynical presidential campaign in recent memory. Another adage contends that people get the leaders they deserve; Donald Trump's and Hillary Clinton's "status" as the two most disliked and mistrusted candidates in American history reflect that "Make America Great Again" and "Better Together" are equally false.

There are a handful of truths that Trumpites, Clintonites, and the media can't deny:

Donald Trump won the Electoral College and the White House — no ifs, ands, or buts.

Voters who cast their ballots for Hillary did so for an ethically challenged, secretive, tone-deaf candidate. Gender had little to do with the public perception of Clinton as dishonest. Her own ham-handed approach to her private server handed her GOP foes a gift from the political gods.

Although Clinton was the first woman to head a US presidential ticket, Trump beat her among white women by 53 percent to 43 percent.

Voters who cast their ballots for Trump in the name of "change" are willing to embrace a president whose own words reveal a racist, a religious bigot, a misogynist, and a pathological liar.

Donald Trump's crude mouth, boorishness, and flamboyance drew the media to him like the proverbial moths to the flame. Willingly, all too many reporters and so-called pundits followed Trump into his realm of lies, half-truths, insults, and fear-mongering.

Few will admit, but to many in the press, bucking Trump was, is, and will remain too terrifying to contemplate.

Despite the US intelligence community's collective agreement that the Kremlin launched the hacks on the Democratic National Committee and Clinton campaign chief John Podesta's emails and meddled in our election by releasing the hacked messages to Wikileaks, the media downplayed that, searching the daily dump of leaks for "bombshells" against Clinton. The hunt for those additional scandals trumped — all puns intended — the fact that Vladimir Putin's Russia scoring a frightening intelligence coup against the US was judged worthy of only cursory attention by reporters and pundits.

Media myth: Pundits and Sanders supporters positing that Bernie Sanders would have beaten Trump are delusional or dishonest. Within minutes of a Sanders nomination by the Democrats, Trump and the media would have painted Bernie's socialism as Communism. How would that daily drumbeat have played in the Midwest?

According to Irish Central, legitimate polls revealed that Trump carried the white Catholic vote — including Irish Americans — by 51 percent to 39 percent.

A Tale of Two Irish-American Women: An indication of just how the election was fodder for an additional chapter to "Alice Through the Looking Glass," one of the very few journalists with the temerity to call out Donald Trump's lies and misogyny was Megyn Kelly — of Fox News. Conversely, one of the chief facilitators of Trump's racist and sexist patter was his campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway.

Hillary Clinton could have stumped in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania until she was blue in the face, but those states would have still gone red for Trump.

If the Democrats refuse to acknowledge that they taken the vote of blue-collar whites for granted and have ignored utterly real economic angst, those same men and women who went twice for Obama will never return to the blue fold.

Donald Trump thumbed his nose at the nation by refusing to release his taxes. He never will.

Donald Trump thumbed his nose at the nation by refusing to let voters view his labyrinth of foreign business entanglements. He never will.

The media gave nothing but lip service to Trump's bizarre bromance with Putin or Trump's ties to him — which his son Donald actually blurted out months ago.

In 2013, Trump bragged about his "personal relationship" with Putin to MSNBC's Thomas Roberts. In 2016, Trump denied any relationship with Putin. Which time was Trump lying?

Trump's most fervent supporters expect him to imprison Hillary, overturn Roe vs. Wade with his Supreme Court nominees, repeal Obamacare, throwing over 20 million people to the healthcare curb, deport millions of illegal immigrants, use his "secret plan" to destroy Isis, and on and on and on. Trump's supporters will demand that the Republican Congress do that in lock step with him. What happens if they fail to deliver? What happens if they do?

The steel and coal jobs Trump has promised to return to America are never coming back.

The self-same Republicans who obstructed Obama from 2013 and will continue to do so until January 20, 2017, are demanding that Democrats must "give Trump a chance."

Republicans and the media are largely ignoring that Clinton won the popular vote and proclaiming a mandate for Trump.

Trump's appointment of Steve Bannon as the administration-in-waiting's chief strategist in the White House guarantees that bigotry and sexism will always have a prominent place in Trump's agenda. Do not believe media types and Trump supporters who assert that the Steven Bannon who boasted that his Breitbart News operation is "a platform for the Alt-Right" is a "good guy" or "not the Steve Bannon [they] know." More lies from Kellyanne Conway.

It *does* matter that the Ku Klux Klan, David Duke, and White supremacist groups of all types have embraced Donald J. Trump.

If FBI Director James Comey did believe that Hillary Clinton broke the law, he should have indicted her back in July.

Comey's unprecedented incursion into the race eleven days before the election was either a grievous error in judgment or blatant support of Trump.

Donald Trump and his brood have no intention of separating the White House from their board room.

CNN's John King, MSNBC's Chuck Todd and Steve Kornacki, Charlie Cook, and every other "expert" who touted their high-tech "election maps" and polls should be laughed off the political stage. Any non-expert could have told these "gurus" that people lie to pollsters.

Kellyanne Conway did tell the truth at least twice: she stated that Trump would win and that "shy" voters would hide their true intent until it really mattered — in the privacy of the voting booth.

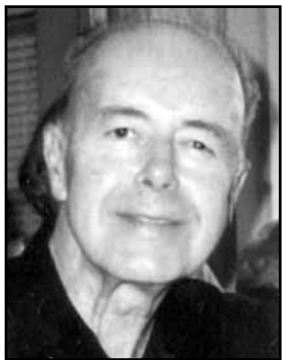
Unquestionably, a new era is breaking across America. Let's hope and pray that it's not the launching of a four- to eight-year pajama party between Trump's White House and Putin's Russia or the draining of the Washington swamp to create a global sinkhole.

Boston Irish Reporter’s Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

Hillary’s Defeat Spawns a Thousand Conclusions—Where did it all go wrong? And why were the polling by so-called “experts” and the similar numbers within the Clinton campaign so sure of victory on Nov.? Why are American voters calling **Donald Trump’s** win “the biggest upset since the 1940s?”

I have been talking with, and receiving assessments from, a number of seasoned observers since the election about what contributed to the collapse



Bill O'Donnell

of what was seen as the **Hillary Clinton** juggernaut. Some reasoning is straight forward, as this well-connected political onlooker opined a few days after the fall: “Hillary’s negatives were too high. Can’t change it. On the other hand, there’s something called the Bill Clinton syndrome: When people like you they will ignore just about anything negative. A lot of people liked Trump despite what he said and did, and would

defend him. Trump is remarkably unqualified to be president. He seems to have lived his whole life in a spoiled rich boy’s bubble and learned nothing along the way.

“Also, he’s a total fraud as a businessman. When the sharpies on Wall Street had a dog to sell, they could always sell it to Trump. He’s surrounded by awful people, people you thought were long gone and now they are back and in charge. When they are not hating you, they hate each other. Note that Christie has already been knifed. Got that for saying something good about Obama after Hurricane Sandy. They never forgave him.”

Another keen politics-watcher, and former elected official for many years, had this to say just before the vote totals came in: “Aging blue collar workers, residents of rural areas, remnants of what **Leon Hadar** refers to as ‘the shrinking white English tribe –patriotic, god-fearing and hard-working’ – have lost their jobs in the declining manufacturing industries that never recovered from the great recession. These are the people who will be the deciding voters in non-metropolitan Michigan and central Pennsylvania, reliably blue states for a generation, as well as in Wisconsin and Ohio. We do not know how many angry people will vote for Donald Trump to send a message, just as they did in the UK.”

Wrapping up this brief roundtable is a veteran Irish journalist who has closely watched American elections for many years. His take: “Assuming that stats are correct, the conclusion is undeniable: Donald Trump did not win, Hillary lost. The results show that Trump did not perform any better, in fact he did slightly worse, than his two most recent Republican predecessors. But Hillary Clinton’s vote dropped dramatically from the levels reached by Obama in the past two elections.”

Add to that the blistering reality that voters, especially in troubled areas, were desperate for change, and given the historic difficulty for a party to win a third straight national election, you had a melange of misery that would likely have defeated any Democratic candidate running for president this year.”

Vandalized: Home of Respected Priest of the Troubles – A well-respected and widely beloved Catholic priest came home to his house in Fermanagh to find his home vandalized with considerable damage by person or persons unknown. **Father Joe McVeigh**, 70, a champion of human rights and social justice for decades, was a powerful force during the Troubles. He has many friends across Ireland and in the United States who may read this and reach out to him. He can be reached by friends who know of his good works over the years at Tattgar House, Lisbellaw, Co. Fermanagh, Ireland.

Boston Comes Together to Honor Ray Flynn – It was a reunion of happy faces, a splendid day and a perfect reason for a large number of friends and former City Hall faithful to join with joy and memories to honor former Boston mayor and Vatican Ambassador **Raymond Flynn** at the Marine Park dedication to this son of Southie, a lifetime neighbor of the park to which his grandparents came from Ireland in search of the American dream. The naming is a lasting memorial to this mayor of the people who worked on the docks there when he was a young man. (Disclosure: I worked for Mayor Flynn during his administration).

Co-chairs for the dedication were **Rosemarie Sansone** and **Frank Doyle**, both close aides to the mayor during the Flynn years. Also attending and speaking were **Mayor Martin Walsh**, **City Councillor Bill Linehan**, **Congressman Stephen Lynch**, **state Sen. Linda Dorcea Forry**, **Rep. Nick Collins**, **1983 mayoral candidate Mel King**, and **Thomas Glynn**, CEO of the Mass. Port Authority. Also on hand were former Senate President Bill Bulger, former state Sen. Joe Timilty, James O'Donnell, former executive officer of the Boston Retirement Board, labor leader Tom McIntyre, and many former City Hall department heads during the Flynn years.

Fletcher ‘Flash’ Wiley, former longtime leader of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, caught the flavor of the day, saying: “The Ray Flynn legacy has yet to be written. But a lot of people are forgetting what a difference he made in his time. On the racial harmony side, on the economic development side, on the spreading of wealth side, Ray Flynn made a difference in transforming the city of Boston.

An apt description of the Flynn contribution to the city he loves to this day. And isn’t it right that Ray could be there and not have far at all to travel.

Will Trump Kill the J-1 Visa? – Back in August 2015, Donald Trump said if he were elected president the J-1 visa would be terminated. At the time, he described the valuable, hands-across-the-water relationship as a jobs program for “foreign youths” and wanted it replaced with a program that created jobs for young people in America’s inner cities.

Would someone who has Trump’s ear tell him that the J-1s are essentially temporary and are not in conflict with existing urban youth programs. The J-1 Visa is a boon to both Ireland and the US.

Having worked with young people from Dublin, Belfast, Derry, and other communities in Ireland, north and south, I know how helpful this visa program is to both countries.

If the end of the program is envisioned, maybe someone like the outgoing vice president **Joe Biden** could become active as an advocate for J-1, and bring a hint of reality to the incoming Republican administration in an advisory way. At the moment it is doubtful that people now on J-1 visas would not be allowed to complete their time here.

First Minister Charges Republic With “Poaching”—Relations between political leaders in the North and their counterparts in the south are not always smooth, but lately they are getting a bit more edgy with charges of poaching from Stormont. Short on specifics, **Arlene Foster** has charged that the Irish government is going around the world “to talk down our economy and to attempt to poach our investors.”

The Dublin government has vigorously defended its actions while denying Foster’s charges as “untrue,” adding that the Republic is working alongside the North to attract investment to the island. The IDA claims that the charges of poaching “have no justification,” pointing to the large number of trade missions that the North and the Republic share together in support of an All Ireland approach.

Since Brexit, there has been a degree of aggressive marketing by the Republic, but that has been mostly all directed to London, which is actively seeking post-Brexit business sites outside the mainland. And these type of inquiries are obviously encouraged. A SDLP Assembly member in the North, **Patsy McGlone**, said that figures show “just how petty and foolish” the first minister’s comments really are.”

Paddy Power Makes Rare Bad Move – Irish bookmaker Paddy Power is one of the more successful gambling chains in Ireland. It sets the bettor’s line on everything from horse racing to political contests, such as the American presidential race. They usually get it done smartly and their finances are in top shape. Paddy Power also has an early payoff system that is activated when the odds are not volatile, or are too long or unrealistic to attract customers. In the recent betting on who – Clinton or Trump – would be elected, the Irish punters, not unlike American gamblers, assumed that Hillary Clinton would romp home a winner.

The odds three weeks before the US election favored Hillary by very short odds, she was a strong favorite, and Clinton bettors faced a low payout if she won, on the order of 2-11, versus Trump’s long odds of 4 and 5-1. In short, Clinton backers had to put up 11 euros to win 2 euro.

Well, as you may have heard, Hillary was defeated and Trump supporters a big payday at the Paddy Power Win windows.

Initially, Trump was on the board at 100 to 1 and he later advanced to 13-8. The long odds meant that the bookmaker had to pay out hundreds of thousands of pounds and euros to those punters who bet on the long shot.

Maze Site Looked At for NI’s First Air Ambulance Base—The Maze Prison site has had a stormy recent history as Irish republicans and loyalists clashed over the meaning of a museum about the Troubles in the North and the implications of how to exhibit the artifacts and philosophy of two hostile political viewpoints. While they were failing to arrive at a compromise, the site has lain fallow.

The latest answer to the impasse is to build not a museum but the North’s first air ambulance base. Ten years ago, a master plan for the Maze site was unveiled, including a 45,000-seat national multi-sport stadium for football, rugby, and Gaelic games. There has been a stalemate over conflicting views of the facility where specially designed medical helicopters would be permanently based in Northern Ireland.

Unsurprisingly, it is uncertain how and when this new proposal will become a reality.

A Late November Glance at Trump’s Early Choices – Donald Trump’s first choice for his White House inner circle tells you just about all you need to know about his strange obsession with white nationalist ardor in the West Wing. He has chosen

Stephen Bannon, an apparent anti-semite and

formerly Breitbart News head, as chief strategist and counsellor to the president. In so many words, Trump’s chief aide is a white supremacist.

There have been worse hires in White House history, but you would have to go back to **Richard Nixon’s** “anything goes” era to find comparable available talent. Ask the klansman **David Duke**, who is smitten with the Bannon selection. One small consolation: Trump hasn’t named former House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** to anything yet and it’s late November. Of Bannon, Boston and national truth-telling blogger **Charles Pierce** said “Let us be clear. The hiring of Steve Bannon as a WH policy advisor is exactly the same as hiring David Duke. Please do not normalize this.”

Another familiar name and face, **Rudy Giuliani**, has made millions since 9/11 advising terrorist organizations, one of them a cult-like arm of the Marxist Iranian opposition group, and others that attacked and killed US citizens in 1970 and 1992, according to Media Matters. Giuliani has moved up in the big time in style and Mideast revenue sources since his days as the Mayor of the World.

Rudy, who ran a one-state primary race for president a while back, has been trailing Trump as if he were in training for an opening on the Secret Service WH detail. And maybe he is, but it seems at this writing that Rudy may have schmoozed Trump into considering his as the next US secretary of state. God forbid!

And finally, and deplorably, we come to **Jeff Sessions**, rejected years ago by Congress for a federal judgeship, current US senator, and racist. For the past 30 years Sessions has made a name for himself as one of the Senate’s most extreme anti-immigrant voices by attacking the Constitution’s guarantee of birthright citizenship.

In the US Senate, he has voted for torture programs and opposed hate crime protection for LGBT individuals.

The people of Alabama may deserve him but his selection by Trump as attorney general is a horrendous nomination, just a step behind or aside of the disgraceful naming of Bannon to a seat in the White House.

UK PM Urged to Allow Brits To Retain EU Citizenship—British Prime Minister **Theresa May** is considering allowing UK nationals to retain their European Union citizenship after the Brexit departure is complete. Proponents argue that it would be unprecedented for Britons to be stripped of their EU citizenship against their will. The right to retain official links to the EU by Brits would be optional. The original effort to wrangle continuing links to the EU for disenfranchised Brits involved something called European Associate citizenship. A Luxembourg MEP suggested that option.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

The word around town and in the *Irish Times* is that Sinn Fein supporters in America were rooting for Hillary because labor was unhappy with what they knew about Donald Trump’s bad treatment of his contractors. Normally, they would have voted Republican. ... An appeal against the operation of a ferry on Carlingford Lough has been rejected. Does that mean planning permission will be granted. ... The cost to the Irish government for the women who spent time in children’s homes and laundries is estimated to be \$340 million, with final recommendations due this coming January. ... **Charlie Haughey** and **Margaret Thatcher** had a vicious feud over the Falkland Islands and Charlie withdrew support for sanctions against Argentina. Thatcher never forgave him. ... The new director and visiting professor of Irish Studies at BC is **James Murphy** of DePaul. ... The actor **Domhnall Gleeson** is the latest Irish personality to be claimed as British for his star role in a Burberry Christmas ad. ... Fine Gael’s **Heather Humphreys** doesn’t speak Irish and Gaeltacht groups are upset she doesn’t meet with them. She was guest of St. Patrick’ Day in Boston. ... **Martin McGuinness** refuses to rule out Sinn Fein taking seats in Westminster. ... There’s a short railroad in Tipp with 70 passengers a day at a cost of \$600 per person. ... Belfast-born **Michael George** is being touted as our next ambassador to Ireland. He’s managing director of Fortress investments in New York.

The reports are out saying London’s property market is “tanking by the day.” ... Another good finish: BC ranked fifth nationally in the NCAA graduation rate for college sports. ... **Terry Francona** (Indians) and **Dave Roberts** (Dodgers), both with Red Sox links, have been named the top managers in baseball. ... Belfast police officers have begun wearing body cameras. A good move but how about juicing up training for incoming police recruits? ... The latest numbers show that half the Irish people favor decriminalization of drugs for personal use. ... US Sen. **Elizabeth Warren** is gathering together opponents of the Bannon appointment to speak against him in hearings. ... FBI Director **James Comey** is a good man with a solid reputation but he blew it with his actions on Clinton’s email issue near the end of the election. His moves cost Hillary her solid momentum, and maybe the election, but it looks like it would have been ultra close if Comey had taken a walk.

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110
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Website: iiicenter.org Email: immigration@iiicenter.org

Standing up and working together after the election

In light of the recent presidential election, many immigrant and refugee families and the young Irish J1 students whom we serve are experiencing deep concern, and fears over their future.

Since the election, the IIIC has been doubling down on our advocacy work and reassuring the community that the IIIC has been helping immigrants for decades, and will continue to do so. We are not going away, and our mission remains the same. We, along with many other community-based organizations, will always be here to advocate on behalf of immigrants and on the issues that affect their lives.

It is great to see leadership at the city level such as Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville, whose officials have reaffirmed their commitment to all residents, regardless of legal status.

This is the time for us to stand up and work together for the protection of all our neighbors - regardless of immigration status or religion. Now is *not* the time for us to be shrugging our shoulders. Regardless of what lies ahead, we will be a strong voice for the families we serve, and for immigration reform. Let us all work side by side to help build a society where all people are welcomed and valued, and enjoy equal opportunities and protections.

To get involved in our work, please see our website, iiicenter.org, for volunteering opportunities, or call 617-542-7654.

Ronnie Millar, Executive Director Irish International Immigrant Center

IIIC NOTEBOOK
Minister of State Joe McHugh TD Visits the IIIC – Last month, the Irish International Immigrant Center welcomed Joe McHugh TD, Minister of State for the Diaspora and Overseas Development in the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. With Minister McHugh was Galway native Billy Lawless, Sr., who has lived in Chicago since 1998, and, in 2016, was appointed to the Irish Seanad (the Irish Senate) by Taoiseach Enda Kenny. Also joining in the visit were Rose Gaughan, private secretary to Minister McHugh, Amal Kaoua, deputy director of the Irish Abroad Unit, and Aoife Budd, the newly appointed Vice-Consul of the Consulate General of Ireland in Boston.

The delegation met with IIIC Board members, staff, and volunteers to discuss the Center's work with Irish immigrants and J1 students and the challenges of the current post-election environment. The delegation also enjoyed a private tour of the Old State House led by an Irish J-1 student, Laura Gillespie, who hails from Letterkenny, County Donegal. She is interning at the Old State House, our new next-door neighbor.

The IIIC appreciates all the support of the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and for the



IIIC Learning Exchange Director, Paul Pelan and Steve Greeley, New England Director of the American Ireland Fund, at last month's AIF Annual Dinner. The Fund is a strong supporter of the IIIC J-1 Intern visa program.

genuine care for Irish citizens living in Boston.

IIIC Learning Exchange Program updates – IIIC Executive Director Ronnie Millar recently announced that the United States Department of State has granted a request to increase the number of visas available to the IIIC for the J-1 Intern Work and Travel program. The increase, about one-third, allows the IIIC to offer five hundred visas annually to Irish university graduates to live and work in the United States for a one-year period.

Said Millar: "Students come from all 32 counties and intern throughout the United States. We know this program is a win-win for students and employers alike, and that these students return home to Ireland at the end of their year to be future leaders." The program is supported by the US State Department, the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the American Ireland Fund (AIF).

The IIIC helps Irish graduates find paid, one-year, internships in the United States. If you have any employment opportunities available, please contact Paul Pelan at ppelan@iiicenter.org.

Attorney General Establishes Anti-Hate Hotline! – Late last month, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey released a statement, "Our job in the Attorney General's Office is to protect people's rights, fight discrimination, and keep people safe. In recent days, we've seen reports from around the country of harassment and intimidation of racial, ethnic and religious minorities, women, LGBT individuals, and immigrants. Such conduct runs against our values as a society, and we are acting now to ensure that our residents are protected."

Reportedly, the Attorney General's office has already received several hundred calls to the hotline: 1-800-994-3228.

IIIC Legal Clinic – Dec. 12 – Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton. For further information, call us at 617-542-7654.

The IIIC Has Moved! We are now located at the heart of the historic Freedom Trail District, adjacent to the Old State House, and close to both the Orange and Green Line MBTA stations. We look forward to seeing you at our new location. Our new address is: One State Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02109. The telephone number remains the same: 617-542-7654.

The staff and Board members of the IIIC wish you and all your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2017!



A recent gathering in New York City of J-1 Interns who are currently living and working in the New York area.

Matters of Substance

Can people really change?

Are you feeling frustrated, sad, and helpless because of a loved one's drinking or drug use or other negative behavior? I'd like to share a theory that may help you deal with the situation. It's called the "stages of change" model, which states that people move through a series of stages in their readiness to quit or change a behavior or addiction.

One of the goals of treatment is to first identify the stage of change the person is in and then to tailor the approach to that stage. This theory can be used to help understand why people will not change even when it's obvious that there is a problem.



Rachel Reisman
Here are the six stages of change:

Pre-contemplation: The person has no idea that there is a problem or has tried so many times, and lost so much confidence, they have given up.

Contemplation: The person recognizes that there is a problem but is on the fence about changing. There are pros and cons to the behavior. They are

considering changing in the next six months.

Preparation: The person acknowledges that there is a problem and is planning to change the behavior in the next month. They are actively arranging for support and planning for triggers and high-risk situations.

Action: The person actively tries to change or quit the behavior. They are checking in with support and using their plans for triggers and temptations.

Maintenance: The person continues to use supports and strategies to avoid relapse or slips. They feel more confident in their new identity as a non-smoker/drinker/drug-user.

Relapse: This stage occurs more often than not when trying to change addictive behavior. The person can feel devastated and be very self-critical during this time, which in turn can lead to more of the addictive behavior.

This can be incredibly difficult to live with, and you don't have to do it alone. Al-anon (508-366-0556) and Learn to cope (508-738-5148) are two great organizations that help families deal with addiction and recovery. If you would like to talk in confidence, please reach out to Rachel Reisman, LICSW, at 617-542-7654 or send an email to rreisman@iiicenter.org

Immigration Q&A

Overstaying a visit to US – a bad idea

Q. I came to the US for a visit under the Visa Waiver Program and was given permission to stay here for 90 days. I was thinking of staying on for a while longer and maybe getting a job to support myself here. I heard that staying past the 90-day limit could result in a bar on my reentry to the US in the future. Is this true?

A. Yes. If you entered the US on the Visa Waiver Program as most visitors from the 38 eligible countries (including Ireland) do today, you normally are given up to 90 days to remain in this country -- but you are *not* allowed to work here during that time. If you overstay this 90-day period by 180 days to one year, you face a three-year bar from reentering the US. Overstaying the 90-day period by more than one year subjects you to a ten-year reentry bar. This is the case irrespective of whether you work in the US without authorization.

Please note well: Do not misinterpret the 180 days as any kind of "grace" period that allows you to remain in the US beyond the 90 days granted under the Visa Waiver Program. Any period of overstay at all may affect your ability to reenter the US at a later date.

Aside from the problem of the three- and ten-year reentry bars, if you overstay a visit under the Visa Waiver Program even by a few days, you will no longer be allowed to reenter under that program in the future. Instead you will have to make a formal application for a B-2 visitor visa at the nearest US Embassy, which requires a fee and can take time. You can expect close scrutiny of your application, and if you have a compelling reason for a prior brief overstay, you should include evidence of it with your application. Holders of visitor visas usually are admitted for up to six months and, before the expiration of the visa, they can apply for an extension if they have a good reason for wanting to stay longer in the US as a visitor.

Employment in the US, either while in status under the Visa Waiver Program, while here on a visitor visa, or during an overstay, is another issue. People temporarily in the US are *not* allowed work without specific authorization from the US government like a work visa (such as an H-1B) or an Employment Authorization Document (issued while an application for adjustment of status to permanent residence is pending). If you do work here without authorization, that is considered a violation of your status by the US immigration authorities, and you render yourself inadmissible to the US in the future in almost all circumstances.

Note, finally, that the 90-day Visa Waiver period of admission to the US normally cannot be extended. Only in extreme situations where you can document the need to stay with compelling evidence will you be granted an extension. An example of such a situation would be hospitalization in the US following an accident or serious illness.

If you have questions about this or any other aspect of immigration law, you can have a free, confidential consultation at one of our weekly legal clinics.

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

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Claim your Heritage. Apply for Irish Citizenship today!
If your parent or grandparent was born in Ireland, you are eligible to become an Irish citizen. Our attorneys will help locate your documents and file your application. Contact Foley Law Offices to begin your citizenship application at (617) 973-6448.

**IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER**
IMMIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE

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

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

Upcoming Clinic Schedule

Monday, December 12
The Green Briar Pub
304 Washington Street, Brighton Center

Our Downtown Boston location is fully accessible by public transportation.

Phone: 617.542.7654 | Fax: 617.542.7655 | www.iiicenter.org

CHRISTMAS WITH THE CELTS

Sunday | Dec 11 | 6 pm

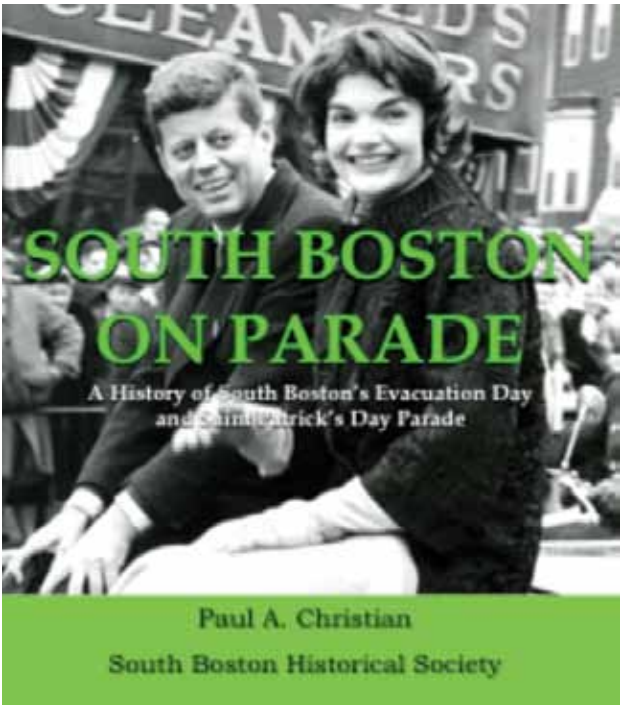


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JIMMY TINGLE! Saturday | Dec 31 | 8 pm**

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Of South Boston and its Parade

This book was written and edited by Paul Christian, a sixth-generation South Bostonian who retired as commissioner/chief of department of the Boston Fire Department in 2006, under the auspices of the South Boston Historical Society.

Writes Christian in his foreword: "George Washington never met St. Patrick. Yet they share a joyous commemoration each March in South Boston's Evacuation Day and Saint Patrick's Day Parade. The parade has a rich history of bringing people together, a glorious joint celebration honoring both the Father of Our Country and the Patron Saint of Ireland and of the Archdiocese of Boston."

In this volume, Christian traces in words and pictures the parade's history from 1901 to the present as it has evolved from a march commemorating a military victory to one of religious, ethnic, and national pride and then into more of a secular celebration.

*Got a
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BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The documentary, 1916: The Irish Rebellion was screened for an audience of parishioners and neighbors at St Mary of the Nativity church on Scituate Harbor on Nov. 12. Narrated by Liam Neeson, the film tells the story of the events that took place in Dublin during Easter Week 1916, when a small group of Irish rebels took on the might of the British Empire. The documentary also uncovers the untold story of the central role Irish Americans played in the lead-up to the rebellion.

1.) Marty O'Toole, Scituate Selectman; Fionnuala Quinlan, Irish Consul General; John Sullivan, Plymouth AOH; 2.) Jim and Fran Bailey, Scituate; 3.) Al Cafferty, Whitman; John Cafferty, Hingham; 4.) Maureen Alcott, Scituate; Jim Colbert, Pembroke; 5.) Peter And Suzanne Lincoln, Scituate; 6.) Margaret Stapleton, Scituate, Mary Kelley O'Toole, Mayor of Scituate Parade; 7.) Bill And Marilyn Slattery, Norwood; 8.) Anita Herne, Patricia Mc Carthy Jacquart, both of Scituate; 9.) Tom Allen, Mark Sullivan, both of Hanover; 10.) Skip Toomey, Scituate; Leo Stapleton, South Boston; 11.) Eva Gilarde, Marshfield; Emily Green, Scituate; Liz Lees, No. Providence.





BSO Viola player Leah Ferguson is performing her first season of Holiday Pops concerts with The Boston Pops. *Diana Lake photo*

**By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**
The Boston Pops annual holiday concerts rank among the city’s most enduring Christmas traditions. They began in 1971 under the baton of venerable Arthur Fiedler with a three-concert series at Symphony Hall. Those initial performances, titled “A Pops Christmas Party,” were enthusiastically embraced by the public.
More than four decades later, the tradition contin-

ues stronger than ever. The 2016 holiday series at Symphony Hall, featuring The Tanglewood Festival Chorus, encompasses 40 evening and matinee concerts, including seven special Kids Matinee performances, through December 24.
Loyal fans attend every year, applauding the festive mix of carols, sing-alongs and a visit from Santa. However, there’s one young woman, new to Boston, who’ll be experiencing her first Holiday

New BSO violist Leah Ferguson, 22, joins the Pops holiday concert series

Pops this year. And she’ll be doing it from center stage.
Viola player Leah Ferguson joined the BSO this past September. Doing double duty, she’ll also be playing with The Pops throughout the month of December.
Originally from Chicago, Leah earned her bachelor’s degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music and subsequently earned a diploma from The Juilliard School.
Her impressive list of credits include being a guest artist with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble and a guest associate principal of the Montreal Symphony; playing concerts at Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and New York’s MoMA; and ensemble performances with the Chicago Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic.
All of this by age 22, which ranks her as one of the BSO’s youngest musicians.
Leah’s parents are wind musicians and she was surrounded by orchestral music throughout middle and high school. She also joining a musical youth group in Chicago.
In an interview with the BIR, she said she decided to study at the Cleveland Institute of Music because “I really wanted to work with Rob-

ert Vernon, who is the just retired principal violist of the Cleveland Orchestra. He’s a renowned and very incredible teacher.”
Her relocation to New York to study at Juilliard came with a stepped up pace of life. “Cleveland is a very kind of calm place,” said Leah. “It’s easier to focus there. In New York, there’s just so much going on . . . It’s very hectic . . . But once I got used to it, I felt, if I can do this, I can live anywhere.”
When she learned last winter that the BSO was screening new musicians, she was very much interested. Describing a possible viola position as “absolutely incredible,” she said, “It was definitively a no brainier that I wanted to audition for them.”
Auditions involved musicians being asked to perform selections from a predetermined list of 10 to 15 standard orchestral excerpts. “Sometimes there are whole pieces that you have to know,” she said. “They usually leave a concerto movement up to you . . . You can choose a movement of Bach, any solo Bach piece. But aside from that, it’s kind of a set list that they give you.”
After four rounds of auditions last February, she was hired along with two other tryout colleagues. “It was just the three of us in that room . . . Usually just one person gets the job and

that’s not the best feeling . . . But all of us won. . . . It was unique and nice to share that with them.”
Before beginning her first BSO season, Leah had the opportunity to visit Ireland last summer. Her father’s ancestors are Scotch Irish from Belfast. She called it “easily the best trip I’ve ever taken. Unbelievable. So gorgeous. We went all along the west coast to all those little towns. A lot of fishing villages, and the Aran Islands, and the Cliffs of Moher. It was just too much to describe.”
When she returned to Boston, her official debut came in the fall. “It was amazing,” she said. “The first concert we did was the Gala toward the end of September. It was really special and my parents were able to come out for that. So that was really nice.”
Leah plays a viola made by the renowned German-born, London-based craftsman Stefan-Peter Greiner. “I had known for a while that I really wanted to try one of his instruments,” she said. “And often times, they’re not easy to get. He doesn’t make a lot of them and they’re in demand. . . . They are beautiful to look at and they sound great.”
One of her favorite BSO performances so far was a concert showcasing the Brahms Requiem. “It was an amazing performance and the two soloists we

had [soprano Camilla Tilling and baritone Thomas Hampson] were just unbelievable. Really beautiful singers.”
Knowing how equally respected the Boston Pops is nationwide, she has been excited about the holiday shows and admits she loves playing Christmas music.
Her favorite selection? “I like ‘Sleigh Ride’ she said, which, no matter the mix of music at the holiday performances, has been a mainstay with the Pops since the very beginning. Arthur Fiedler and The Boston Pops introduced the Leroy Anderson classic to the world in 1949.
Beyond the holiday concerts, she’s looking forward to the BSO’s upcoming winter schedule. “In 2017 we’re playing Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 7, which has been on my ‘favorite piece’ list for a really long time.” She’s particularly excited because the piece is “not commonly done. We’re playing it here in Boston and also at Carnegie hall, so that will be really fun.”
In the meantime, it’s all about those sleigh bells jinglin’ at Symphony Hall.
R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of on-stageboston.com.
•••
Holiday Pops, through Dec. 24, Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave. Info: bostonpops.org or 888-266-1200.

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Photo credit: Vic Dvorak

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Christmas Celtic Sojourn director's role: 'You stay out of the way and let it happen'



Seamus Egan, music director of "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn."

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

When you're the music director for "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn," says Seamus Egan, Christmas comes early. "Actually," he quips, "Christmas tends to last all year."

Egan is finishing up his first decade overseeing the musical end of things for the popular holiday-themed showcase of music, dance, songs, and stories in the Celtic tradition, which takes place for the 14th year this month with performances in Providence, New Bedford, Worcester, and Rockport, as well as its run at the Cutler Majestic Theatre in downtown Boston [the schedule is available at wgbs.org/celtic].

A virtuoso on banjo, flute, mandolin, whistle and guitar, Egan will once again be performing at the show with members of Solas, the Irish-American super-group he co-founded. Also returning to "Christmas Celtic Sojourn" are harpist Maeve Gilchrist, singer Eilís Kennedy and cellist Natalie Haas, as is dancer Cara Butler – newly minted as the show's dance director – and her longtime partner, Nathan

Pilatzke, as well as the Harney Academy of Irish Dance. New to the roster is the Acadian trio Vishten.

And serving as host and inter-locutor will be the "Christmas Celtic Sojourn" creator, Brian O'Donovan of WGBH-FM's "A Celtic Sojourn," which serves as a template for the show.

Last month, finishing up a tour with Solas, Egan paused to reflect on his tenure with "Christmas Celtic Sojourn," and what the annual three-week interval – from rehearsal to final bow – encompasses.

"When I started, the show wasn't as involved as it is now – definitely had less moving parts," he says. "When Brian spoke to me about becoming music director, he had a desire to have 'Christmas Celtic Sojourn' be a *show*, rather than a concert. He was looking for a consistency, a unified vision for how things should run, which would require a lot of planning and coordination – not just gathering people the day of the event."

In fact, the planning process for the next "Sojourn" begins not all that long after the curtain falls on the previous show's final performance: Given the busy schedules of high-caliber performers who appear in "Christmas Celtic Sojourn," it's a necessity to start identifying potential candidates well ahead of time. As this goes on, Egan says, he will have regular conversations with O'Donovan, artistic director Paula Plum, and the dance director – in this case, Butler.

"For me, the main job is knowing who we have playing and singing," he says. "That's how I can start to figure out arrangements – what's a 'highlight' as opposed to a full ensemble performance, for example, or which song or tune set should go where. I want to plan a nice musical arc while contemplating the overall



Cara Butler and Nathan Pilatzke -- shown during the 2012 "Christmas Celtic Sojourn" -- are back again this year, with Butler serving as director of dance.

plan for the show."

E-mail, Skype, and other technology has made it easier to discuss or experiment with musical ideas over long distances, but for Egan the work doesn't really begin in earnest until that first day that the musicians and singers are gathered in the Cutler Majestic practice room.

"It is kind of like waking up on Christmas morning," laughs Egan. "You go into that room, and there are all these brilliant people there and you think to yourself, 'Oh, this is fantastic!'"

But there's not much opportunity for ooh-ing and aah-ing, because it's time to roll up sleeves and get down to business. And

this is where the individual and collective creativity truly starts to flow: Egan doesn't have written parts to hand out – he doesn't read or write music, and in any case that's not the approach he prefers.

"I come in with some concepts. I might say to Maeve [Gilchrist], 'OK, I want the harp to do this,' and she'll instantly have a far better idea as to how to accomplish what I might have in my head. See, that's what this all comes down to: These are all excellent musicians and singers, and you trust what it is that they do. It definitely helps to have some notions beforehand, but ultimately you stay out of the

way and let it happen, and you take advantage of the uniqueness that someone brings."

By now, Egan's pretty well used to having these type of leadership roles, whether for "Christmas Celtic Sojourn" or other collaborations, and he's learned a thing or two. "There's always way less time than you hope for, and probably more people than you're prepared to work with," he says, "so the equation is usually the opposite to what it should be. Really, it all comes down to what happens in that rehearsal room – that has to work most of all."

Fortunately, it has worked

(Continued on page 13)



Máiréad NESBITT

'A demon of a fiddle player'
THE NEW YORK TIMES

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Tip-top musical ability, sweet-voiced singing mark the polished ‘Socks in the Frying Pan’

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Understand, it's not as if Aodán Coyne and brothers Shane and Fiachra Hayes – known collectively as “Socks in the Frying Pan” – had some grand scheme to become one of the most in-demand Irish bands to make the trek to America.

For a good while, they were quite content to play in and around their native Ennis in Co. Clare. But through a succession of happy events, and the requisite hard work, the three – ranging in age from 25 to 30 – saw their popularity mushroom, culminating in their first American tour in 2014. They've returned to the US twice since then, including a visit this year that brought them for the first time to The Burren in Somerville, where they performed in the early fall to a full house as part of the pub's Backroom series.

“It all just came out of nowhere,” said Coyne, as he and the Hayeses relaxed prior to the show, reflecting on the last couple of years. “We made an album pretty much for the sake of making it – so we'd have something to sell in the pubs – and it found its way into the right hands. Then when we got over here, we met all these bands and performers we'd looked up to, and we got to tour and play together on the same stages. And that just got everything rolling.”

It's not hard to discern why they've become so popular among audiences, in the US and elsewhere: tip-top musical ability by all three – Coyne on guitar, Shane on accordion, and Fiachra on fiddle and banjo – and polished, sweet-voiced singing to match, plus a stage presence that rides on showmanship, humor, and, above all, an ability to connect with audiences.

These virtues are certainly apparent on their most recent album, “Without a Paddle,” released earlier this year. The instrumental sets are invigorating, and illustrative of the trio's traditional roots, as evidenced by “113.5874” (many of their set titles are in-jokes or amusingly self-referential) comprising the reels “John O'Dwyer's/Maids of Castlebar”; “No Relation,” which combines a Scottish strathspey, a reel from Cape Breton and another from the repertoire of Clare fiddle doyen Martin Hayes; and “Little Red Rocket,” a bracing trio of jigs that climaxes with the regal “Sweet Marie” (a favorite of the Hayeses' grandmother).

Their song repertoire ranges far afield, from the traditional “When First I Came to Caledonia” to singer-songwriters like Americans Ricky Skaggs (“How Mountain Girls Can Love”), Guy Clark (“Dublin Blues”) and Joe Newberry (“Missouri Borderlands”) and Irish performer Foy Vance (“Guiding Light”). Coyne's honeyed, charismatic inflection, delivery, and tone, along with the equally charming harmony vocals of the Hayeses, are very much in keeping with the contemporary folk vein of Irish bands like Grada or We Banjo 3. (Boston-area progressive bluegrass/Americana band Crooked Still is a favorite, according to Fiachra.)

And their sense of fun also comes through to a certain degree on “Without a Paddle,” such as Coyne's funk-flavored riff underneath Shane on “Distraction Tactics,” a tune by American flutist Nolan Ladewski that opens the “Funky In Theory” set; Shane and Fiachra's flourishes on the aforementioned “Sweet Marie”; and the pregnant pause (and daffy coda) at the end of the “Angry Bees” set.



Socks in the Frying Pan (L-R Fiachra Hayes, Shane Hayes and Aodán Coyne) warming up for their show at The Burren Backroom series earlier this fall. “I love the gigs in places that have a history to them, like here,” says Fiachra.
Sean Smith photo

The Burren concert, though, offered the fullest portrait of Socks in the Frying Pan, including not only their artistry but their flair for entertainment. Coyne's voice was in fine form, as was his guitar accompaniment, and as a bonus he played on a set of tunes with his fiddle-playing uncle Eamon, a Massachusetts resident. Shane, meanwhile, did a solo spot in which he announced his intention to get an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records “for having the fastest fingers,” and proceeded to play that much-exalted reel “The Mason's Apron” at ever-increasing speeds. The Hayes brothers also indulged in their good-natured sibling rivalry, trading quips about everything from their respective wardrobes to their musical abilities (during Shane's accelerating accordion solo, Fiachra remarked, “I can finish it for you if you want”).

As they revealed in the pre-concert conversation, the Hayes' musical co-dependence started very early on, when Shane decided he'd teach Fiachra – who could barely walk yet – how to play the piano in their grandmother's sitting room, and helpfully drew numbers on the keys with a magic marker to make it easier for his little brother to get the notes right.

“Then he tried to blame it on me,” said Fiachra, “even though I didn't know what numbers were yet.”

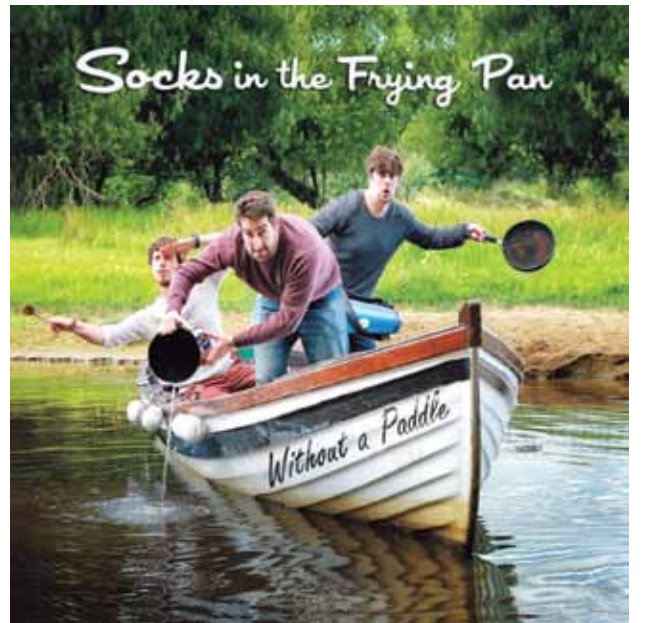
“And because it was a permanent marker,” added Shane, “the numbers were still there on the keys years later.”

But when it comes to formative musical experiences, the ones they've had these past few years have been considerable.

“That first tour, we went over very innocent, not really knowing what we were doing,” said Shane. “But it was cool, and we seemed to take to it naturally, I suppose.”

“You have to latch on pretty quickly,” added Coyne. “When you get to a festival, you see all these bands who've been on the circuit for ages, and they just know how to interact with an audience – that's something you really pick up on when you're starting out.”

One of the most important lessons they learned was how to fashion one's act for different kinds of venues. “The big festivals are great: It's such a cool atmosphere, when you're playing for 5,000, 6,000 people and there's such a lot of energy going around,” said Shane. “But the gigs in smaller places, where it's 70, 80, maybe 100 people, those are lots of fun in a different way. You can get away with more stuff, do more chatting, and there's



The band's new album, “Without a Paddle,” displays all the trio's assets.

not as much pressure to ‘do a performance’; you can be more relaxed about it.”

However irreverent they may seem at times, Coyne, Shane, and Fiachra understand very well that they're part of a continuum in Irish music, and express a sincere appreciation for the many individuals and bands that have served as role models and sources of inspiration.

“If you just look around here,” said Shane, indicating The Burren's massive collection of assorted flyers, posters and photos of Irish music's most renowned figures, “you can see who we looked up to.”

“I love the gigs in places that have a history to them, like here,” said Fiachra. He nodded at a drawing, mounted on the nearby wall, depicting scenes in Ennis. “I can see some of the pubs where we used to play,” he said, and then pointed to a poster on another wall. “And that pub right there? That's where we got our start. The same poster is up in that pub – it's the only other place I've ever seen it. There really is a lot of history on these walls.”

DECEMBER PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

In addition to “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn” (see separate story), several other holiday-themed Irish/Celtic performance events are on tap in December.

- **Aine Minogue**, a premier Irish harpist and singer who conveys the lyricism and richness of Irish music, mythology, and poetry, will present “To Warm the Winter's Night,” a program of music and spoken word to mark the winter solstice and Christmas, at venues throughout Eastern Massachusetts:

Dec. 3, 7 p.m. One World Coffeehouse, Essex; Dec. 5, 7 p.m. Jonathan Bourne Public Library, Bourne; Dec. 12, 7 p.m., Peabody Essex Library, Peabody; Dec. 18, 4 p.m., Coffeehouse on the Square, Hingham; Dec. 21, 6:15 p.m., First Church Boston; Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m., Club Passim, Harvard Square.

For information about these shows, go to aineminogue.com.

- The Circle of Friends Coffeehouse in Franklin will host a “Celtic Christmas” with popular singer-songwriter **Robbie O'Connell** and Cape Cod fiddler **Rose Clancy** on Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30). See circlefolk.org.

- A acclaimed fiddler **Eileen Ivers**, whose credits include “Riverdance,” will present “A Joyful Christmas!” at two venues: on Dec. 8 at the Larcom Performing Arts Theatre in Beverly [thelarcom.org], and on Dec. 10 at Cary Hall in Lexington [caryhalllexington.com]. Known for her cross-genre, world-music style, Ivers and her band will perform songs such as “Don Oiche Ud i mBeithil (One Night in Bethlehem),” “Go Tell It On The Mountain,” “Jesu Joy of Man's Desire,” “Deck



One-time Boston resident Hannah Read returns to the area for a December 6 show at Club Passim.

the Halls” and “The Little Drummer Boy.”

- “**Christmas with the Celts**,” a stage production originally broadcast on PBS, will come to the Cabot Theater in Beverly on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. It features Ric Blair – the show's creator and producer – on vocals, guitars, bodhran, and piano and Scottish fiddler-vocalist Laura McGhee, backed by an ensemble of musicians on uilleann pipes, whistles, drums, bass, and mandolin; adding to the spectacle are a children's choir, lush string arrangements and Irish step dancers. See thecabot.org.

- The **Berklee Celtic Vocal Ensemble** – a group of student vocalists at the Berklee College of Music

– will perform “The Holly Bears the Crown,” a selection of holiday-themed traditional and contemporary songs from Ireland and the British Isles, on Dec. 14 at 1 p.m. at the David Friend Recital Hall (921 Boylston Street, Boston). The event is free and open to the public. [berklee.edu]

- Former “Celtic Woman” star **Chloë Agnew** will team up with Emmy-winning Irish-born tenor **Eamon McCrystal** for a concert of holiday favorites on Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts on Tremont Street in Boston. Ticket information and other details at bostontheatrescene.com/venues/calderwood-pavilion-at-the-bca/.

- **The Burren** in Somerville's Davis Square will hold its annual New Year's Eve party, which will include a session led by area fiddler **Helena Delaney** with many guest musicians. Go to burren.com for more information.

- This month's non-holiday-themed events – not accounting for the odd Christmas carol or wassail song – are highlighted by an appearance by guitarist/vocalist **John Doyle** at Boston College's Gaelic Roots series on Dec. 8. Doyle, an original member of the pioneering band Solas, is part of several ongoing collaborations with such distinguished musicians like Andy Irvine, Martin Hayes, Donal Lunny, Nuala Kennedy, and Kevin Crawford. He also has pursued a successful solo career which has seen him emerge as a talented songwriter as well as interpreter of traditional songs. The concert, which is free, takes place at 6:30 p.m. at

(Continued on page 13)

An interview with vocalist prodigy Chloe Agnew

Her ‘Coast to Coast’ tour will wrap up in Boston on Dec. 20

**BY MAUREEN FORRY-SORRELL
BIR STAFF**

Dublin born-and-raised Chloe Agnew was the youngest member of Celtic Women when she joined the group at age 14. Now, 24, she is poised to blaze her own path to stardom through writing and performing her own songs and collaborating with other young Irish musicians like the tenor Eamonn McCrystal.

The BIR sat down with Agnew to discuss her upcoming “Coast to Coast” tour with McCrystal, which will land at Boston’s Calderwood Pavilion on Dec. 20.

BIR. How did you get involved in the phenomenon that became Celtic Women?

A. I was born into the business. I grew up in a musical household. My grandfather used to say that if you hang around wet paint long enough, some of it is bound to stick. I didn’t plan on going into the business, but I followed in my parent’s footsteps.

I got a start with a wonderful woman in Ireland who took me on when I was only 11, and she basically released one of my singles which was for charity. Then on the back of that, I did a solo album when I was 12,



Chloe Agnew and Eamonn McCrystal in performance. Photo courtesy Hedge Hog Entertainment

and another when I was 14. It was after that that the creative team came up with the concept that became Celtic Women, which was originally supposed to be a one-night show. We had no idea that it would become the success that it did. It was very natural; one thing kind of led to the next in my life in the industry and has brought me to where I am.

BIR. Talk to me about your musical idols.

A. My dad was a classical oboist and my mother was very involved in musical theatre, the more

contemporary side of music. I loved the powerhouse female singers - Celine Dion, Aretha Franklin, Ella Fitzgerald, Doris Day. I’m so inspired by incredible women who are songwriters, like Adele and Sara Bareilles. I’ve fallen in love with songwriting over the last few years and I’m trying to bring that into my own act now.

BIR. The song “Pray For Peace” in Eamonn’s new album, “And so it goes,” seems like a true show stopper. The song features you, Eamonn, and the actress Rita

Wilson.

A. I love collaborating. I think being a solo artist can be somewhat isolating. Working with other artists keeps you inspired and takes you outside your comfort zone.

When I heard Pray for Peace the first time, it was around the time of the Orlando (Pulse Nightclub) shooting that happened earlier this year, and Eamonn said to me, “You need to listen to this track; I think we need to record it.” And I cried the first time I heard it because these words are so important for the time

we are living in right now. The only escape for us is music; it’s the only thing that allows us to transport ourselves somewhere else. And the words in this song are so uplifting! Lines like “Let us think before we speak” and “Let it start with me.” It was a real honor and a thrill to lend my vocals to a song like that and I’m looking forward to performing that song each night on the tour.

BIR. What can audiences expect to see and hear at your performances?

A. We’re both soloists so

we’ll both be performing our own songs; Eamonn from his PBS special “The Music of Northern Ireland,” and I’ll be performing some music that people will know from “Celtic Women” and some of my favorites that I love to perform. Then we’re going to join together on some duets and then, of course, some Christmas songs, because why not? We’re in the month of December!

BIR. You’ve been all over the world; are you looking forward to coming back to Boston?

A. I got to celebrate my eighteenth birthday in Boston! It’s one of my favorite cities. I’ve been visiting for over 10 years, and I have great friends and great family. The audiences are like nowhere else in the country, just this wild, receptive audience. And Boston is the last date of our tour! We knew it would be special to wrap up there, so close to Christmas and so close to home.

Fans of Chloe, or “Chlovers,” as they call themselves, can follow her on Facebook and Instagram. Also be sure to check out her videos on YouTube and Vimeo. Go to bostontheaterscene.com for ticketing and information on the “Coast to Coast” tour.

‘You stay out of the way and let it happen’

(Continued from page 11)

in “Christmas Celtic Sojourn,” he says. “There’s a moment I really love, when I watch someone give just a fantastic performance. We’ve been doing all this work, and you know that this person gets it, and then you see him or her achieve a whole other level. That’s the mark of a truly great performer: They take whatever rough idea I might have and make it completely their own.”

Says O’Donovan, “Seamus has been a big part of the artistic growth of the show over the years. His sensitivity to the tradition, combined with an ear for contemporary context is pretty unique, and we have benefited greatly as a result. He also has a unique way of working with musicians in what can be a stressful period of bringing things together before the show

opens. I am so lucky to have him as a partner in this endeavor.”

Here’s a look at the performers Egan will be collaborating with in this year’s “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn”:

- Certainly the most familiar faces for Egan will be Solas mates fiddler Winifred Horan and guitarist Eamon McElholm, with special guest accordionist Johnny Connolly; they’ll be aided by bassist Chico Huff and percussionist Steve Holloway. The boundary-pushing band recently wrapped up its 20th anniversary year, which included an extensive tour and the release of a new album, “All These Years,” featuring appearances by former members like John Doyle, Karan Casey, Deirdre Scanlan and John Williams.
- Scottish native Maeve Gilchrist, a one-time resident of Boston and former

student at Berklee College of Music, is known for the jazz and world-music influences she brings to her interpretation of Irish and Scottish traditions. Among her ongoing collaborations are with dancer Nic Gareiss, and bluegrass fiddler Darol Anger.

- **Natalie Haas**, recently returned to the Boston area after several years in Montreal, who has been a major reason for the cello’s emergence as a “Celtic” instrument, notably through her partnership with fiddler Alasdair Fraser and guest appearances with, among others, Solas and Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster.
- **Vishten** is the LeBlanc sisters, Emmanuelle (whistles, octave mandolin, bodhran, keyboards, jaw harp, percussive dance, vocals) and Pastelle (accordion, piano, percussive dance, vocals) from Prince Edward Island, and Pascal Miousse (fiddle, mandolin, guitar, vocals) of Magdalen Island. Their music, which encompasses traditional

Acadian-French songs and instrumentals as well as their own compositions, is steeped in the culture and history of the Canadian Maritimes.

- A featured singer in the show this year, **Eilís Kennedy**, from Dingle, Co. Kerry, won Female Vocal Album of the Year honors from LiveIreland.com for her 2005 CD “Time to Sail.” Kennedy was part of the 2014 “Christmas Celtic Sojourn” as half of the duo Lumiere, with vocalist Pauline Scanlon.
- A former student of venerable Irish step dancer Danny Golden, **Cara Butler** has toured regularly with The Chieftains and was featured in the 1999 stage production “Dancing on Dangerous Ground.” She and **Nathan Pilatzke** have drawn accolades through their involvement in The StepCrew, a high-energy show that spotlights Irish and Ottawa Valley step dance and tap.
- **The Harney Academy of Irish Dance** from Walpole, founded in 1990 by two-time world champion step dancer



Eilís Kennedy is the featured singer for the 2016 edition of “Christmas Celtic Sojourn.”

Liam Harney, has been a fixture of “Christmas Celtic Sojourn” for years. The school’s students and alumni – including Melissa McCarthy, who won the World Irish Dancing Championship age

15-16 category in 2012 – regularly take part in regional, national and international competitions.

For information about “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn,” see wgbb.org/celtic.

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DECEMBER PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

the Theology and Ministry Library Auditorium on BC’s Brighton Campus; see bc.edu/gaelicroots for further information.

- Mother-daughter Cape Breton duo **Betty Lou and Andrea Beaton** visit the Canadian American Club in Watertown on Dec. 3 at 8 p.m. to play for dancing and listening. The two represent a rich family heritage of Cape


Berklee College of Music, will perform on Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. in Club Passim, Harvard Square. Read has traversed many different styles of music, from traditional to folk to contemporary/pop; one of her recent collaborations was “Songs of Separation,” a recording project with an all-star cast of English and Scottish female singers that included Karine

Polwart, Eliza Carthy and Mary Macmaster. Read’s second solo album is due out next year. Also on the bill with Read will be **Rachel Ries**, a singer-songwriter from middle America known for penning “sly and compassionate songs for the crooked hearted.” See passim.org for ticket information and other details.

CD Reviews

BY SEAN SMITH

Cillian Vallely, “The Raven’s Rock” • “About time!” exults a grateful Irish music nation. After some 20 years of showing himself to be one of the finer uilleann pipers of his generation – through his work with Lúnasa and luminaries ranging from Bruce Springsteen to Tim O’Brien to the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra – and appearing on more than 60 recordings, the Armagh-born Vallely has at last released his first solo album. Its 10 tracks not only showcase his piping but his brilliance on whistle and low whistle, the latter instrument for which he can arguably be credited as helping popularize. Just as importantly, “Raven’s Rock” represents a furthering of the Vallely family imprint on traditional music in Armagh: His parents founded the Armagh Pipers’ Club, which helped to sustain and invigorate traditional music in that area, and provided no small inspiration for those of younger generations, including Vallely himself.



The familial ties are apparent in other, magnificent ways on “Raven’s Rock,” in the presence of Vallely’s brothers Niall (concertina) and Caoimhin (piano), both of whom have enjoyed their own success. And the Vallelys are in turn bolstered on various tracks by guitarists Sean Óg Graham (of Beoga), Ryan McGiver

and Paul Meehan, Brian Morrissey on bodhran and multi-genre American fiddler Jeremy Kittel. But the focus, of course, is on Cillian, whose piping style reflects the influence of his roots – via his father, Brian, and fellow Armagh piper Mark Donnelly – as well as the venerable Paddy Keenan of Bothy Band renown. You don’t have to be a piping geek to appreciate the clear, strong tone, command of all facets of the instrument, and innate rhythmic mastery you hear on the album: the march-to-reel transition on “The Bull’s March” track, for example; the stirring “Cottage in the Grove” reel medley, which displays his skill on the pipes’ regulators; and what many say is the true test of a piper, the ornamentation on slow airs, as demonstrated on “Port na bPucaí.”

It’s nigh impossible to ignore the quality of his accompanists, especially brother Caoimhin and his agile touch, simultaneously conforming to and enhancing the textures of each tune, particularly on “The Boys of Ballycastle,” a minor-key hornpipe featuring Cilian on whistle. McGiver’s gentle, harmonious backing on “O’Reilly from Aithcarne” – the opening tune on the “Leitrim Thrush” set – is nothing short of exquisite.

There’s even a bit of a local connection on the album: In the notes for the closing reel medley, Vallely explains that he learned “The Nine-Pint Coggie” from a recording of piper Robbie Hannon performing more than a quarter-century ago at Boston College – where Vallely played with Lúnasa mate Kevin Crawford this past spring. [cillianvallely.com]

Walking on Cars, “Everything This Way” • This alt-pop-rock quintet from the seemingly unlikely launch point of Dingle in Co. Kerry has enjoyed legitimate success by 21st century metrics: Their 2012 debut single

hit No. 1 on the Irish iTunes chart, their second reached No. 12, and its video version has topped 1 million viewings on YouTube. The band’s salient features are the vocal range and quality of lead singer/acoustic guitarist Patrick Sheehy and the piano-playing of Sorcha Durham, as well as a rhythm section distinguished by the often propulsive drumming of Evan Hadnett.

At the risk of sounding snarky, there isn’t exactly much in the way of rainbows and lollipops as far as the band’s songs go. They are, for the most part, observant and sometimes diametrical meditations on love, or the promise of it, and the swings between optimism and pessimism we often endure under its various incarnations:

*Take me by the hand
But please don’t want to know me
Cos I’m a little bit scared of life
And vulnerable is all you need to know...*
 (“Catch Me If You Can”)
*Advertise my secret
I don’t really need it
I know you can feel this*
 (“Speeding Car”)
*Even though you’re gone I’ll always call you mine
I’ll always be with you
I saved you a seat on the picket line
As it goes around about a thousand times*
 (“Always Be with You”)
*No I’m not calling you crazy
I’m just calling out
Sometimes you amaze when you bring me down*
 (“At Gunpoint”)

If the overall tone of “Everything This Way” is decidedly somber, it’s hardly depressing, and that’s because of the energy and craft the band brings to their material. Sheehy alternates between a grit-throated middle range and a soaring, vulnerable falsetto that often injects a startling urgency into the proceedings, such as on “Catch Me If You Can” and “Speeding Cars,” while the classically trained Durham provides a graceful but substantial accompaniment (and at times ethereal backing vocals), adding body to the instrumentation of Hadnett, guitarist Dan Devane and bassist Paul Flannery; Hadnett, for his part, helps push shifts in tempo and time signature with a reined-in but intense forcefulness. And at various junctures, Devane, Flannery and Durham join voices with Sheehy in chillingly beautiful fashion, such as on the chorus-cum-chant (“Are you gonna lead your love down?”) on “Love Backs Down.”

On one song, Sheehy sings “Some days I’m flying high I’m falling low,” as if to suggest the lack of distinction between height and depth. On “Everything This Way,” it’s all about that blurred line between emotional extremes. [walkingoncars.com]

“Titanicdance” • Almost 20 years after DiCaprio and Winslet set hearts a-fluttering on board one of history’s largest metaphors, a 2014 stage show based on that ill-fated big ship’s brief life had its US debut last month. As we know, James Cameron’s “Titanic” had significant Irish music content: the famous ceili scene (which made the band Gaelic Storm practically a household name) and that ubiquitous theme song, which introduced the soulful-tin-whistle-solo as an Irish/Celtic trope in popular entertainment media.

While that might suggest “Titanicdance” is a late-to-the-party rip-off, it bears mentioning that this production carries a luster of Northern Irish civic and cultural history, including its 2014 premiere in Belfast – which, of course, was where the *Titanic* was built and launched. That being said, judging from the show’s website and video clips, there appear some common elements between “Titanic” and “Titanicdance,” such as the star-crossed lovers from opposite sides of the tracks plot device and the ceili-in-steerage part (along with the fact that – spoiler alert – yes, the boat sinks).

But if this CD is any indication, the show seems pretty solid musically, and a refreshing contrast to the procession of glitzy Irish/Celtic stage extravaganzas. With a few exceptions, the instrumental and vocal selections are traditional: tunes like “Man of the House,” “Cregg’s Pipes,” “Dunmore Lasses” and “Gravel Walks,” and such songs as “The Water Is Wide,” “I Know My Love” and “The Parting Glass,” voiced quite capably by Olivia McTernan. No sumptuous orchestrations or big-band sound – instead, an ensemble led by Stephen Doherty (accordion, flute, whistles) and Richard Neylon (uilleann pipes, whistles, saxophone). Doherty and Neylon are demonstrably brilliant musicians and well-supported by guitarist Kevin Corbett, keyboardist Conal Early and percussionist Jim Higgins (a co-producer along with Doherty and Early).

Some of the set pieces sound inspired: the clanking industrial rhythms that undergird “Boiler Room,” for example, and Doherty’s composition “Lahardine Waltz,” both rakish and stylish. But the songs in particular just seem like selections from the Irish greatest hits jukebox, rather than inspired choices to support or supplement the narrative. Still, context matters. When we can see the dancing, costumes and staging as well as listen to the music, we’ll be better able to judge how much depth there is to “Titanicdance.” [titanicdance.com]



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Jay Hooley, Chuck Clough, Margot Connell, Jack Connors, The American Ireland Fund New England Director Steve Greeley.

American Ireland Fund salutes the Connell family

Some 1,000 guests gathered for The American Ireland Fund's 35th Annual Boston Dinner Gala at the Westin Boston Waterfront on Nov. 17. Nearly \$2m was raised for the AIF's work to support nonprofit organizations across the island of Ireland and around the world. The annual gala is one of the largest of The Worldwide Ireland Funds' 100+ international events.

The event, chaired by Chuck Clough, Jr., with vice chairs John E. Drew and Michael R. Minogue, honored the philanthropist Margot Connell. The Connell family's philanthropic partnership with AIF goes back decades as Bill Connell, Margot's late husband, chaired the 1988 Boston gala.

In her remarks, the night's honoree, who is a Trustee of Boston College,

talked about her family's story, highlighting their deeply felt commitment to supporting many local nonprofit institutions and the significant Irish influence on the Connell family's journey. She added:

"Our Irish family thrives because my husband's values mirror the mission of The American Ireland Fund: helping people, having faith, loving each other, promoting family values and peace. I am proud to be a part of this generous tradition; and thank you, American Ireland Fund, for keeping those Irish eyes smiling."

Dinner chair Clough thanked the assembled guests for their generous support of vital funds that will assist charitable initiatives both across the island of Ireland and locally within the Greater Boston community.

Said AIF New England director Steve Greeley: "Once again, Boston's friends of Ireland, many from the Greater Boston business community, gathered to enjoy a night of celebration and culture while saluting a remarkable honoree, Margot Connell, and raising nearly \$2m to support vital nonprofits across the island of Ireland and here in the US. It was quite a celebration of Ireland and quite an impactful one as well.

Among others who saluted the honoree were Gov. Charlie Baker and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. Past Honoree Jack Connors presented Margot Connell with a commemorative Waterford Crystal bowl and thanked her for her commitment to numerous educational and healthcare institutions serving the Boston

community and for her support of The American Ireland Fund.

Irish flutists Jimmy Noonan and his young son Seamus brought a little bit of Ireland to Boston with their rendition of classic Irish reels and soloist Celia Walsh, a junior at Walpole High School, closed the evening with a memorable singing of "Oh Danny Boy", a Connell family favorite.

William Trevor, 'storyteller' of the downside, is dead

By Robert Barr
Associated Press

Irish novelist and playwright William Trevor, a master of short stories that often explored life's disappointments, died last month in his adopted English home at age 88.

Trevor set his tales mainly in his native Ireland or in England, where he had lived since graduating from Trinity College Dublin in 1952. He won one of Britain's top literary prizes, the Whitbread, three times; was short-listed four times for the Booker Prize, most recently in 2002 for "The Story of Lucy Gault"; and was a perennial object of speculation as a potential Nobel literature laureate.

Trevor studiously avoided the spotlight, even in his own works, where his voice melted away into the inner worlds of his often scarred, socially isolated protagonists. "My fiction may, now and again, illuminate aspects of the human condition, but I do not consciously set out to do so," he told one interviewer. "I am a storyteller."

Born William Trevor Cox on May 24, 1928, in Mitchelstown, County Cork, Trevor's themes often seemed to reflect the difficulties of his early years, growing up with parents stuck in an unhappy marriage. "It wasn't so much that they quarreled; I never heard my father shouting or anything like that. They just simply didn't get on. There was no respect, nothing," he told the Guardian.

"I've always thought that something actually happened, the way that quite often in a marriage or a relationship something happens, and nobody knows because it's kept away from the rest of the world, because there's shame or something. There's a big question mark."

His family was Protestant in a newly independent nation dominated by the Roman Catholic Church, a minority regarded as "strangers and visitors" as he put it in the short story "The News From Ireland."

Trevor's own marriage to his Trinity College sweetheart Jane Ryan in 1952 was happy and endured, but the gloominess of his childhood stuck to him. His characters tended not to triumph over their problems.

Trevor also flourished in the theater and television, and in 1973 he had three plays staged in London.

Although he remained an Irish citizen, he won three honorary titles in Britain: Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1979, Companion of Literature in 1994 and a knighthood in 2002.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.



William Trevor was 88

Irish Education Academy sets Donegal camp for teens

The Irish Education Academy has announced its latest international program: a 14-day camp based in County Donegal during the summer of 2017 that will offer Irish-American teenagers a chance to visit and learn about their ancestral homeland.

Open to Irish Americans aged 13 to 16, Generation Ireland will give its campers a look into Donegal folklore and an overall understanding of Irish history, including the strong connection between

Ireland and the United States.

The teens will enjoy a plethora of unique activities that include surfing on the Wild Atlantic Way, climbing up Mount Errigal and down the Poisoned Glen, cliff hanging, island hopping, exploring castles, wood burning, turf sculpting, Celtic design, and traditional Irish cooking. Also, since the camp is located in the heart of the Donegal Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking region), the campers will learn a

few simple phrases of Irish Gaelige.

There are two sessions with 45 camper spots available. The first session starts on June 10, and the second on July 3. Campers will be accompanied on their flights to and from Ireland.

For more information and pricing, contact The Irish Education Academy's Chief Executive Sinéad Muldoon at 401-484-6750, or by email at info@generationireland.com.

New Crotty exhibit set for Aisling Gallery Dec. 9

Aisling Gallery will host an opening reception of a new exhibit, "Irish Light", by Vincent Crotty on Fri., Dec. 9, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The Cork-born artist, now a resident of Dorches-

ter, will be on hand for the reception, and a selection of his recent works will be available for sale.

The gallery is located at 229 Lincoln Street (Rte. 3A), Hingham.



Vincent Crotty



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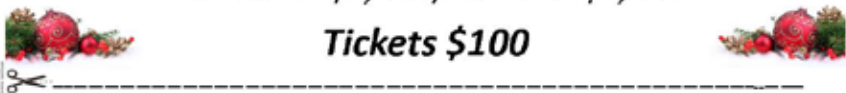
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Irish treat: Harry Clarke’s exquisite stained-glass church windows

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The season of peace and tranquility is thankfully upon us after a tumultuous, wild, and wooly year. No matter your faith or lack of same, this is a truly lovely season for almost everyone. The lights, color, music, scents, giving, and kindness – and couldn’t this world use so much more kindness?

HARRY CLARKE

At this time of year – actually, at any time of year – I like to direct visitors to the many magnificent stained glass windows in churches around Ireland that were created by the late Dubliner Harry Clarke. If you step inside a church and see a series of windows that include some by Clarke, you can spot his immediately. The rich colors, craftsmanship, and intricacy make them easily recognizable. Clarke windows are in many locations throughout the island, in other countries, and even in the US, at the Wolfsonian at the University of Florida in Miami. They are well worth traveling to see.

One such lovely window is in St. Patrick’s Church in Lahardane, Co. Mayo, a town and parish noted for having the largest proportionate loss of life when the Titanic sank in 1912. Fourteen people from the parish boarded the ship in Cobh (then known as Queenstown), and only three survived. A plaque was placed in the church in 2002 in memory of the 14 Titanic passengers, a memorial garden there honors their memory, and two stained glass windows – the Emigration Window and the Titanic Rescue Window – were installed there in 2011.

LAHARDANE WINDOW

There’s a great story behind the Clarke window, which is set in the western nave of the Lahardane church, and it speaks to the appreciation even then of his amazing work, especially by the religious.

The window, depicting the Madonna and child, came from a Castlelacken church on the North Mayo coast, where it had been installed but removed, along with a second Clark window, when the parish rebuilt the church. One has to wonder where the builders stored the elegant Clarke windows since history tells us that



Two visitors from Ohio meet one of the residents of the Donkey Sanctuary in Liscarroll, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Judy Enright photos

the second window was “destroyed by livestock.”

The stained glass treasures were probably stashed in someone’s shed or barn – much to the delight of the parish priest in Lahardane – a Father McGuinness – because they were never installed in the new Lacken church. The priest recovered and restored the remaining Clarke window and had it installed in St. Patrick’s.

You may have heard of Castlelacken – now known as Lacken – especially if you’re a fan of “The Year of the French,” the story about the French forces landing at Kilcummin Strand on Aug. 22, 1798: 200 French soldiers came ashore that day, and the rest disembarked close to the current pier to begin General Humbert’s march to Ballina.

We also love the story of the three-light Harry Clarke window in St. Patrick’s Church, Newport, Co. Mayo, commissioned by then- Canon Michael MacDonald, who sold his life insurance policy to finance the project. He and Fr. McGuinness certainly recognized artistic brilliance when they saw it.

SKELLIG RING KUDOS

The Irish Tourist Board (Tourism Ireland) advises that the Skellig Ring drive, on the southwestern tip of Ireland’s Wild Atlantic Way, has been chosen as one of the top regions in the world for travelers next year. The region receives the kudos in Lonely Planet’s Best in Travel 2017.

Tourism Ireland writes,

“The Skellig Ring is a coastal drive that is an extension of the famous Ring of Kerry on the Wild Atlantic Way – described in Lonely Planet’s Best in Travel 2017 as “perhaps Ireland’s most charismatic stretch of coastline. Skellig Michael, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a remote, wave-pounded hunk of rock rising out of the Atlantic like a giant triangle,” made the new Star Wars’ location list. As the book recognizes, ‘Glimpsed at the end of The Force Awakens, Skellig Michael will play a bigger role in this year’s sequel and local businesses are gearing up for the expected visitor bump.’

“Also highlighted in the book is Skellig Michael’s sister isle, known as Small Skellig, ‘an even craggier outpost that hosts a colony of 50,000 gannets.’ Both are located on the Wild Atlantic Way, often referred to as the world’s longest coastal touring route – a 2,500 km stretch of glorious rugged coast along the west of Ireland.”

Lonely Planet spokesperson Nóirín Hegarty tells Tourism Ireland, “The Skellig Ring should be on every traveler’s must-see list. It’s a spot of timeless beauty and now that it’s coming to prominence on the silver screen, 2017 really is the year to get out there and see it for yourself.”

It’s sometimes worrying to have these beautiful, wild places so widely promoted for fear that excessive tourism may destroy them.

MULRANNY, CO. MAYO

Congratulations to Mulranny, Co. Mayo, which was recently chosen “Best Destination for Responsible Tourism” and will now be long-listed for world awards.

The Irish Responsible Tourism Awards, judged by a panel of experts, are part of a growing family of honors linked to the World Responsible Tourism Awards, originally founded by travel company, responsibletravel.com.

Other winners included: Silver, Inishbofin Island, Co. Galway, and Sheep’s Head Way, Co. Cork; Best for Natural Heritage Tourism, Gold, Doolin Cave, Co. Clare; Silver, Burren Nature Sanctuary, Co. Galway and Sea Synergy Marine Awareness & Activity Centre, Co. Kerry; Best for Accessible & Inclusive Tourism, Gold, Gleneagle Hotel Group, Co. Kerry; Silver, Mobility Mojo, Dublin; Best Local Authority Initiative for Responsible Tourism, Gold, Lough Muckno - Monaghan County Council; Silver, Westport Smarter Travel Bike Buffet, Mayo County Council.

Also, Best Tourism Accommodation for Local Sourcing, sharing Gold were Sea View House, Co. Clare, and Fuchsia Lane Farm Holiday Cottages, Co. Tipperary; Silver, Hotel Doolin, Co. Clare;

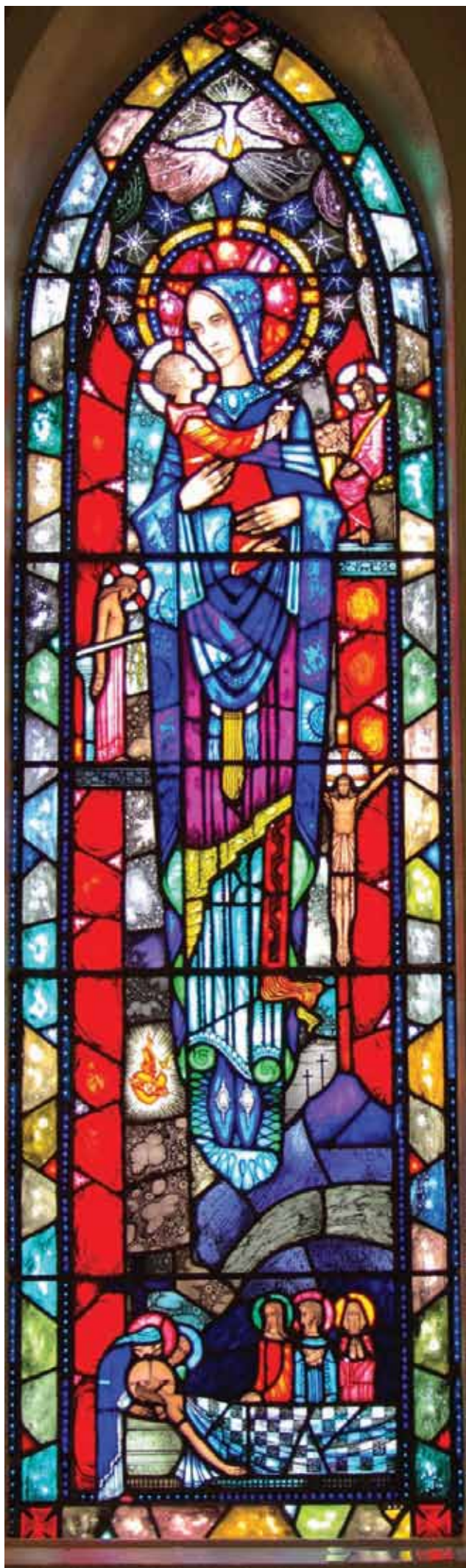
Best Innovation in Responsible Tourism, Gold, Blackfriary Community Heritage and Archaeology Project, Co. Meath; and Silver, Great Lighthouses of Ireland.

The Irish Centre for Responsible Tourism was founded in 2013 to encourage tourism businesses that benefit local communities and the environment.

We mention awards like these for future Ireland travelers who would enjoy visiting some of the many places cited, especially if they are ecologically and environmentally focused.

TUROE PET FARM

Looking for something fun to do while you’re in Ireland in December? How about stopping by Turoe Pet Farm in Loughrea, Co. Galway.



Lovely stained glass window in St. Patrick’s Church, Lahardane, Co. Mayo, by the late, great Harry Clarke.

See a Nativity scene with live animals you can feed, visit Santa in his grotto, and enjoy other treats at the Winter Wonderland, which opens Dec. 2. Be sure to visit the website (turoepetfarm.com) because opening hours vary from week to week.

Turoe is a fun place to visit at any time of year, especially if you are traveling with children. But even adults would have a hard time not being wooed by the adorable pet animals for which Turoe provides food for you to feed (with hand sanitizer afterward): varied breeds of birds, ducks, sheep, ponies, goats, and more. The

all-weather nature trail is stroller and wheelchair friendly, too.

CHRISTMAS IN IRELAND

There are many Christmas events and festivities planned all over Ireland, North and South. Be sure to visit the tourist board’s website – ireland.com – to find details on places you plan to visit and the dates and times various events are planned. There truly is something for everyone in Ireland so enjoy your trip whenever and wherever you travel.

Best wishes to all for a happy holiday season and festive dawn of a new year.



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Boston's Irish maidservants – looking back

By JOHN P. RATTIGAN
IHC OUTREACH
COORDINATOR

It would have been impossible to run a 19th-century urban home without domestic servants, and in Boston that usually included Irish women who found work as cooks and maids in houses belonging to wealthy families on Beacon Hill.

There are many factors to explain how this all came about and, of course, it was the Famine that initiated the mass migration of Irish people. The outward flow continued after the Famine and throughout the second half of the 19th century as the decline of the Irish domestic industry and farming as well as changes in inheritance laws contributed to draining the country of its "best and brightest." Between 1850 and 1913, more than 4.5 million Irish people left

their island homeland.

By the mid 1800's, inheritance laws decreed that farmland would be passed on to the eldest son rather than being divided among all sons. For women, the dowry system is one of the reasons for the drop in population after the Great Hunger. A woman could only marry if she had a dowry in an arranged marriage and this was usually reserved only for the eldest daughter. The younger female siblings had fewer options – remain at home as unpaid labor, enter the convent, or emigrate. Even nursing and teaching religious orders required a dowry so, the choice was clear: The main attraction of America was, therefore – work.

By 1900, the number of female Irish immigrants exceeded male immigrants. Domestic service was the largest single



category of Irish female employment in the United States – approximately 70 percent.

Most Irish maids were between the ages of 16 and 25 and unmarried. Many lived inside the homes in the servants' quarters

and enjoyed a standard of living far better by comparison to the life they had known in Ireland or in the tenement districts. There were advantages – a servant did not need to worry about buying food or fuel for heat, and most employers provided some form of medical care.

The hours were long and the wages were meager, but these thrifty women almost always managed to set some savings aside. Often, once settled and employed, a young woman's first big expenditure was to have a formal photograph taken in a newly purchased frock. This pic-

ture would be sent home to take a place of honor above the family hearth for all of the neighbors to admire. Moreover, they always managed to save a little money out of their salary for those back in Ireland. From 1850 to 1900 an estimated \$260 million was sent back to Ireland from America, money that in turn brought more family members over and helped those who remaining behind.

Irish Catholic staff in the service of fashionable Back Bay families appealed to Archbishop John J. Williams for a church nearer to their live-in

employment. In 1888, he granted their request and many small contributions helped to pay for the building in 1894 of the so-called "Maids Church," Saint Cecilia's.

Most of the women left domestic service when they married and started to raise families. Their stories are the stuff of courage, hard work, and perseverance. They were the "bedrock" of the Irish community back then and an awesome inspiration to the many generations of their Irish-American descendants who followed.

Newly named Irish-born cardinal likes Pope Francis's preaching on compassion

ASSOCIATED PRESS
VATICAN CITY – Pope Francis warned against what he called a "virus of polarization" and hostility in the world targeting people of different nationalities, races or beliefs, as he led a ceremony on Nov. 19 giving the Roman Catholic Church 17 new cardinals from six continents.

Among the new prelates is Dublin-born Archbishop Kevin Farrell, who led the Dallas, Texas, archdiocese before Francis appointed him to head the Vatican office dealing with family issues. At a post-ceremony reception, Farrell acknowledged that polarization is felt within the church, too.

"We've become gods on both sides – gods on the left, and gods on the right, and neither one of these are correct," he told an AP reporter.

The clash of mentalities between the conservative camps and the so-called progressives chosen by Francis has played out publicly in recent days

and months. Four prominent, disgruntled cardinals, including a US cardinal, Raymond Burke, who is one of Francis' most vocal critics, used a letter to the pope to air their doubts about his more compassionate approach to the contentious issue involving divorced Catholics. They fear his approach could sow confu-

sion among the faithful.

Asked asked about the tensions, Farrell seemed more open toward the pope's prescription for more compassion. "There is no situation in life that's black and white," he said. "Anybody that's lived in this world will have encountered those situations in their personal lives."

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The Irish Language
by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Nollag Shona Duibh! Happy Christmas to You All! agus Bliain Mhaith Úr!
“and (a) Good New Year!”

This month we are going to contrast the **Habitual Past** tense and the **Definite Past**. Both are “past” but one extends over a period of time while the other is a single point in time. For example:

“He used to like coconuts.”	Habitual Past
“He ate a coconut and he liked it!”	both Definite Past
“Nora made soda bread every year for Christmas.”	Habitual Past
“Nora made soda bread this Christmas.”	Definite Past

The **Definite Past** **lenites** (“aspirates”) the initial **consonant** of the verb unless it begins with **l, n, r** which can never be **lenited** (in writing). You may hear a slight difference in the spoken words which begin with one of these **three** but the **context will tell you the correct tense**. If the verb begins with a vowel it is “artificially” **lenited** by prefixing a **D**.

“Nora planted a tree yesterday”	Chuir Nóra crann inné.
“He played hurling one time.”	D’imir sé iomáint uair amháin.

You have already had the **Definite Past** of the “irregular” verbs. “Mary went to Carlow on Saturday.” **Chuaigh Maire do Ceatharlach De Sathairn**. However, just as a reminder, these verbs usually have a single form in the Definite Past. The only exception will be **muid** “we” which ends in **–mar**.

Verb	“Irregular” Form	Verb	“Irregular” Form
Abair	“speak”	Duirt	“to be born”
Cluin	“hear”	Chuala	Rug
Faigh	“get”	Fuair	“do”
Ith	“eat” regular	D’ith	“see/look”
Tar	“come”	Tháinig	“give”
		Téigh	“go”
			Chuaigh

The **Habitual Past** you had last month. For the first time in this course the “I” form does not have end in **–m** and the “you” form does not end in **–t** although the **–t** is still there. All forms of the **verb** are **lenited** (“aspirated”) to show **past action**. Also be careful to insert the required “dummy” vowel letter in italics in these examples to balance the **vowel** of the regular **verb**. Examples include **cuir** “to plant” or “put on” and **gabh** “take”. You may never have to actively use this tense but you should recognize it when you see it.

Chuirinn	/HOOR-uhn/	“I used to plant”
Chuirtea	/HOOR-chah/	“You used to plant”
Chuireadh sé,sí,sibh	/HOOR-uhk/	“He,she,you-all used to plant”
Chuirimis	/HOOR-uhmeesh/	“We used to plant”
Chuiridis	/HOOR-uhjeesh/	“They used to plant”
Ghabhainn	/GAHV-uhn/	“I used to take”
Ghabhta	/GAHV-tah/	“You used to take”
Ghabhadh sé,sí,sibh	/GAHV-uhk/	“He,she,you-all used to take”
Ghabhaimis	/GAHV-uhmish/	We used to take”
Gabhaidis	/GAHV-uhjish/	“They used to take”

This is true for **verbs of one syllable**; verbs of **two syllables** drop the second syllable in the **Past Habitual** tense. Examples are the verbs **salaigh** “to dirty” and **coinnigh** “to keep” or “hold”. Here the verbs are still **lenited** but the endings are not the same as the one syllable verb. They follow these models. However, the accented **–i-** means that it is pronounced /ee/ as in “feed”. Notice also the ending **-(a)iodh**. This is a new one.

Choinninn	/HOHN-een/	“I used to hold.”
Choinnítea	/HOHN-eechah/	“You used to hold”
Choinníodh	/HOHN-eeek/	“He, she, you-all used to hold.”
Choinnimis	/HOHN-uhmish/	“We used to hold.”
Choinnimis	/Hohn-uhjish/	“They used to hold.”
Shalaínn	/HAHL-een/	“I used to dirty.”
Shalaíteá	/HAHL-eechuh/	“You used to dirty.”
Shalaíodh	/HAHL-eeek/	He, she, you-all used to dirty.”
Shalaímis	/HAHL-uhmish/	“We used to dirty”
Shalaidis	/HAHL-uhjish/	“They used to dirty.”

Verbs that begin with **vowels** do as they did in the **Definite Past**, **lenite** artificially with **D’** and then attach the proper endings, Remember that **verbs** of more than one syllable always drop the second syllable.

Fliuch	“wet”	D’fhliuchadh sé éadach	“He used to wet a cloth.”
Imir	“play”	D’imríodh sé iomáint.	“He used to play hurling.”

That is enough for now. In the next column we will study the **Conditional Tense**. Sentences that have a “condition” attached such as “I will go if you will go with me.”



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It wasn't easy saying goodbye to my little buddy Rocky

BY MAUREEN FORRY-SORRELL
Wed., Nov. 9, 2016
12:30 a.m. – In the ER with my elderly Maltese who is not doing well. We're in line behind a Shi-tzu who ate a tampon, presumably while watching the election returns.

Memories: In 2001, my family (including my mom, who was healthy at the time) said a sad goodbye to Joe Morgan, our sweet and neurotic 11-year-old Maltese. He had been named for the manager of the Red Sox in 1988, because he had been brought home during a particularly dramatic team winning streak. The day he died, I watched my mother dig a hole in the backyard on Richmond Street and proclaim that she'd never again let her heart be broken by an animal. Roughly two months later, she arrived home with a tiny ball of white fur that had thrown up on her twice on the ride home. He curled up around my neck like scarf and began snoring. We named him Rocky and he was so cute I couldn't stand it. Rocky was, in a word, ballsy. Weighing in at three pounds, he would taunt the cat, who weighed five times what he did. We got him a little license with his name on it that we attached to his collar. But the charm

proved too heavy for the little guy, and when he went to grab a drink of water, his hind legs would slowly rise up until he was in proper "keg stand" position. We had our ups and downs over the years. He was with us through my mom's illness and subsequent death. He and his feline associates helped me slug through the mourning of her passing. He was with me through the purchase of my house. After the birth of my first human baby, he adjusted to that new role especially well once said baby began eating solid foods and he realized the best seat in the house was under the high chair. The love affair ended when the baby was able to practice his fine motor skills by grabbing at Rocky's fur (hence why I kept him groomed with his fur short). The crate he'd always refused to sit in then became his Happy Place, away from sticky fingers. He was, on paper, a terrible pet. He never figured out the whole "house breaking" thing completely, and once his hearing went as he aged and senility kicked in, we could forget any sort of obedience. He had a classic Napoleonic complex and would challenge any dog larger than him to a duel; as to smaller dogs, he took no notice. The night Aaron pro-

posed to me in our living room, Rocky punctuated the pivotal moment by letting out a fart so foul that our eyes watered and we both gagged. The pumpkin cheesecake Aaron bought to

celebrate the occasion went uneaten. But he was my buddy. **It was time:** Early this morning we had to say goodbye. Heart failure, respiratory distress, possibly a brain tumor.

I am heartbroken. The medical folks at Angell Animal Medical Center were wonderful, handling his euthanasia with respect and ensuring his comfort to the end. I held him as they administered

the shots and, though I'm pretty sure he couldn't hear me, told him he was, in fact, a "good boy." I love you, my little buddy. Enjoy your reunion with Grandma Mary.



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