



# Beannachtaí na Nollag

## Christmas Blessings by Mary McSweeney

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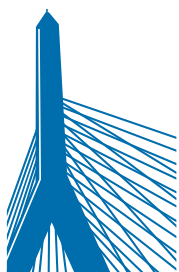
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IRISH AMERICAN  
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# NOLLAIG NA MBAN

Women's Christmas  
Breakfast Celebration



**Mary McAleese**

8TH PRESIDENT  
OF IRELAND

*in  
conversation  
with*



**Anne Anderson**

FORMER AMBASSADOR  
OF IRELAND TO THE U.S.

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For the last 30 years, The Irish American Partnership has empowered the next generation of Irish leaders by supporting educational initiatives and community development programs in Ireland, North and South. Join us: [www.irishap.org](http://www.irishap.org).



# Limerick lads hoist Fenway Classic hurling trophy

## Gaelic Players charm Boston, again



Aidan Browne, chairman of the Boston Friends of the Gaelic Players Association, addressed the packed crowd at the GPA CEO Champions Luncheon, held on Friday, Nov. 16 at the Boston Harbor Hotel. The event drew 300 people to the venue to celebrate the amateur athletes who were in Boston for the third Fenway Classic tournament on Nov. 18. The event featured a keynote address by Dr. David Torchiana, M.D, President & CEO of Partners HealthCare Systems. Special guests included 2018 GPA All Star players and players from the 2018 All-Ireland Championship.

Bill Forry photo

Oh, yes, about those sliotars ...



Rory Williams, CFO of Green Fields Digital Sports Technology, holds one of his firm's high-tech balls (sliotars) that were featured in the Fenway Hurling Classic hurling matches at Fenway Park last month.

Ed Forry photo

The balls used in the Aer Lingus Fenway Hurling Classic at Fenway Park contained a microchip that can send information on distances and speeds travelled during the games. The innovation could lead to such balls, or sliotars, being used in mainstream hurling in the future with the technology providing a vast array of information.

The sliotar used was bright yellow, and it contained a chip similar to that used in a contactless credit card.

The sliotar was developed and manufactured by Green Fields Digital Sports Technology of Kilkenny. Two of the company's officials, COO Tomas Mullins and CFO Rory Williams, were on hand in Boston for the matches.

"The luminous yellow sliotar is expected to become standardized by the GAA," the Irish Independent has reported. "The ball contains a readable chip in the core to facilitate pitch-side verification, confirming that the ball complies with standards."



Limerick won the 2018 Super 11's Fenway Hurling Classic on Sunday, Nov. 18 at Fenway Park in front of an enthusiastic crowd of some 12,000 fans. Goalkeepers Nickie Quaid and Anthony Nash making some outstanding saves for the all-Ireland champs throughout the day, which culminated in Limerick's 38-30 victory over Cork. Clare was on hand to defend its title against Limerick. Cork and Wexford. The event was sponsored this year by Aer Lingus. "It's been a great year and this is just a bonus - we were coming here to enjoy ourselves and be part of the occasion," Limerick manager John Kiely told the Limerick Leader after the win.

Photo courtesy Boston Red Sox



Donal Og Cusack and Dessie Farrell, two legends of Gaelic Games, stopped by BC High along with current dual athlete Eoin Cadogan to talk about the Gaelic Players Association on Nov. 15. Over 70 students stopped by to hear their talk.

GPA photo

### Christmas Calendar

Irish Network Boston will host a Christmas party on Friday, Dec. 7 at Carrie Nation, 11 Beacon St, Boston, 6–9 p.m. On Sat., Dec. 8, the Irish Cultural Centre of New England will present its 2018 Annual Drawing & Holiday Open House Irish Cultural Centre of New England, 200 New Boston Drive, Canton

from 6 - 11 p.m. On Fri., Dec. 14, a members-only party will be held at the Irish Social Club, West Roxbury, Doors open at 7 p.m., music by the Silver Spears. County Donegal Association of Boston's Christmas Party has been rescheduled from Dec. 2 to Jan. 6, 2019, 4 - 8 p.m. at Florian Hall, Dorchester.

### McCarthy returns as Ireland coach, Kenny to succeed him

DUBLIN (AP) \_ Mick McCarthy has returned for his second stint as Republic of Ireland coach, replacing Martin O'Neill, who left Tuesday after five years in charge. The Football Association of Ireland said Sunday that McCarthy would stay in charge for two years, and that

Stephen Kenny, who was taking immediate charge of the Under-21s team, would succeed him after the 2020 European Championship.

The 59-year-old McCarthy is tasked with leading an uninspiring side to Euro 2020, which includes four games to be hosted in Dublin.

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

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Editor's Notebook

On welcoming, the Irish way

By Ed Forry

*“Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”*

From “The New Colossus,” by Emma Lazarus

For much of the last three months, Americans have followed the sad and tragic story of a group of impoverished people making their way to our country to escape the abundant dangers they have lived with in Central America. The despot who lives in the White House has characterized them with all manner of invective: bad hombres, dangerous criminals, invaders hellbent on destroying our American way of life.

His strategy is to dehumanize them, scar-ing up images of a caravan of criminals seeking to invade our southern lands, infiltrate our country, and disrupt the American way of life. In the build-up to the mid-term elections, American troops were mobilized and sent to the border towns, with instructions to shoot to kill, never mind that the Central Americans are largely asylum seekers, entitled to entry and legal review. Sadly, the Republicans in Washington have remained silent about the president’s diabolical scheme.

A Catholic priest, Father Jim Martin, had this to say in a recent column in the Jesuit weekly America: “What does the Bible say about how we’re supposed to treat migrants and refugees? It’s clear: Welcome them. Not welcome them when it’s convenient to you, when they have papers, when you can afford it, or when there’s no risk involved to you. No, according to both the Old and the New Testaments: Welcome them.”

Contrast the hateful American government response to people seeking refuge within its borders to a Nov. 26 ceremony in Ireland, where more than 3,000 individuals from 120 countries became Irish citizens in a stirring naturalization ceremony in a large Co. Kerry function hall in Killarney.


In a report about the event, the Irish government said: “The Minister of State for Equality, Immigration and Integration, David Stanton TD, was joined by the Minister for Finance & Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe TD, in congratulating 3,000 new Irish citizens across three citizenship ceremonies at the Convention Centre in Killarney today. The Presiding Officers at the ceremonies were Retired High Court Judge Bryan McMahon and Retired District Court Judge Paddy McMahon.

“Addressing the new citizens, Minister Donohoe said: ‘It is a great privilege for me to be here with you in Killarney, on this very special day, the day on which Irish citizenship will be formally conferred on you during this simple but solemn ceremony. Becoming a citizen of one’s country goes to the essence of our democracy and constitutional principles. Together with your families and with your friends here today, we join with you in celebrating this major event in your life.’”

It was a day of celebration in many places across Ireland. Taoiseach Leo Varadkar posted on his twitter account, “Killarney today: 3,000 new citizens sworn in. Since 2011, about 120,000 people have become Irish citizens, strengthening our economy, running our public services, and enriching our society. Congratulations.” Among the top ten of the nationalities welcomed that day were those from Poland, 586; the United Kingdom, 312; Romania, 280; India, 214; Nigeria, 175; Philip-pines, 118; Pakistan, 115; Latvia. 113; Brazil, 90; and China (including Hong Kong), 84.

For decades many Americans with Irish roots have sought “dual citizenship” while keeping their American status. Under Irish law, you are not required to give up citizenship of another country to become an Irish citizen. But these new Irishmen and Irishwomen have been welcomed by a country well known for its greet-ing – Céad Míle Fáilte- a hundred thousand welcomes.

In all, a lot more welcoming than a canister of tear gas, wouldn’t you say?



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AN IRISH STAR IN BOSTON  
The Irish American Partnership

By JOE LEARY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

There are many fine Irish organizations in our local area, and the Irish American Partnership (IAP) is one of the finest.

Now in its 31st year of being headquartered in Boston, the Partnership has been applauded by authorities in both the North and South of Ireland for its focus on education and community support. It has received particular praise for its appropriateness for the future of Ireland.



Joe Leary

Standing behind Mary is a board of directors comprising professionals from Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Dublin, and Belfast. The chairman is Michael Clune, the head of Clune Construction in Chicago, and he works with lawyers, business people, and community leaders who know the non-profit world very well.

One look at the Partnership’s annual financial reports, including its IRS filings, will show how well managed this non-profit is. One of the key measuring sticks for the efficiency of non-profits is how they use the funds collected from their donors throughout the United States and what is the cost of raise the money. The Partnership has attracted 1,000 American donors over the years.

In 2017, according to its annual report and IRS filings, the Partnership raised \$2.1 million with but 7 percent total in fundraising (2 percent) and administrative (5 percent) expenses. A truly amazing accomplishment. These are the key measurements used by major donors to put a value on their gifts.

One of the most appealing parts of the Partnership’s program is a donor’s ability to select where in Ireland the gift will be sent and used. The gift must conform to the Partnership’s stated preferences for education, but within those parameters it can go to a favorite Irish university, an educational jobs program, or a school in the village, town, or county where the donor’s family came from.

All of this is managed by a small staff of two full-time workers, one of whom is Mary Sugrue, and two part-time employees. Rather incredible when you think of it.

Exactly where are the funds sent in Ireland? After approval by the board, 64 percent of the funds

were sent to specific schools and educational programs, 9 percent to community development, and 20 percent to Heritage Promotion in 2017. Approximately a third of the funds were sent to Northern Ireland, with the balance sent on to the Republic.

A total of 103 Irish educators received science and other professional training, 53 schools and universities received funds, and 7,500 young Irish students attended Partnership science fairs in Belfast, Dublin, and Limerick. These were held in coordination with Ireland’s Philanthropic Society (RDS) in Dublin. The partnership provided the required funds. And 20 underprivileged teenagers were able to attend college with Partnership “access” scholarships.

Several members of the board, including Chairman Clune and CEO Sugrue, traveled to Ireland in September to visit recipients and distribute more than \$170,000 to the projects. Called the Partnership’s Leadership Mission, they were welcomed by many in official Ireland, including the Department of Education and the Department of Foreign affairs.

December is a month that non-profit organizations like the Partnership rely upon heavily for funding for their activities. For a more detailed list of the names and location of the schools and programs the Partnership has helped, and for information on how you might donate to the mission, please go to irishap.org, the Partnership’s excellent website.

On Jan. 10, an Irish Women’s Christmas event at the Boston Harbor Hotel will celebrate the contributions that Irish women make to all of our lives during the year. Former President of Ireland Mary McAleese and former Ambassador Anne Anderson will join in a fireside chat on the topic. In Irish, the event is called Nullaig Na mBan – Women’s Christmas.

Two days before, in Washington on Jan. 8, the Partnership will hold a similar event honoring Baroness May Blood for all the work she has done to promote peace and women’s influence in Northern Ireland.

The above is a much-condensed version of all that could be said of the work of the Irish American Partnership here in Boston. It is truly something we can be proud of.



Mary Sugrue  
COO of the Irish American Partnership

Off the Bench

I have to believe that there’s a reality beyond ‘breaking news’

By JAMES W. DOLAN  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

I’m tired of “breaking news.” In an effort to gin up interest, the networks exaggerate the importance of almost every news broadcast, no matter how routine. What used to be “news bulletins” or just “reports,” are now promoted as seismic events as they compete for audience share. It’s the equivalent of pushing reporters out into hurricanes or snow storms to dramatize their impact.



James W. Dolan

Television news in particular has become entertainment. The cable networks and their collection of experts clog up the airwaves day after day with the same thing. How many times and how many different ways can you analyze the same thing? Has politics in the age of Trump become entertainment or have the networks discovered entertainment is more popular and thus more profitable than news?

I write this as a political junkie who for too long has been addicted to cable news. But I’m ready to kick the habit. I’m tired of listening to politicians describe even the most dreadful actions as “unacceptable” or “inappropriate.” Wearing a tank top to a wedding is unacceptable. Smoking in a restaurant is inappropriate. The murder of a respected journalist is outrageous. The insulting of a woman by the president is despicable.

Scarborough’s ranting and raving. But I suppose you can’t expect them to be on day after day, year after year without losing it.

We are captured in a whirlpool of blather pulling us under to where reason, reflection, and peace can no longer penetrate. Lost in today, we ignore the spiritual. It’s time to turn inward, to search for meaning elsewhere. It will not be found in the daily din that draws us ever closer to the absurd. There must be something more important, more substantial, more uplifting out there to which we can turn for inspiration, comfort, and direction.

Mankind as manifest daily in the news is a huge disappointment. I pray there is a reality beyond the news, a place of refuge where we can truly explore who we are and why we exist. Thankfully, there are thinkers who probe these issues who, too often, are overlooked in the welter of what today passes for analysis. Among the philosophers, theologians, artists, poets, authors, historians, and (some) columnists of today and times past, one can find searchers for a deeper truth. They’re out there, but they’re just a little harder to find.

In order to understand, we must venture beyond the everyday, break loose from the oppressive bonds of today’s distractions. I cling to faith. For me, it is an affirmation of hope, a belief in design and purpose and, ultimately, in God for several reasons.

First, because I need to. Otherwise, I could be overwhelmed by mankind’s inhumanity. Second, because of the goodness that exists and is manifested in so many ways. Third, because of the beauty, immensity, and order of the universe. Fourth, because I accept love, truth, and justice as objective reality, ultimate virtues reflecting a higher power rather than by-products of evolution.

I don’t have the answers, but I believe I’m dealing with the right questions. In a world where so much time is wasted, that should pass for progress.

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



Point of View

# In these ‘Looking Glass’ times, Ireland turns left, US veers right

By PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

“Curiouser and curiouser!” cried Alice (she was so much surprised, that for the moment she quite forgot how to speak good English).

Those oft-quoted words from Lewis Carroll’s “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-Glass” ring especially apt in the Era of Donald Trump and ascending right-wing nationalist movements throughout Europe. Ironically, the Republic of Ireland, so long a conservative Roman Catholic “Fortress of Solitude,” has turned its collective back on the anti-immigrant, anti-freedom of the press, anti-gay, anti-Nativist, and anti-choice tenets so near and dear to President Trump and his administration writ large.

For a century or more, many Americans—including many Irish Americans—berated or lamented an Ireland seemingly ensnared in the religious, cultural, social, and historical dogma of the Vatican. Now, however, in the past year alone, as America grapples with a hard-right turn, the Irish have turned left.

The shift resonated back in May of this year, when Ireland voted on the issue of abortion. As Trump and his enforcer, Sen. Mitch McConnell have been packing the federal bench and the Supreme Court itself with jurists poised to strike down Roe v. Wade, Ireland’s majority recoiled from the nation’s stern abortion laws. Ed O’Loughlin, of *The New York Times*, wrote, “Ireland voted decisively to repeal one of the world’s more restrictive abortion bans, sweeping aside generations of conservative patriarchy and dealing the latest in a series of stinging rebukes to the Roman Catholic Church.” He added that the vote “cemented the nation’s liberal shift at a time when right-wing populism is on the rise in Europe and the Trump administration is imposing curbs on abortion rights in the United States.”

There’s much more testament to Ireland’s dramatic shift in ways that are likely stunning to the many Conservative Irish Americans among our nation’s some 40 million people with Hibernian bloodlines. Ireland’s current Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, elected to the office in June 2017, is openly gay and the son of an immigrant father from Mumbai, India. It should

come as no surprise that Ireland voted in a referendum to allow same-sex marriage. Not so long ago, either development would have been unthinkable in the Emerald Isle. Unless our own nation’s history books have missed something, no openly gay man or woman has ever served as president.

On the issue of “birthright citizenship,” Ireland was on a Trumpian page in 2004, when 79 percent of the nation’s voters supported a referendum to strike down the Constitutional provision that bestowed citizenship on anyone born in Ireland. That same debate rages in America today, with the administration working to find a way around the 14th Amendment, which, among other things, grants citizenship to children born to illegal immigrants in the US. Some ten days ago, Ireland’s Senate voted to consider a proposed edict to guarantee birthright citizenship. The Senate’s move came in the immediate wake of a *Sunday Times of London* (Irish edition) poll asserting that 71 percent of respondents supported birthright citizenship, with a scant 19 percent against it and 10 percent undecided.

In the May 24, 2018, *New York Times*, O’Loughlin noted that “this remarkable swing in public opinion, at a time when President Trump has called for ending birthright citizenship in the United States, follows a high-profile case in which Eric Zhi Ying Xue, a 9-year-old boy who was born in Ireland, was threatened last month with deportation along with his Chinese mother.” As in the US, though, entrenched political forces in the Irish government remain hardliners against so-called “anchor babies.”

All of this reflects the political upheavals on both sides of the Atlantic. Come January 2019, America will learn if the Democrats’ takeover—yes, it was a wave—of the US House portends an actual check upon the executive branch. As Lewis Carroll wrote, “Curiouser and Curiouser”—especially with regard to the US and Ireland’s evolving role reversals.

•••

This month has not always been “the most wonderful time of the year”—for the Boston Irish. As the 2018 Christmas season rushes in, a look back in time reveals that from 1800 to 1850 or so, Irish immigrants

could scarcely have picked a worse site than Boston to celebrate the holiday. The city’s main founders, the Puritans, had loathed “Popish” Yuletide rituals so much that, in 1659, the Massachusetts General Court had enacted long-lasting laws against honoring the day. Anyone caught toasting the occasion suffered a steep five-shilling fine.

Above all, for the Mathers and other Puritan luminaries, Christmas celebrations symbolized “Papists” and their church. So entrenched did Bostonians’ antipathy toward Catholicism become that the city’s public schools were open on Christmas Day until 1870.

In such a climate, Boston’s Irish marked the holiday in muted fashion until their political clout swelled late in the 19th century. Christmas on the “old sod” had largely revolved around Mass and family, not the raucous celebrations of any feverish Puritan or, later, Yankee imaginations, so the early Irish of Boston spent the day simply, many families keeping children home from school.

Christmas Masses were held at St. Augustine’s, in South Boston, and later at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, always under close watch by some Bostonians for any excessive celebrations. As German Catholic immigrants arrived and began attending the local “Irish” churches, the newcomers introduced the city to Christmas trees and greeting cards as a thaw in the region’s traditional, Puritan-steeped Christmas notions slowly became evident.

By the dawn of the 20th century, the Boston Irish were celebrating Christmas as openly as they desired, with family parties and dinners, parish socials, and Midnight Mass turning the Yuletide season into a genuine holiday. In “Boston Catholics,” the late Thomas H. O’Connor wrote that they “participated in a perpetual calendar of familiar religious devotions that...bound them more firmly together as members of their own distinctive parishes.”

Such scenes would have been virtually unthinkable for Boston’s earliest Irish immigrants who lived in a city where Puritans had once banned the holiday and had punished transgressors with a fine or an agonizing stint in the public stocks.



**Ireland Funds draws 850 to annual gala; \$2.2 million raised for Irish-related causes**  
More than 850 guests gathered on Thurs., Nov. 15, for The Ireland Funds’ 37th Annual Boston Gala at the Westin Boston Waterfront where some. \$2.2 million was raised for Funds’ mission to support non-profit organizations across the island of Ireland and around the world.



**In photo at left, Steve Greeley, New England Director of The Ireland Funds America, and Miceal Chamberlain, right, with the gala’s honored guest, Auveen Bell, co-founder and CEO of Blossom Ireland, an organization providing life and social skills programs for children with intellectual disabilities. At right, Joseph Corcoran, sitting at center, and his table cohort.**  
*Maura Wayman photos*

## Disguised immigration policies are hitting hard under the radar

By MEGAN PARKER-JOHNSON  
AND JENNIFER HOWARD

Without amending any statutes or regulations, The Trump Administration recently and quietly produced two policy memos that will likely lead to many immigrants being wrongly denied critical changes to their legal status and being placed in line for possible deportation only because they called attention to themselves while trying to legally navigate the existing system.

The memoranda, issued by the Dept. of Homeland Security, were presented as innocuous changes to “increase public safety,” and reduce the filing of “frivolous” applications. Instead, they erect new barriers, complicating the immigration process especially for low-income immigrants who cannot afford helpful legal services, and increasing the difficulty in saving, collecting and producing proof of their claims to immigration officials.

While there are many immigration policies that generate great public outcry and attention, the Department of Homeland Security recently issued two policy memoranda that will drastically change the way US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) processes immigration cases. These changes will likely lead to many immigrants being wrongly denied critical changes to their legal status and

consequently being placed in deportation proceedings because they have called attention to themselves by trying to use the existing system.

This action is simply a new element of the administration’s nativist agenda, and one that is particularly hypocritical. While Homeland Security says it respects the rule of law and wishes more immigrants would “wait in line” and “follow the rules,” it has made it exponentially more dangerous for people to do so.

Under these new policies, immigrants applying for green cards, citizenship, Temporary Protected Status and other statuses may have their applications denied without opportunity to provide supplemental evidence or clarify eligibility questions. Then, once their application is denied, they will be referred to court for deportation proceedings.

To understand the impact of these policies on the most vulnerable immigrants, consider Marie, who came to the US in 2010 after an earthquake destroyed her home in Haiti. She was 14 when she and her mother entered the US. She currently has Temporary Protected Status, but that status, along with her work authorization, will be terminated next July. Marie is 22 and married to a US citizen. They have two children. She wants to know if her US citizen husband can help her apply for a green card.

Seeking help from Rosie’s Place, a community center for Boston’s poor and homeless women, Marie learned about free immigration clinics that the Irish International Immigrant Center (IIIC) offers weekly, which help women sort through their options. Marie meets with an IIIC immigration attorney for her free consultation and reveals that her mother lost documents proving that they lawfully entered the US. Marie’s situation is now more complex than it would have been just a few months ago.

Before the administration’s policy changes, Marie, as the spouse of a US citizen who entered the United States lawfully, was eligible for a green card and could have requested a new copy of the documents proving her legal entry at a cost of several hundred dollars. As an alternative, she could have submitted a statement from her mother, explaining when they were paroled into the US and how she lost the relevant documents. If the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) did not think that statement was sufficient, it would give her an opportunity to submit more proof and likely would not have put her in immigration court.

Now, Marie knows that if USCIS determines that her proof of entry is insufficient, it will deny her application without giving her an opportunity to

submit more proof. Her filing fees, well over \$1,000, will not be refunded. And if she no longer has Temporary Protected Status by the time USCIS issues its decision, she will almost certainly be placed into deportation proceedings.

For Marie, deciding whether to apply for a green card has become unbelievably difficult. Is it worth the risk? Marie may decide it is not, even though not filing means she will lose her status, work authorization, and ability to support her family.

There is palpable pressure on immigrants to follow the rules and make themselves legal. Immigrants should be able to apply for legal status for which they have good reason to think they are eligible, without fear that doing so will put them at risk of being deported. Fear of deportation just for trying to use the system will only keep people living in the shadows.

The hypocrisy of these policies is clear, and we cannot allow these injustices to continue. We must raise our voices now. Please contact your Congressional delegation to push back on the implementation of these policies.

*Megan Parker-Johnson is an immigration attorney and policy advisor at the Irish International Immigrant Center; Jennifer Howard is the director of legal programs at Rosie’s Place.*



Immigration Q&A

I got my green card; what happens now?

**Q.** *I have just been granted permanent resident status in the US. Can you give a summary of my rights and responsibilities regarding such issues as travel abroad, reentering the US, losing my green card, and registering for service in the armed forces?*

**A.** With your permanent resident status (green card), you can live and work legally anywhere in the US. You can petition US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for green cards for your spouse and unmarried children. Generally, after living here for four years and nine months (two years and nine months if your status is based on the fact that your spouse is a US citizen and you are still living in marital union with him/her), you can apply to become a US citizen.

You can travel outside the US whenever you like. You must have your green card, along with a valid foreign passport, with you to present to US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) when you reenter the US. You should keep a record of the dates each time you leave and return (backed up if possible with travel documents such as airline tickets and boarding cards), and it is important always to reenter the US legally by using a CBP border checkpoint, including brief trips over the border to Canada and Mexico.

When you travel abroad you must be careful not to “abandon” your residence in the US. If you want to leave for more than 12 months you must get a “reentry permit” from USCIS before you leave or CBP will presume that you have abandoned your status and may not readmit you. A reentry permit is granted at the discretion of USCIS for specific purposes, for example, going abroad to attend university, or going to your original home country to take care of an elderly or ill parent. Also, if you leave for more than six months but less than a year, you are not automatically presumed to have abandoned your US permanent residence, but you can face scrutiny on this issue from CBP when you return. It is important to consult with us at IIIC or with your immigration lawyer before taking a trip out of the US lasting more than six months.

Even if you have a green card, the immigration authorities can prevent you from reentering the US, or deport you if you are in this country if you are convicted of certain crimes. Certain offenses that may not seem very serious could be viewed as grounds for deportation, or they could keep you from being readmitted if you leave the US, or from obtaining US citizenship. If you are charged with a crime, it is *essential* that you consult an immigration lawyer as well as a lawyer specializing in criminal cases, as the law involving the consequences of criminal convictions on a person’s immigration status is extremely complex.

If you are a male at least 18 years old and under 26 at the time when you got your green card, your responsibilities include registering with Selective Service (even though there is no military conscription in effect in the US at this time). If you do not register, you may be subject to criminal prosecution. If convicted, you could be deported. Failing to register may also prevent or delay you from becoming a US citizen. You can get the necessary form at any post office, or you can register online at [sss.gov](http://sss.gov).

Other responsibilities of permanent residents include filing accurate federal and state tax returns annually and paying any taxes that you owe; reporting any change of address to USCIS within 10 days; and having your children who are permanent residents register with USCIS within 10 days of turning 14.

Your green card does not entitle you to vote in US elections or serve on juries – you must be a US citizen for that. Doing so as a legal permanent resident amounts to a false claim of US citizenship and can have very serious consequences.

Visit one of our weekly legal clinics as listed in the monthly BIR for a free, confidential consultation on your specific questions about any immigration-related issue.

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

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The Irish International Immigrant Center’s immigration attorneys and social workers are available for all immigrants during this time of uncertainty and concern in our community. We are closely following the changes in immigration policies, and are available for confidential, legal consultations, and case representation. At weekly legal clinics, you can receive a free and confidential consultation with staff and volunteer attorneys. For information, or if you or anyone you know would like to speak to an immigration attorney, please call us at 617-542-7654.

Upcoming Clinic Schedule

Clinics are in the evening – please do not arrive more than 30 minutes before the clinic begins.

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IIIC, One State Street, Boston, 8th Floor  
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IIIC’s Irish language classes renew in January

The Irish International Immigrant Center’s Irish classes, in collaboration with Cumman na Gaeilge Boston, continue to celebrate the resurgence of the Irish language worldwide.

In its third year now, our Irish language program provides three levels of Irish instruction. We were delighted to have hosted a recent and fun Irish chat night series that brought along many lifelong speakers - those new to Irish, and a five-year-old girl who excitedly introduced herself in Irish! The Irish Consulate of Boston hosted our August gathering and we are grateful for their support. We have also just wrapped up our fall courses here at the IIIC, after another wonderful semester of learning and laughter.

The IIIC sends a huge thanks to our talented



The Irish Language class wraps up the fall semester – thank you to Karen and wishing you all the best!

teachers, Karen Conneely, Pat Clifford, and Matthew Caughey. We also bid a very fond farewell to Karen as she moves home to Ireland this winter. We will all miss

her knowledge and flair with the Irish language, and her dedication to its preservation! Go raibh mile maith agat, Karen!

Our winter Irish classes start over the week of Jan.

14. Email Siobhan Kelly at [skelly@iiicenter.org](mailto:skelly@iiicenter.org) for more information about classes and enrollment! All are welcome!

An update from the Wellness Team

The past few months have seen us busy with learning and laughter in our Irish classes, focused on Boston’s recovery month, working to preserve rights in MA, and exploring the needs of the biracial Irish diaspora. We also fit in a great flu shot clinic for the upcoming winter season, which was attended by more than 50 IIIC ESOL students, J-1 interns, staff, legal service clients and some new faces to the IIIC gear up for the cold and flu season. We want to share two highlights from our work this month, and encourage you to contact us to learn more about our services and work in these areas.

On Oct. 25, Wellness Services Director Rachel Reisman facilitated a timely and important discussion with Rosemary Adaser’s UK Group, Mixed Race Irish. Rosemary very

generously spent time talking with social services providers from Irish immigration centers across the US about the experience of being Irish “when you don’t look like what people expect, when you don’t fit the stereotype, when you are bi-racial.” As a survivor of the mother and baby institutional system in Ireland, Rosemary also explored what it was like to “live that experience through the added prism of racism.” Rosemary currently serves on the Collaborative Forum of survivors, working with Minister Katherine Zappone, to ensure that their voices are included in any decisions made now about this chapter in Irish history.

We were a proud community partner of the Freedom For All campaign this fall. When Question 3 sought to

undo the bipartisan law passed in MA two years ago, ensuring the legal rights of trans-identified people to access and utilize public places and restrooms, thousands across the Commonwealth fought back. Rachel attended YesOn3 rallies on behalf of the organization, and worked to Get Out the Vote on behalf of Question 3. We all rejoiced when MA upheld its commitment to human rights and respect when YesOn3 passed overwhelmingly on November 6th!

Give us ring, or send us a message if you need anything in the holiday season ahead. We are here.

Rachel Reisman, LICSW; [rreisman@iiicenter.org](mailto:rreisman@iiicenter.org); 617-543-7654, Ext. 14; on Facebook @IrishOutreachandWellnessServices

Boston, Belfast agencies launch exchange to support those with autism, learning issues

sister city of Belfast in conjunction with TILL’s return visit to Ireland as part of their international travel program.

“Through Our Eyes” is a social enterprise from the Belfast-based NOW Group aimed at increasing job opportunities for people with disabilities. By summer 2019, NOW aims to have five people with autism and learning differences trained as tour guides who will offer unique tours of Belfast as they see it, with an additional five individuals being trained by TILL in Boston. The partnership hopes to include an international exchange program between Belfast and Boston where staff and participants will share their skills and experience while learning from time spent in the other city, which will be supported through the Irish International Immigration Center.

Maeve Monaghan, CEO of NOW Group, commented, “We are very excited to welcome TILL Inc. to Belfast. The “Through Our Eyes” initiative came about after a recent visit to Boston and subsequent meetings with TILL and IIIC. We are bringing an

innovative new product to the growing tourism market in Belfast that includes individuals and families keen to have a different perspective on our city. We’ll be working with two amazing organizations to create paid jobs for people with learning difficulties and autism and also share valuable practical experience in service delivery across both organizations. This enterprise and today’s visit are really Sister City collaboration in action.”

Dafna Krouk-Gordon is the Founder and President of TILL Inc. She comments, “TILL’s relationships with agencies and programs abroad who do work similar to ours in the US, establishes a peer network of global relationships which creates lifelong experiences and connections for the travelers.

“The relationship with NOW Group presents an excellent opportunity to connect with practitioners and educators in Northern Ireland who work on similar issues as in the United States in developing community-based services, employment initiatives and vocational opportunities for people

with intellectual differences and Autism Spectrum Disorder.”

NOW and TILL, Inc. were matched through the Irish International Immigrant Center in Boston. Speaking about the partnership Ronnie Millar, Executive Director commented,

“The Irish International Immigrant Center in Boston has for the past two decades facilitated international learning exchange programs including the Walsh Visa Program, Wider Horizons and the J1 visa program. This new partnership with NOW Group and TILL Inc. is an exciting opportunity for people with varying ranges of abilities on both side of the Atlantic to work and travel in the United States and Northern Ireland. The partnership also opens up possibilities for staff and care-givers to work, travel and learn in the United States and in Northern Ireland. All these initiatives will help create a world where all are welcomed and valued and enjoy equal opportunities and protections.”

You can find out more about TILL Inc. at [tillinc.org](http://tillinc.org) and the Now Group at [nowgroup.org](http://nowgroup.org).





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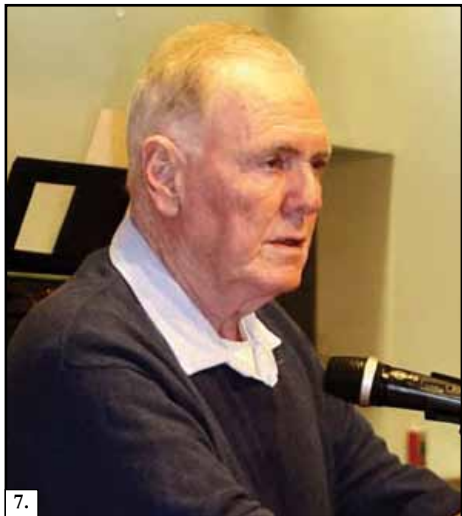
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# BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett  
Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

**O**n Sun., Nov. 18, West Roxbury's "Lord Mayor" Richard Gormley was sworn in as the new president of the Irish Social Club. The owner of the Gormley Funeral Home, he has an ancestral home in Ballybrogan, Co. Roscommon. The event began with a Mass of Remembrance of past members, followed by the installation of Gormley and fellow officers and members of the board of directors. The traditional Sunday evening music and dancing followed.

Enjoying the festivities are: 1.) Ann and Bill Downey, West Roxbury; 2.) Ken Daly, West Roxbury, Past President ISC; 3.) New ISC president, Lord Mayor Richard Gormley; 4.) Herbert McDermott, West Roxbury, Past President ISC and Marie O'Donnell, West Roxbury; 5.) Fr. John Connolly, new pastor at St. Theresa of Avila parish, and Dan Pokaski, both of West Roxbury; 6.) Sean Folan, West Roxbury; 7.) Ambassador Ray Flynn, South Boston; 8.) Boston City Councillor Matt O'Malley, West Roxbury; 9.) Brendan Kelly, Mick Madden, Lauren Trimble; 10.) Jim McDonnell, Maureen McDonnell and Jim Keenan, Weymouth; 11.) Nora Broderick, West Roxbury; Patricia Bligh, West Roxbury and Ann Collins, Newcastle, Galway.





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# Starring role for concertina, tin whistle at ‘Celtic Sojourn’

**BY SEAN SMITH**  
**SPECIAL TO THE BIR**  
Former All-Ireland champion Brenda Castles, outstanding on both concertina and tin whistle, and The Fretless, a Canadian quartet that has championed the “chambergrass” folk-string ensemble sound, will make their debuts at this year’s “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn,” along with an up-and-coming Scottish singer with the singular name of Hannah Rarity.

The annual holiday show, featuring music, song, dance, and storytelling from Irish, Scottish, and other Celtic – even non-Celtic – traditions, makes its customary stop at the Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College in Boston from Dec. 14 to Dec. 16, with additional performances at Rockport’s Shalin Liu Performance Center (Dec. 12), Worcester’s Hanover Theatre (Dec. 18), the Zeiterion Theatre in New Bedford (Dec. 19) and Providence’s Veterans Memorial Auditorium (Dec. 20) before returning to the Cutler to close out its run Dec. 21-23.

Returning for a second time to “Sojourn” will be four-part harmony *a cappella* group Windborne and guitar-bouzouki-harmonium player Owen Marshall, joined by musical mainstays cellist Natalie Haas; bassist Chico Huff; percussionist Ben Wittman; and the show’s assistant and chief musi-

cal directors, respectively, harpist Maeve Gilchrist and multi-instrumentalist Seamus Egan.

National Endowment for the Arts award winner Kevin Doyle, another veteran of the show, will again serve as dance director. Joe Duffey, an acclaimed Irish dance performer, choreographer, and instructor from Washington, DC, and the ever-popular Harney Academy of Irish Dance from Walpole also will be part of the festivities.

As always, hosting the production is “Christmas Celtic Sojourn” creator Brian O’Donovan of WGBH-FM’s “A Celtic Sojourn,” which serves as a template for the show. O’Donovan and his wife Lindsay will provide additional vocals for “Sojourn,” as will Gilchrist and Castles.

“It’s amazing to think that in a few weeks, we’ll be starting up the rehearsals,” said O’Donovan, interviewed shortly before Thanksgiving. “Of course, we do all kinds of work and preparation before that, by Skype or phone or e-mail or whatever. But then we’ll gather for several days, just hunker down and put everything together. It’s very intensive, but loads of fun, and quite satisfying.”

County Meath native Castles – who appeared in this year’s “St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn” – grew up in a musical family, and earned All-Ireland Fleadh titles in solo and group

competitions. She learned tin whistle and concertina from Rena Crotty Traynor, and later with Mícheál O’Raghallaigh, one of the most respected concertina players today. She has recorded a solo album, “Indeed in You Needn’t Bother,” which includes her own compositions as well as tunes from distinguished musician/composers like Ed Reavy, Vincent Broderick, and Charlie Lennon.

“There’s actually quite an impressive legacy of female concertina players in Ireland,” says O’Donovan. “When the instrument first came along in the 19th century, apparently it was seen as perfect for women: a good size for their ‘delicate’ hands, and nothing flamboyant. Well, Brenda is part of a long line of women like Mary MacNamara and Edel Fox – just to name a few – who have become phenomenal concertina players.”

The Fretless (fiddle and viola players Trent Freeman, Karrnnel Sawitsky, and Ben Plotnick, and cellist Eric Wright) explores the rhythmic, harmonic, and structured arrangement of Celtic, old-timey, bluegrass and other folk/traditional styles in the essence of a chamber string quartet, hence the descriptive phrase “chambergrass.” The band, and chambergrass itself, has a Boston connection: Freeman and Wright were Berklee College of Music students, and founded The Fretless with fellow

Berklee acquaintance Ivonne Hernandez, who was active in the Boston music scene. The band’s most recent album, “Live at the Art Farm” – which focuses on the traditional Irish part of its repertoire – has earned them well-deserved attention, says O’Donovan.

“They’ve really come into their own, and developed an amazing sound. We’re particularly excited to have them in the show this year, not only for what they bring as a quartet but also because it sets up some intriguing possibilities, such as a two-cello dynamic with Natalie, or a strings-and-harp thing

with Maeve.

“So, put them all together with Seamus and the all instruments he plays, plus our terrific rhythm section of Ben, Chico and Owen, and the music will be as strong as ever.”

Rarity (actually pronounced “RAW-itee”), the BBC 2018 Young Scottish Traditional Musician of the Year, recently released her first full-length album, “Neath the Gloaming Star,” showcasing her command of both traditional and contemporary material and styles. Having toured the US previously with Cherish the Ladies, Rarity will make her American solo



**Brian O’Donovan**  
**Sojourn maestro**

debut with “Christmas Celtic Sojourn.” She joins an impressive roster of  
**(Continued on page 10)**



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# Starring role for concertina, tin whistle at ‘Celtic Sojourn’

(Continued from page 9) female singers – among them Karan Casey, Cara Dillon, Karine Polwart, Alyth McCormack, and Mairi Campbell – who have been part of the show over the years.

“We’ve certainly featured male singers, like Sean Keane and Robbie O’Connell, but having a female voice just really seems to suit the spirit of the season, and of the event,” says O’Donovan. “There’s something of the divine feminine, the quality of a mother’s love, to Christmas, and so it’s natural to have the show reflect this. Hannah is a great personality as well

as a talented singer, and we’re happy to welcome her this year.”

O’Donovan also is pleased to have Windborne (Jeremy Carter-Gordon, Lynn Mahoney Rowan, Will Thomas Rowan, and Lauren Breunig) back, for reasons that go beyond their exhilarating brand of singing and imaginative repertoire.

“These are young people who grew up in the Boston and New England folk scene, and were involved in things like Revels, Village Harmony, and other events and activities,” he explains. “They have a good feel for ritual and ceremony, and are out-

standing collaborators. And I should mention that they are incredible actors, too, which is a good talent for the show: In recent years, we’ve been incorporating some vaudevillian, tongue-in-cheek stuff, like ‘Miss Fogarty’s Christmas Cake,’ and they totally get into it.”

Doyle, a sprightly presence for many years in “Christmas Celtic Sojourn,” is concentrating more on the choreographic and artistic elements of the show’s dance content – although “it may be difficult to keep him completely in the background,” O’Donovan deadpans. As this year’s featured



BBC 2018 Young Scottish Traditional Musician of the Year Hannah Rarity makes her American solo debut in “Christmas Celtic Sojourn.”  
*Elly Lucas photo*

dancer, Duffey brings two decades of experience in Irish dance, nurtured in the lively Washington, DC-area Irish community. In addition to traditional dance activities and performances, he has toured with “Riverdance” and worked directly with Michael Flatley in “Lord of the Dance.”

The Harney Academy of

Irish Dance has assumed a multi-generational role in the show, with the current school-age students supplemented by appearances from some Harney alumni.

“It’s been wonderful to see the little kids grow and mature, and come back as young adults to bring their own kind of energy,” says O’Donovan. “And, of

course, there’s a whole new generation of Harney dancers who are learning the ropes, and keeping the cycle going. That’s how traditions thrive.”

For ticket information and other details about this year’s “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn,” go to [wgbh.org/celtic](http://wgbh.org/celtic).

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# A Dancing Dickens “Christmas Carol”

**BY R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**  
“A Christmas Carol” celebrates its 175th anniversary this year. First published as a novella in 1843, Charles Dickens’s classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge’s redemption has been adapted again and again for film and stage audiences around the world.

From Dec. 14 to Dec. 23, Deborah Mason’s Cambridge Youth Dance Program will present its 10th anniversary production of “What The Dickens!” It’s a dance-theater production blending contemporary dance, ballet, tap, hip-hop, flamenco, projections and narration as it tells Dickens’ timeless story of transforming greed into kindness, love and humanity.

Under the direction of Broadway veteran and Boston Ballet alum Leslie Woodies, performances will take place at John Hancock Hall. Marks his fourth year in the role, Lexington native Ryan P. Casey will play Bob Cratchit, the hard-working father of Tiny Tim.

Praised by *The New York Times* and known for his extraordinary tap dancing, Ryan is a performer, teacher, choreographer, and dance writer once named one of Dance Magazine’s “25 to Watch” and one of the *Boston Globe’s* “25 Most Innovative People Under 25.”

Earlier in his career, he appeared on television’s “So You Think You Can Dance.”

As an educator, Ryan has worked for colleges, studios, festivals, and arts programs around the country, as well as for Julliard’s Summer Performing Arts program in Switzerland. He is the recipient of grants from the New England Foundation for the Arts and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Aside from solo work and dancing with his ensemble, Off Beat, he’s a frequent contributor to *Dance Magazine* and *Dance Studio Life* magazine. Formerly on the faculty at Boston University, he’s currently pursuing his M.Ed. at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

We spoke during a break in his busy schedule. Following is a condensed look at our conversation.

**Q.** Many theaters present “A Christmas Carol” around the holidays. What makes “What The Dickens!” different?

**A.** Well, it’s told through such a variety of dance styles . . . We take all of the characters . . . and give them different dancing styles and personalities on stage, which is really cool.

**Q.** Can you give me an example?

**A.** The Ghosts of Present, Past, and Future tend to change every year a little bit. We have a Flamenco Ghost. We’ve had a Ghost that does African dance. We’ve had a Ghost that does Indian dance . . . We have Jacob Marley’s associates tap dancing. There’s such a range. We’ve got kids this year doing step (dancing) . . . I love the diversity of it.

**Q.** Were you a fan “A Christmas Carol” growing up?

**A.** I read Dickens for the first time in high school and I’ve always been a fan since then. I took a college course on Dickens and read a lot of his work but I don’t think I had read “A Christmas Carol” until I joined the show. Maybe shortly before.

**Q.** At 6-foot-8, you’re what some might call “Tommy Tune Tall.” Has that been a plus or a minus?

**A.** I think it’s given me a unique and memorable stage presence . . . I’m lucky to work within a dance form that celebrates diversity of shape and body type . . . People have told me, over time, that I don’t really stand out, unless that’s the point. I can blend in. I can work with a partner and make it happen.

**Q.** You write about dance quite a bit. I particularly enjoyed your *Dance Magazine* article giving advice about the “business” of show business. How dancers can protect themselves financially.

**A.** I think we don’t talk enough about it. I would really like to feel that more dance programs at the higher end level have those kinds of conversations and prepare students for what freelancing is. What contracts are. Things like that. I still think there’s a lot of reluctance to talk about the business because it involves talking about money and having some really open and honest dialogues



**Ryan P. Casey plays Bob Cratchit in “What The Dickens!”**  
*Cynthia Clayton Photography*

about how much people are making in the field. I would love to see a shift in that kind of dialogue.

**Q.** You have some interesting credits as a teacher. What motivates you?

**A.** I think it’s the opportunity to share . . . To be in a room with people that are hungry to learn new things and take in new information. It’s nice to be able to share what I know, pass it along . . . What I know to be true. What I’ve found in my journey. To share that with other dancers and see how that changes them, how that sparks them.

**Q.** Tell me about the Julliard program in Switzerland.

**A.** It’s an opportunity to work with kids from all over the world. I teach tap and jazz as part of this kind of big arts camp . . . in a really a beautiful setting in Switzerland. It’s been a real gift to do that. To meet a lot of wonderful people from Julliard and collaborate, kind of do something different with my teaching . . . Planning out two weeks of programming and choreography for a diverse group of young people.

**Q.** Is there one particular moment in “What The Dickens!” that holds special meaning for you?

**A.** I think the penultimate scene of the show – we call it Sweet Dreams – is when most of the characters, the Ghosts and Marley and so forth, are wishing Scrooge goodnight while he’s sleeping, and then depart. They’re going away for good now because Scrooge has changed. He’s going to wake up in the next scene and be a good person. It’s very moving.

**Q.** You’re creating lasting memories for others in “Dickens!,” but it must keep you busy around Christmas.

**A.** It does pre-empt what we can do during the holiday season. Every weekend we’re in rehearsals. I do wish I could see more things around the holiday season . . . That’s kind of the one downside. But the payoff is worth it.

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

...  
“What The Dickens!,” Dec. 14 to Dec. 23, John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston. Info at cydp.org.

# A holiday season concert to aid Greek island refugees

**BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**  
A local holiday-themed event coming up in early December offers a very desirable combination: great entertainment to help support a worthy cause that is inspired by one person’s good works.

Legendary Irish singer-songwriter Robbie O’Connell and Cape Cod fiddler Rose Clancy will present “A Celtic Christmas Concert” on Dec. 9 at 4 p.m. at The Ancient Order of Hibernian Hall Division 14 of Watertown, 151 Watertown St. Partial proceeds will benefit the Chios Eastern Shore Response Team (CESRT), an NGO group of volunteers that assists refugees who are currently housed on the Greek Islands.

The concert’s organizers cite Sister Lena Deevy, LSA, the now-retired founder of the Irish International Immigrant Center in Boston, as a guiding spirit for the event. They note Irish President Michael D. Higgins’s description of her tireless work in Boston and in Ireland as “small acts of kindness, unseen but with profound effect.”

In a similar vein, the organizers hope that their fundraiser will help make a difference to families and individuals being assisted by CESRT. While the intense media coverage of the refugees’ plight in the Greek Islands, as elsewhere in Europe, has receded, the situation is still desperate, the organizers point out: The refugee camps are crowded, with mostly canvas shelters, and the people in them have little or nothing. CESRT provides basic food, water, dry clothing and toiletries, and is trying to arrange schooling for the children in the camps. The response team also is accepting applications for volunteers who can self-fund their travel for minimum two-week rotations and for teachers with credentials who can commit two months of time to work with children [more information is available at [gofundme.com/ShareTheJourney](http://gofundme.com/ShareTheJourney)].

An appeal for kindness and generosity certainly seems appropriate for a Christmas concert, especially where it involves O’Connell, whose portfolio includes original songs (“American Lives,” “Full Moon Over Managua,” “Land of Liberty”) that remark on compelling world events and social issues in eloquent, contemplative fashion – his passion and empathy clear, but not excessive. Likewise, when it comes to singing about the Christmas season, O’Connell prefers to dwell



**Robbie O’Connell and Rose Clancy will perform a benefit concert in Watertown.**

on simple, intimate yet fulfilling joys.

“Growing up, Christmas was all about family, and getting together to enjoy the company,” says O’Connell, a Waterford native whose mother was part of the famed musical Clancy family of Tipperary – he toured for 19 years with the Clancy Brothers and later with Liam and Donal Clancy and Aoife Clancy; he’s also played as a member of Green Fields of America. “As a kid, it was very exciting to stay up late and have all these things to do, like go to midnight Mass and then visit relatives and friends. That’s the atmosphere I try to recreate in these Christmas concerts.”

O’Connell likes to evoke old traditions and customs by, for example, singing “Hunting the Wren” and “Don Oíche úd i mBeithil (That Night in Bethlehem)” or reciting from Dylan Thomas’s “A Child’s Christmas in Wales.” Yet there is ample room for jocularly amidst the reverence of Christmas, he says.

“You have to have a bit of humor, or things can get a bit too somber. That’s why I like to sing something like ‘The Charladies Ball’ [a music hall song written by Harry O’Donovan and Eva Brennan that was made popular by Jimmy O’Dea] or Frank Horn’s ‘Miss Fogarty’s Christmas Cake,’ which has some great lyrics: ‘There were caraway seeds in abundance/Such that work up a fine stomach ache/That could kill a man twice after eating a slice/Of Miss Fogarty’s Christmas cake.’ It’s fun to have people sing along on that – if they can keep from laughing.”

O’Connell, who’s been doing Christmas concerts for the better part of two decades, has enjoyed making the musical and personal acquaintance of Clancy – who comes from a different, but equally musical, Clancy family.



**Sister Lena Deevy, LSA, the now-retired founder of the Irish International Immigrant Center in Boston, is the guiding spirit for the event. Organizers note Irish President Michael D. Higgins’s description of her tireless work in Boston and in Ireland as “small acts of kindness, unseen but with profound effect.”**

Born and raised in New York, she made a career change at 42 and enrolled at the North Bennet Street School to learn violin-making. In 2011, she opened The Chatham Fiddle Company, where she makes violins and hosts concerts.

“Rose is a fabulous musician, just a great personality, and is wonderful with tunes as well as songs,” says O’Connell.

Even as he fosters a home-spun ambience, O’Connell likes to point out the global dimensions of Christmas. “I wrote a song a few years ago that’s based on a fragment of a Catalan version of ‘Carol of the Birds.’ From what I can tell, it seems that all cultures have a ‘Carol of the Birds’ – it’s a reminder of how, in spite of our differences, there are things that unite peoples of the world.”

Tickets are \$20 with advance reservations, \$24 same-day, \$16 for seniors (age 65 and over). Reservations for the concert are highly recommended: Call Connie Koutoujian at 781-899-3140 and leave a message for a call-back.

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CD Reviews

**BY SEAN SMITH**  
**Steph Geremia, “Up She Flew”** • New York City’s Geremia, now living in Galway, is familiar to many for her fine flute and whistle-playing and vocals with the Alan Kelly Gang. But her musical development may not be, and is quite fascinating: In college, where she studied world music, she worked with experimental jazz multi-instrumentalist Anthony Braxton; then she spent time in India learning the bonsuri flute, before moving to Ireland and becoming conversant in the Sligo-Roscommon flute tradition; she also holds a master’s degree in traditional Irish music performance from the University of Limerick. Oh, and she developed a taste for salsa and jazz while living in Italy during her youth, and as a teenager, was a featured soloist in various orchestras. Appropriately enough, “Up She Flew” – Geremia’s second solo album and her first in nearly a decade – has the stamp of a confident, versatile musician who, with the assistance of an astute co-producer (Donal O’Connor, who also plays keyboards) and with various combinations of accompanists, presents her artistry by striking a balance between flair and imagination with obvious affection for the tradition. Most of all, she can play up a storm, not only with demonstrably excellent technique but an ear for subtle variations and flourishes that keep listeners engaged – especially those who may not be flutophiles or even that fond of instrumental stuff in general. Tracks like the set of reels which opens the album (including her own “Benbulbin’s Shadow”), or the jig medley of “The Spider’s Web/The Housemaid/Dominic’s Farewell to



Cashel” are full of these goodies, as is the one that features two hornpipes (a different setting of the well-known “Blackbird” plus “Murphy’s”) – you gotta love musicians who, instead of treating hornpipes as slow reels, tease out all the rhythmic treats they offer. “Up She Flew” also benefits from some outstanding backing musicians, with Aaron Jones (bououzki), Seamie O’Dowd (guitar, bouzouki), Jim Higgins (bodhran, percussion), and Martin Brunsden (double bass) the most frequently appearing; others include Michael Rooney (harp), Ben Gunnery (fiddle), and Alan Kelly (accordion). But they are deployed in such a way as to create a variety of tones and moods, and work very well under the direction of Geremia and O’Connor. One sterling example is the album’s trio of polkas, with Jones providing a pulsing, syncopated beat at the start (Charlie Lennon’s “Island Polka 3”) that Higgins picks up in the middle tune, “I’ll Buy Boots for Maggie” (with its distinctive B part); there’s a brief, somewhat eerie interlude led by Geremia’s double-tracked flute and Jones’ bouzouki, and then everyone’s back on the polka train for a Shetland tune, “Baak-High.” By contrast, Rooney and Gunnery create a suitably sylvan feel for Maurice Lennon’s “Rossiver Waltz” and a Swedish mazurka, “Vals E Anon Egeland” – Gunnery’s fiddle is multiply tracked on the latter, making it all the more charming. Geremia brings in a whole other dynamic by playing soprano sax on two other tracks, a jig-reels set (“Moon Man/Old Grey Gander/Lucky in Love”) – Kelly’s accordion is a perfect complement – and a trio of reels (“Martin Wynne’s #3 and #4/Bring Her to the Shelter”) that starts with a flute-harp duet and ends in a jazzy, Moving Hearts c.1980s-style mode. She also gives a tantalizing sample of her assured singing on the emigration song “Path Across the Ocean,” O’Connor’s electric piano supplying a moody, spare undercurrent. It’s one thing to have accumulated such varied experiences and influences, but Geremia has a gift for using

these to embellish and enrich, rather than muddy, the Irish music tradition she’s embraced. [stephgeremia.com]

**The Tannahill Weavers, “Órach”** • The Irish and English folk revivals tend to get most of the attention, but Scottish music also has enjoyed a renewal during the past few decades, and The Tannahill Weavers played no small role in it. The “Tannies,” whose origins go back to the late 1960s, was the first professional Scottish band to incorporate full-sized Highland bagpipes in performance, and over the course of the 1970s built a following – not only in the UK but Europe and the US as well – through an energetic, arena-ready stage presence as well as top-form musicality. Co-founders Roy Gullane (vocals, guitar) and Phil Smillie (flute, whistles, bodhran, vocals) continue to hold forth, along with John Martin (fiddle, viola, cello, vocals) and Lorne MacDougall (Highland bagpipes, small pipes, whistle). “Órach” is the Tannahills’ five-decade-commemoration album, and has a lot of the characteristics one would expect from such a milestone, such as appearances from past members like Dougie MacLean, Mike Ward, Hudson Swan, and the estimable Alan MacLeod, and guest stars Alison Brown and Aaron Jones, among others. Yet while the 14 tracks carry various associations and memories from over the years, this is hardly a rehash of “greatest hits” by a band getting long in the tooth; on the contrary, the Tannahills show their creativity and zest for playing is as strong as ever. The lads long ago transitioned from an emphasis on high-octane, adrenaline-producing sets to a more measured approach that relies as much on well-crafted arrangements to bring out the aesthetic qualities of Scottish music. And they’re as skillful as ever at it, as demonstrated by the march-strathspey-reel medley title track that opens the album, as well as a gorgeous air, “Sunset Over the Somme” (written by piping legend G. S. MacLennan), on which MacDougall is joined by former Tannahill pipers Colin Melville, Kenny Forsyth and Iain MacInnes, with MacLean’s fiddle adding heft. There’s also a set of tunes popularized by another former band member, the late Gordon Duncan, an innovative piper and tune composer, and Dubliner John Sheahan’s lovely “Christchurch Cathedral,” which spotlights Smillie’s fine flute-playing. The Tannies even go the world-music route on a track that delves into music from Spain’s Celtic-affiliated Asturian tradition, with an appearance by Asturian band Llan de Cubel. One virtue of the Tannahills that continues to hold true is their rich, exquisitely-voiced harmony singing, much in evidence on the album’s songs, of which there are some intriguing choices: “The Jeannie C,” a maritime tragedy written by the late, beloved Stan Rogers, with whom the Tannies performed on their very first North American tour; the countryish “Oh No!” by Billy Connolly, the comedian/actor who once upon a time was a singer-songwriter – rendered here with a don’t-hear-that-everyday duet between Highland pipes and Brown’s five-string banjo; and “Jenny A’Things,” by another departed legend, Matt McGuinn. On the more traditional side are two songs by the band’s namesake, poet Robert Tannahill, including the vivid, ghostly “Fragment of a Scottish Ballad,” and arguably the album’s centerpiece, the epic, chaotic “Battle of Sheriffmuir” – perhaps the most celebrated literary account of biased reporting – with the piping corps of MacDougall, MacLeod, MacInnes, and Duncan Nicholson helping create the martial tone as Gullane unfurls the dramatic, rapid-fire narrative (thankfully, the lyrics are included in the liner notes). Those self-same liner notes, incidentally, are another treat of “Órach”: They provide origins and background to the songs and tunes, of course, but also offer some idea of the many personalities and adventures that the Tannies have encountered, individually and collectively, over the course of 50 years. It underscores the fact that the Scottish music revival, like that of its Irish and English cousins, has a grand and distinguished history that deserves to be recognized. [tannahillweavers.com]



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Singer-songwriter Ashley Davis will team up with Lúnasa at the Burren Backroom on December 9.

# THE BIR’S DECEMBER CALENDAR OF CELTIC MUSIC EVENTS

Not surprisingly, holiday-themed performances – such as “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn” and the Robbie O’Connell-Rose Clancy “Celtic Christmas” benefit [see stories elsewhere in this issue] – are plentiful amidst this month’s offerings of Irish/Celtic music events in the Greater Boston area.

- It’s not exactly a Christmas show, but The Burren Backroom in Davis Square will host Irish super-group **Lúnasa** with special guest singer-songwriter **Ashley Davis** – whose discography includes a 2015 Christmas album with guitarist John Doyle – on Dec. 9 for two performances, at 4 and 7 p.m. Lúnasa has been a consistently creative force in Irish music for more than two decades, and in recent years has supplemented its all-instrumental repertoire by inviting vocalists to perform and record with them – as was the case on their most recent album, “Cas,” which included Natalie Merchant, Daoiri Farrell, Tim O’Brien, Eric Bibb, and Mary Chapin Carpenter. Kansas native Davis has cultivated a pastoral, pensive brand of Celtic-Americana original music, and in addition to Doyle has worked regularly with Lúnasa members Patrick Doocey and Colin Farrell.
- **The New England Irish Harp Orchestra** will perform a Christmas concert at The Burren Backroom on Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. NEIHO is a multi-generational group of harpists who play, in various combinations as well as a full ensemble, Irish traditional tunes, slow airs and songs, and snippets from other music genres as well.
- See [burren.com/EventsCalendar.html](http://burren.com/EventsCalendar.html).
- Irish harpist-vocalist **Aine Minogue** will present her annual program of music celebrating the winter solstice and Christmas, with tunes and carols that have roots in ancient traditions of Ireland and the British Isles, on several dates including: Dec. 3, Peabody Institute Library, Peabody; Dec. 10, Jonathan Bourne Public Library, Bourne; Dec. 16, Coffeehouse Off the Square, Hingham; Dec. 20, First Church of Boston; and Dec. 21, Club Passim, Harvard Square.
- For tickets, times and other information, see [aineminogue.com/events](http://aineminogue.com/events).
- On Dec. 16 at 4:30 p.m., the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton will host “**An Irish Christmas with Chloë Agnew**,” featuring the former “Celtic Woman” star, now pursuing a solo career as a singer-songwriter. Agnew had already amassed considerable stage experience and released two albums when she joined “Celtic Woman” as its youngest member at age 14; she stayed with the ensemble for nearly 10 years, during which time she recorded two more albums and earned Female Vocalist of the Year honors at the 2012 Irish Music Awards. In addition to her solo work, she has performed as a guest with Celtic Thunder and appeared as part of “The Voice of Ireland” and “A Celtic Christmas.” Agnew recently issued a five-track EP, “The Thing About You,” which includes four original songs.
- For more details about the concert, go to [irishculture.org](http://irishculture.org).
- A Celtic-Americana stage production based on the popular PBS special, “**Christmas with The Celts**” will come to the Cabot Theatre in Beverly on Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. The Celts are centered around the duo of Ric Blair (vocals, guitar, bodhran, piano), a one-time jazz musician based in Nashville, and Scottish native **Laura McGhee** (fiddle, vocals), who are joined by an array of renowned musicians, singers, and dancers. Since its debut in 2010, “Christmas with The Celts” has aired on more than 220 PBS stations in the US and Canada, and on the BBC in Ireland, sparking demand for a touring version. The show presents a combination of modern Christmas hits, Irish carols, Irish dance, humor, as well as a children’s choir and lush string arrangements.
- See [thecabot.org](http://thecabot.org) for tickets and other details.
- **The Irish Tenors – Ronan Tynan, Finbar Wright and Anthony Kearns** – present their

**Christmas show on Dec. 9 in the Lynn Auditorium at 7 p.m. It’s the 20th anniversary year for the trio, which has performed at Radio City Music Hall, Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall, The Hollywood Bowl, and other major concert halls throughout the world, appeared regularly on PBS, and recorded many best-selling CDs and DVDs. Their repertoire includes classic songs from Irish tradition such as “Danny Boy,” “Whiskey in the Jar” and “Fields of Athenry” and contemporary favorites with Irish/Celtic connections such as “Fairytale of New York” and the “Titanic” theme song “My Heart Will Go On.”** Go to [lynnauditorium.com](http://lynnauditorium.com) for information.

- On Dec. 17, **The Berklee Celtic Vocal Ensemble** will present “The Holly Bears the Crown,” a concert of ballads, sea chanteys and jigs from the British Isles performed by singers from the Berklee College of Music, accompanied by an eight-piece Celtic band. The free event takes place at 7:30 p.m. in the David Friend Recital Hall (921 Boylston St.).
- In addition to the **Aine Minogue** concert on Dec. 21 [see above], Club Passim in Harvard Square hosts three other seasonal-festive events with local acts this month. On Dec. 7, **Matt and Shannon Heaton** will give their annual “Fine Winter’s Night” concert, based on their 2007 album of the same name: traditional Irish songs and tunes as well as Heaton originals, all featuring their flute/whistle/guitar/bouzouki mastery and exquisite vocal harmonies. Fiddles-and-cello quintet **Scottish Fish** offers its own Scottish/Cape Breton-flavored holiday show on Dec. 8. **The Kelly Girls**, who perform Celtic and traditional Irish tunes and songs as well as contemporary folk and original music, will present “A Celtic Christmas Show” on Dec. 11.
- Also at Passim this month will be another Massachusetts-based band, **Fellswater**, on Dec. 20. With a collective background that includes classical, contemporary folk/folk-rock and fife-and-drum corps in addition to Celtic influences, the seven-piece ensemble plays tunes and songs from, or inspired by, the Scottish, Irish, Canadian and Breton traditions utilizing violin, cello, flute, whistle, Celtic harp, guitar, acoustic bass guitar, octave mandolin, bagpipes and percussion. Fellswater has released three albums, the most recent being 2017’s “Skipping Stones.”
- For tickets and other details on Passim events, see [passim.org](http://passim.org).
- A celebration of a different sort will take place on December 9: the annual **Larry Reynolds Memorial Scholarship Benefit Ceili Mor**, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Canadian American Club of New England (202 Arlington Street in Watertown). Proceeds from the event, which is hosted by Boston’s Hanafin-Cooley-Reynolds branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Éireann, will benefit aspiring young musicians studying traditional Irish music. There will be live music and dancing, as well as a cash bar and food, and raffle prizes. Admission is \$12. More information via [cceboston@verizon.net](mailto:cceboston@verizon.net).
- The Canadian American Club also will be the venue for the Boston Uilleann Pipers Club Series, which gets under way Dec. 8 at 8 p.m. with a performance by **Kieran O’Hare and Liz Knowles**. O’Hare (uilleann pipes, flute, whistle) and Knowles (fiddle), who are two-thirds of the acclaimed trio Open the Door for Three, are highly respected throughout the Irish music scene, known for their mastery of traditional, contemporary, and original material. Their credits include stints with “Riverdance,” Cherish the Ladies, Celtic Legends, the String Sisters and even artists such as Bonnie Raitt and Paula Cole; among the venues where they have performed are Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, L’Olympia in Paris, and on Broadway. For more details on the event, see [facebook.com/BostonUPC](http://facebook.com/BostonUPC) or e-mail [bostonpipers@gmail.com](mailto:bostonpipers@gmail.com).

– SEAN SMITH

## Money and Children: Teaching by Age Groups

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

According to the Council for Economic Education (CEE), which promotes economic and financial education in the classroom, students who have taken a class in personal finance are more likely to engage in financially responsible behaviors such as saving, budgeting and investing.<sup>1</sup>

Parents can insulate their kids from some of the biggest money management mistakes and build their financial literacy by talking openly about the value of money and the benefits of good financial decision making.

To yield the biggest impact on kids’ money habits, however, the lessons imparted must be age-appropriate.



### Elementary School: Saving by Example

Younger kids, for example, may not be ready for a lesson on compounded savings growth, but they can benefit greatly by watching their parents model good financial behavior.

At this age, it’s important, too, to demonstrate the value

of money and sound money management.

That’s best done by giving them a dollar to purchase something at the mall, a yard sale, or at the movies. Let them see what they can get for a buck.

Elementary school kids can also begin to set financial goals.

When they receive birthday money from Grandma, or an allowance, encourage them to save the cash for something bigger they really want.

Show them how to compare prices at the grocery store and explain how different brands cost more for the same product.

### Middle School and Money Management

As your children mature, you can start letting them experiment with the money they earn through babysitting, shoveling snow or an allowance.

Help them set up three accounts - one for their savings, one for spending money, and one (if you choose) for charity. And explain how interest works.

These are the years to help children establish good saving and spending habits, and help them manage impulse-buying control.

To help close the knowledge gap, continue to build financial literacy, and reinforce the lessons learned at home, look for activities or public events than help build money awareness.

### High School Kids: Debt Awareness

High school and college-age kids are ready for more sophisticated lessons in money management.

That includes debt. Many of the best and brightest graduates get themselves in financial hot water by spending money they don’t have and burying themselves in high interest credit card debt.

You can save your kids from a similar fate by explaining how interest rates work, and how those \$300 designer sneakers cost much more if you pay with credit and make only the minimum monthly payments.

By paying \$30 per month on a credit card that charges 18 percent interest, for example, that \$300 would take 11 months to pay off and cost an additional \$27 in interest.

Now is also the time to impress upon young adults the benefits of good financial choices - and the cost of poor decision making.

Banks and other lenders rely on credit scores, a number that reflects your debt-to-income ratio and repayment history, to determine whether to issue borrowers a credit card or loans for a car or home mortgage. They also use it to determine what interest rate they should charge.

By making payments on time and keeping your debt to a minimum, consumers are far more likely to qualify for the most favorable, lowest interest loans.

Finally, there’s nothing like a lesson in compounded growth to motivate your adult children to save for their future.

Teaching kids to save is merely aimed at giving them the tools to become smart consumers, use debt wisely and put money away for their future.

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

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# Trump's Doonbeg course in Co. Clare fails to turn profit

**By BERNARD CONDON  
AP BUSINESS WRITER**

A golf club in County Clare owned by President Donald Trump has lost money for a fourth year in a row.

A year ago, Trump's company had predicted it would turn a profit. But financial statements filed with the Irish government in October showed that the club overlooking the Atlantic Ocean posted losses of \$2 million in 2017, the latest year available. Operating results, which don't include some non-cash charges, also showed a loss.

The 2017 results follow reports last month of losses at Trump's two Scottish golf clubs, too.

The Irish losses were less than the year earlier, and with a big expansion planned at the club, the Trump Organization said that it is "confident" it will turn a profit this year.

The plans for the Trump International Hotel and Golf Links include several new buildings it hopes will draw more business. The plans submitted to a local government include the construction of a ballroom, a "leisure facility" with a restaurant and 53 homes for short-term visitors.

The losses were lower than the year-earlier period when the club in Doonbeg, Ireland, was hurt by a temporary shut-down as it was being refurbished. Revenue rose last year, too.

The resort is considered one of the world's best, but has attracted controversy.



A scene from Doonbeg Golf Links in Doonbeg, Co. Clare  
File photograph: Clare Niall Carson





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## Traveling People

# All across Ireland, Christmastime is a magical season

BY JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Shannon Airport was already in holiday mode when I traveled through in mid-November - proof positive that the Irish take Christmas very seriously and love to celebrate the season.

Two enormous, sparkling Christmas trees were erected at the end of the Aer Lingus counter. And, the night before departing, I joined friends for dinner at Bunratty Manor near the airport and it, too, was fully decorated with swags and lights galore.

The lights and decorations seemed to brighten everyone's mood. Otherwise- stressed travelers were smiling as they worked their way through the check-in lines. The spirit of the holidays is definitely infectious.

I am always interested to know which saint is guiding us home, so I asked the stewardess as I boarded the plane. She came down the aisle after we lifted off and said our Aer Lingus plane (operated by ASL Airlines Ireland Limited) was named for St. Boce. She spelled his name because Boce was a saint with whom I was unfamiliar. But I couldn't find any mention of Saint Boce online - if readers can enlighten me, I'd be grateful.

## THE GIVING SEASON

We like to give special mention to Irish animal charities in December in case anyone wants to donate and help them out. But, after the horrific fires in California this year, it's hard to suggest donating to charities other than those helping people and animals out there.

But, if our readers would like names, following are some of many Irish charities that help animals. They all welcome financial support for the sake of helpless animals who have no voices to express their plight.

In 2009, Dogs Trust Ireland, now Ireland's largest dog welfare charity, established a rehoming center in Dublin with a mission to find new homes for stray and abandoned dogs in Ireland.

Dogs Trust lists impressive statistics including: 2,746 dogs rehomed and 2,468 educational workshops delivered in 2017 alone. The six-member education team has (since 2009) delivered more than 100,000 workshops that have stressed responsible dog ownership to over 300,000 children in primary schools.

All Dogs Trust dogs are neutered, micro-chipped, fully vaccinated, and temperament tested before being rehomed, and all of that is done without government funding. Dogs Trust relies on donors and supporters only. See [dogstrust.ie](http://dogstrust.ie) for more.

There are, as we said, many worthwhile Irish charities that help dogs and other animals including ISPCA Ireland ([ispc.ie](http://ispc.ie)), Paws Animal Rescue ([paws.ie](http://paws.ie)), Tags Rescue (Ireland's largest adoption website for dogs, cats, horses and



Westport House in the snow.



From left to right: Dogs Trust Ireland remind everyone that a dog is for life and not just for Christmas. Residents of the Donkey Sanctuary in Mallow, Co. Cork. Horses like this fellow - and also donkeys - are rescued from neglect by My Lovely Horse Rescue in Dublin and Leinster.



Judy Enright photos

rabbits at [Tags.ie](http://Tags.ie)), Cara Rescue Dogs ([cararescuedogs.com](http://cararescuedogs.com)), Dogs in Distress ([dogsindistress.org](http://dogsindistress.org)), Madra (Mutts Anonymous Dog Rescue and Adoption at [madra.ie](http://madra.ie)) and there's Last Hope Animal Rescue ([lasthope.ie](http://lasthope.ie)) for domestic animals and My Lovely Horse Rescue, established in 2011 for horses, ponies and donkeys. See [mylovelyhorserescue.com](http://mylovelyhorserescue.com) for more.

The Donkey Sanctuary in Liscarroll, Co. Cork, is a charity I have visited on my own and with family several times over the years. The spacious sanctuary is home to more than 100 donkeys and mules and visitors are welcome. One year, I "adopted" a donkey for my granddaughter and she received a packet of information about "her" donkey. It was a fun thing to do and supports the Sanctuary's work.

Since opening in 1987, it has taken in and cared for more than 5,600 neglected and abandoned donkeys from across Ireland. See: [thedonkey-sanctuary.ie](http://thedonkey-sanctuary.ie) for more information.

## MAGICAL MAYO

You could say Mayo is magic at any time of year

but it is especially so during the Christmas season.

If you're going to be in Mayo at this time of year, be sure to take advantage of these opportunities in Westport and Castlebar:

- Visitors with children will enjoy meeting Santa at Westport House's Winter Wonderland. There will be storytelling, face painting, crafting, treats, a visit with Santa, and a Santa Express Train across the Westport House estate. The Winter Wonderland at Westport House is open through Dec. 23.

- Westport House will also screen a classic drive-in movie from Nov. 30 to Dec. 30 at 5 and 7:30 p.m. in the farmyard on the estate. Choose family movies such as *Elf*, *Home Alone*, *E.T.*, *Frozen* or *Willie Wonka*. Other films include *Grease* and *Dirty Dancing*, *Jaws*, and *Top Gun*.

- Ice skaters will enjoy Connaught's largest rink at The Mall in Castlebar from Nov. 30 to Jan. 6. There's lots of great shopping in Castlebar too.

- How about spending a night or two in Hotel Westport on the Westport House Estate or in Castlebar's Breaffy House Re-

sort? Both are very nice accommodations.

## MULRANNY SUITES

And next spring, when you visit the West of Ireland, how about booking a self-catering stay at the three-bedroom Courtyard Suites and Superior Lodges behind the Mulranny Park Hotel? All suites are furnished to a high standard, are spacious, and offer viewings of the area's special Eco-Lawn Mowers that visitors love - that would be sheep, of course.

The Mulranny Suites offer the freedom of self-catering but also complimentary use of the leisure center at the Mulranny Park Hotel. They're ideal for large families and groups alike. The Great Western Greenway runs behind the Suites so they are also an excellent option for an adventurous holiday. See: [mulrannysuites.ie](http://mulrannysuites.ie) for more information.

## IRELAND'S LAPLAND

Traveling to Ireland with children? Santa and his reindeer will welcome visitors to Glendear Pet Farm in Athlone, Co. Westmeath, daily during December from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

In addition to Santa, you can visit the crib where there will be a live cow and donkey, or view the snow scene with animated figures and the elves in their workshop. There's also a coffee shop, an indoor picnic, and a play area. See [glendearpetfarm.ie](http://glendearpetfarm.ie) for more information.

The 12-acre pet farm is also open every day from March 17 to the end of September.

## ALCOCK & BROWN

Looking ahead to next year, be sure to visit Connemara and include the 100th anniversary of the first non-stop transatlantic flight in history at a Commemorative Festival from June 12 to June 16 in Clifden, Co. Galway. There will be lots of activities included - talks, guided tours, a welcome carnival, aviation conference, traditional boat regatta, street party, music, special guests, field trips, documentaries, readings and more. It all sounds like great fun. For details, see: [alcockandbrown100.com](http://alcockandbrown100.com).

## AER LINGUS

We read recently in *The Irish Times* newspaper that Aer Lingus has its sights set on increasing its fleet in order to

grow its transatlantic seat capacity by more than two-thirds. Stephen Kavanagh, its chief executive, said the airline would grow its A330 fleet to 16 from 13 in 2017 and invest in 14 Airbus A321 aircraft. The airline currently has a transatlantic seat capacity of 2.8 million a year. The increase in aircraft would see that figure grow to 4.7 million.

We've always enjoyed flying with Aer Lingus and we wish them very well.

## TRAVEL

There is much to do in Ireland even off-season. A Traditional Christmas Market will be held each Saturday and Sunday in the Upper Courtyard at Dublin Castle from Nov. 30 to Dec. 22. Choirs will perform under the tree from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday.

There will also be craft fair there on Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. inside Bedford Hall. Visit [Ireland.com](http://Ireland.com) for more holiday happenings.

Enjoy Ireland whenever you visit and wherever you go. And enjoy this magical season of Christmas with friends and family.



# CHRISTMAS AT THE ICC

## CHRISTMAS TIME AT THE ICC

12/7 @ 8 PM:

Christmas Tree Lighting & Carol Service, with mulled wine & mince pies.

12/8 @ 5:30pm:

ICC Christmas Drawing & Open House, open music session in the pub & downstairs room. Dancing w/ DJ Dan Hallissey. Hot buffet dinner

12/15 @ 8:30am – 11

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA & MRS. CLAUS

12/16 @ 11am:

Nativity Mass w/ refreshments served afterwards

12/ 16@ 4:30pm:

An Irish Christmas with Chloe Agnew

12/23 @ 1:30pm:

A Celtic Christmas with Irish Tenor Ciaran Nagel & Tara Novak with Ishna

12/31 @ 6pm:

New Year's Eve Celebrations

Irish Tenor Ciaran Nagel & Tara Novak with Ishna *present:*

## “A Celtic Christmas”



Featuring the songs, stories, and dance music of Ireland and its Celtic influences around the world, all in celebration of the holiday season.



Tickets \$25 / \$20 for members

Date: December 23rd | Time: 1:30pm

JOIN US FOR A PRE-SHOW BRUNCH STARTING AT 11:30AM

Tickets available online at  
[www.irishculture.org](http://www.irishculture.org)



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Featuring **Live Music, Dancing, Food & Cash Bar**

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**CHLOE AGNEW**

**OF CELTIC WOMAN**

**DECEMBER 16TH**

**AT 4:30PM**

Tickets:

- \$50 : Meet & Greet
- \$35: Gen admission
- \$30: ICC Members

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