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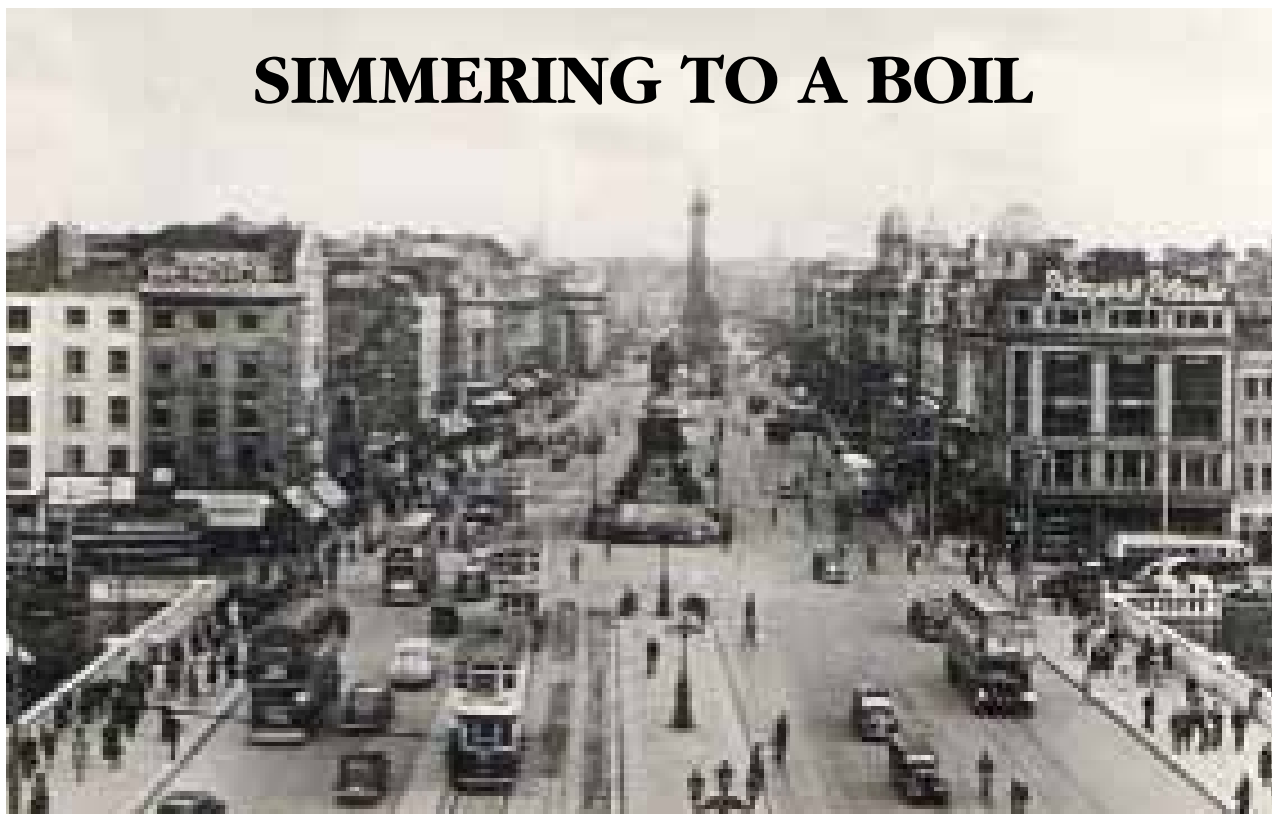
# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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## SIMMERING TO A BOIL



A quiet day on Dublin's O'Connell Street in 1914. Beneath the surface, though, the talk centered on a divisive home rule legislation, the oncoming war, and the full independence from the British empire that most saw as inevitable no matter the bloody cost.

## Promising 'home rule' legislation gives way politically to a world war

BY PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

*Second in a four-part series.*

In early 1916, Ireland seethed on the verge of rebellion against Britain. The debate over "Home Rule," which would give Ireland a constricted version of independence from the Parliament in London, had been argued for decades, and at the turn of the 20th century had appeared a likely eventuality. Many historians contend that the measure could have passed in 1914. But the eruption of World War I in August of that year shattered any realistic hopes for the quasi-independence the proposal offered.

A statement by the British politician C.T. Grenville all the way back in 1784 foretold the attitude of Parliament toward Ireland in 1916: "Ireland is too great to be unconnected with us, and too near us to be dependent on a foreign state, and too little to be independent." To many Irish, home rule, limited as it would be, seemed the best approach. In 1912, the third attempt to pass a bill was virulently opposed in Ulster by the Protestant Orange Order.

Although proponents pushed hard again in 1913

and 1914, paramilitary groups had begun lining up on both sides of the issue. The Ulster Volunteer Force, in the North, began armed training and was ostensibly prepared to fight and remove Ulster from the British Empire rather than cede any power to home rule or Irish Nationalists. In the South, the mainly Catholic Irish Volunteers also began to arm and train with an eye first to home rule and eventually to full independence.

With the outbreak of the war, the bulk of Orangemen and Nationalists alike put their causes on hold for the greater cause – to do their bit to help the Allies defeat Kaiser Wilhelm's Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Hordes of Irishmen from both North and South enlisted in the British Army and were soon immersed in the savage stalemate and horror of the Western Front's trench warfare.

As Irish casualties and disillusionment with the war escalated, and with no end in sight, rebellion simmered toward a boil with each passing month. The Irish Volunteers now dubbed themselves the "National Volunteers," but taking the lead was a secret "Army Council" created by the Irish Republican Brotherhood

(Continued on page 8)

## Taoiseach asks voters to let him keep his program on track in 2016

On Jan. 21, CNBC reporters Julia Chatterley and Geoff Cutmore caught up with Enda Kenny, Ireland's prime minister, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. A question and answer session followed in which the taoiseach looked down the road, mostly on economic matters. Following are excerpts from the transcript of that session:

**Q.** You're being called the Celtic Phoenix here, in terms of the economy. Is the economy's rebound and recovery going to win you this election? Because that's what the polls are saying.

**A.** Well, I think it's important to just recall where we were five years ago. You were locked out of the markets, you couldn't borrow money at 15 percent interest, unemployment was 15, too, debt rising, 300,000 jobs lost and disappointment and disillusionment everywhere. So because of the nature of the plan and the strategy put together which people dealt with, we're now in a very different position. Interest rates are below 2 percent; we'll have our deficit eliminated by 2017; and our debt's now falling below 100 percent and moving towards European norms, which is great progress.

It's not a victory by any means, but what we've done now is set out a strategy and a plan for a longer term economic situation, to keep growth and jobs being created, which means the more you have in employment, the better the engine of your country will provide finance to invest in services that people need. Nurses, teachers, police officers and so on.

**Q.** Would you be disappointed if you weren't re-elected and able to come back and finish the job? Because some of the polls are suggesting that your tax bribe isn't really working at the moment to get your support up in the polls.

**A.** Well, there are no tax bribes here.

(Continued on page 16)



Enda Kenny

## O'Caollai named envoy to Australia

Breandán Ó Caollai, former Consul General in Boston, has been named Ireland's Ambassador to Australia, the BIR has been told.

Ó Caollai served for two years as head of the Irish Consulate here, then left last August to return to Dublin to a post in the Department of Foreign Affairs headquarters.

His new position includes diplomatic responsibilities across a wide area, including New Zealand, Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. He is expected to



Brendan O'Caollai

be installed Down Under some time in August.

## Kieran Jordan steps smartly into world of multi-video

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

In a perfect world – or perhaps the "old" world – Irish dancing is taught by an instructor face-to-face and toe-to-toe with the student. But the world's not like that anymore, which is why Boston-area dancer Kieran Jordan has become proficient in creating instructional videos that are available not only on DVDs but also via streaming or download via the Internet.

Jordan recently released "Musical Feet! Volume 2: The Next Step," the second in a series of tutorials for the sean-nos ("old style"), the "low-to-the-ground" improvisational type of Irish dance of which she is an acknowledged master. In both volumes, she breaks down and demonstrates specific steps – from basic to more intricate – that can be used in dancing to Irish music; where Volume 1 focused on steps

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O'Connell Street in ruins after the Rising.

1916  
in 2016

Boston College  
Irish Studies Program  
Commemorates the  
Centenary of the Easter Rising

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Thurs., Jan. 21, 5 pm**  
**Connolly House:**  
Professor Mike Cronin (BC  
Ireland): "The Enemy in  
Dublin, 1916:  
Who Were the British?"

**Mon., Feb. 8, 7-9 pm**  
**McMullen Museum:**  
Public Opening of "The Arts  
& Crafts Movement: Making  
it Irish" (exhibition runs  
through May, 2016)

**Tues., Feb. 9, 2 pm**  
**Devlin Hall:**  
Paul Lamour, "The Arts &  
Crafts Movement: Making it  
Irish" lecture & exhibit  
introduction. Gallery walk  
to follow.

**Mon. Feb. 22, 6 pm**  
**Gasson Hall 100:**  
MA Congressman Richard  
Neal will present a talk on  
the Easter Rising of 1916

**Sat., Feb. 27, 2-4 pm**  
**Devlin 101:**  
Fintan O'Toole presents  
"Culture & Society in  
Ireland, 1916: Contexts  
for the Arts & Crafts  
Movement"

**Wed., March 16, 7 pm**  
**Gasson 100:**  
Colm Tóibin, "The  
Knowledge & the Power:  
Writing and Violence"

**Fri., March 18 – Sun. March 20**  
**Devlin 101:**  
An International  
Commemoration  
Conference: "Easter 1916:  
A Terrible Beauty is Born"  
including presenters Colm  
Tóibin, Alvin Jackson, Emily  
Bloom, Roisín Higgins,  
and Keith Jeffrey.

**Mon., March 28, 6:30-9 pm**  
**Gasson 100:**  
An Easter Monday  
Commemorative Concert  
featuring, among others,  
Charlie Lennon, Regina  
Delaney, Seamus Connolly,  
The Murphy Beds, the  
Boston College Chorale &  
the Boston College  
Chamber Music Society.

**Tues., April 5, 3-5:15 pm**  
**Burns Library**  
**O'Brien Fine Print Room:**  
The Irish Arts & Crafts,  
panel discussion and  
campus walk. Panel  
members include:  
Diana Larsen (McMullen  
Museum), Maureen Meister  
(Tufts), Virginia Raguin  
(Holy Cross), Milda  
Richardson (Northeastern)  
and Patricia DeLeeuw (BC).

**Sat., April 9, 9:30 am - 4 pm**  
**Connolly House:**  
"James Joyce & the Easter  
Rising"; a one-day conference  
including speakers: Joe Nugent  
(BC), Clair Wills (Princeton U.),  
Joe Valente (U. Buffalo), Mike  
Cronin (BCI), and Richard  
Kearney (BC).

**Tues., April 12, 3-5:15 pm**  
**Devlin 101:**  
The Illustration & Stained  
Glass of Harry Clarke;  
an informal tour of the  
Harry Clarke materials  
followed with a lecture  
by Kelly Sullivan (NYU).

**Thurs., April 21, 5 pm**  
**Connolly House:**  
Dr. Ronan Fanning will  
speak on "Eamon  
deValera, A Will to Power"  
followed by a launch  
of that book.





Members of the 2016 Boston Marathon Team MR8 gathered in January for a photo at Fenway Park’s EMC Club.

Photo Copyright Mike Ritter, ritterbin.com

## Two Martins. One Dream.

Hundreds of people gathered at Fenway Park’s EMC Club last month for the official launch of the 2016 Boston Marathon Team MR8. The core group of 66 men and women was chosen by the Martin W. Richard Foundation last December.

Their number has since swelled as other marathoners with their own bibs have stepped forward seeking to join the cause. Together, they expect to raise a half-million dollars to fund the charitable mission of the foundation, which has already launched inclusive basketball and baseball leagues in Dorchester and brought much-needed resources to existing programs in Fields Corner, Savin Hill, and Neponset.

Of course, Dorchester was very well represented at the Fenway event. Eleven of the runners on this year’s team come from the neighborhood. But it’s the

Richard family’s deep roots in Dot— and the genuine connection they share with Martin’s hometown— that really shined through that night. Friends, neighbors, volunteers, classmates – whatever the connection – made for a groundswell of support for the family and its cause that has no equal in modern-day Dorchester. As Mayor Walsh said in poignant remarks, Team MR8 and what it represents is more than a charity, it’s a movement.

The foundation that Bill and Denise Richard have launched in the name of their little boy sets up a conduit not only to remember Martin, but also to keep him with us in a tangible way, every day.

“I want Martin to live a full life,” said his father, Bill, as he explained the “ultimate” mission of the foundation. “And I want him to live a full life through all of you, through all of us with all the work that we do and through all the service that we intend to do. That’s what I want. I think that we’re doing the best we can. I think tonight I continue to be in awe over the commitment and the friendship and the dedication to me and my family.”

Of course, it’s Bill and Denise and Jane and Henry Richard who continue to inspire, comfort, and lead us in their quiet, dignified, yet monumental way.

Gov. Baker, who also offered remarks at the Fenway event, compared young Martin’s message to that of another Martin, the civil rights leader whose national holiday we just observed.

“His vision, his message was profoundly powerful,” said the governor. “He’d be 86 years old today if he were still alive. But there’s simply no question that his message and what he stood for is very much with us.”

The message that the two Martin’s share—the pursuit of peace and of building what King called “the beloved community”— represents “the very best of what people can be all about. That’s what MR8 is all about,” said the governor. “That’s what this Martin’s message is all about. There’s no doubt in my mind that Martin will live a full life, because of the power of his message and the power that comes when all of you communicate that message to people that you know.”

– Bill Forry

## TIARA to present BC author, professor

On Fri., March 11, TIA-RA (The Irish Ancestral Research Association), which promotes the study and exchange of ideas among people interested in Irish genealogical and historical research, will present James O’Toole, the author and Boston College professor who will discuss his book, “Passing for White: Race, Religion and the Healy Family.”

Professor O’Toole explores questions of racial identity, religious tolerance, and black-white “passing” in America. Spanning the century from 1820 to 1920, his story tell of Michael Morris Healy, a white Irish immigrant planter in Georgia, his African American slave Eliza Clark Healy, who was also his wife, and their nine children.

The discussion will be held at the Mandel Center at the Mandel Center at Brandeis University in Waltham, where TIARA holds its monthly meetings. It will begin with refreshments at 7 p.m., followed at 7:30 by a short business meeting and the speaker program. All are welcome. See the TIARA website, tiara.ie, for information on all its activities.



Grace Brady, left, executive director of Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University, the artist Brian Tolle, and Curator Niamh O’Sullivan were among attendees at last month’s opening for the new exhibition, “In the Lion’s Den: Daniel Macdonald, Ireland and Empire.”

## Quinnipiac’s Great Hunger Museum gets \$16,800 grant for new exhibit

Hamden, Conn. – A \$16,867 grant from Connecticut Humanities will help Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University present a new exhibition, “In the Lion’s Den: Daniel Macdonald, Ireland and Empire,” this year from Jan. 20 to April 17.

This exhibition, the first of its kind in the United States and the most comprehensive ever mounted, will reevaluate the undeservedly forgot-

ten 19th-century Irish artist, Daniel Macdonald (1820-1853).

“Macdonald holds the distinction of having produced the only known painting of the Great Hunger,” said Grace Brady, executive director of the museum. “We anticipate a great response from visitors both here and abroad.”

The centerpiece of the exhibition, Macdonald’s “An Irish Peasant Family Discovering the Blight

of their Store” (1847), is crossing the Atlantic for the first time, according to Niamh O’Sullivan, the museum’s curator.

“This painting, which is displayed in the National Folklore Collection at University College Dublin, and others, will highlight the lack of famine art and reveal how artists told the story of the worst demographic catastrophe of 19th-century Europe by other pictorial means,” O’Sullivan added.

## BIR NOTEBOOK

### Southie parade set for Sun., March 20

Boston’s annual St Patrick’s/Evacuation Day Parade will take place a few days after the saint’s holiday this year. The parade sponsors, the Allied War Veterans of South Boston, have scheduled the event for Sun., March 20, across the South Boston neighborhood. The later date comes because March 17 falls on a Thursday this year. In recent years, the march has been staged on a Sunday.

The month of March brings at least eight other community parades, with the first taking place on Cape Cod on Sat., March 5, beginning at 11 a.m. in South Yarmouth. The 11th Annual Cape Cod St. Patrick’s Parade follows a two-mile route along Route 28 from Long Pond Drive west over the Parker’s River Bridge, ending at The Town ’n Country Motel.

#### Charitable Irish 279th Dinner set for March 17

The Charitable Irish Society of Boston will hold its 279th St Patrick’s Dinner on Thurs., March 17, at the Omni Parker House Hotel. The venerable Tremont Street hotel has been the site of many society events over the years. Featured speaker will be Diarmaid Ferriter, professor of modern history at University College Dublin, and the author of five books, including his most recent “A Nation and Not a Rabble: The Irish Revolution 1913-1923.”

#### Eire Society to honor Mary McAleese

The Eire Society of Boston has selected former President of Ireland Mary P. McAleese to receive the 79th Annual Gold Medal. Dinner at a ceremony that will take place on Saturday evening, April 2, at the Omni Parker House. The Society annually honors a person or persons who “exemplify the best of Irish culture and ideals.” In a prepared announcement, the society said, “On the occasion of our 79th anniversary, we are proud to honor President McAleese for her contributions to Irish culture on both sides of the Atlantic.”

In the coming weeks, more information will be forthcoming on this elegant and prestigious event. For more information on Eire Society of Boston programs and events, contact Barbara S. Fitzgerald, ESB Corresponding Secretary, at barbara.s.fitzgerald@gmail.com.



# Knock Shrine looks forward to July events

By Ed Forry

Boston's Cardinal Archbishop Sean O'Malley will lead an archdiocesan pilgrimage to Ireland in July for the rededication of the shrine in Knock, Co. Mayo, according to a report in the *Irish Independent* newspaper on Jan. 26. The cardinal will celebrate mass at the Marian site on Sun., July 17, the newspaper said.

According to the report, the cardinal welcomed the announcement, saying: "The archdiocese of Boston is blessed and strengthened by the faith of the Irish Catholic community here and also that of our many friends and relations in Ireland. We look forward to parishioners from the archdiocese and people from many walks of life coming together as we journey in pilgrimage to the Shrine at Knock this coming July for the rededication of Our Lady's Basilica."

Fr. Richard Gibbons, parish priest and rector of Knock Shrine, said that he was delighted he will be able to welcome O'Malley for the pilgrimage this year. He has "very strong western connections and once again their visit with so many pilgrims shows the possibilities of pilgrimage growth and the strategic importance of Ireland West Airport to the future of Ireland's National Marian Shrine," said Gibbons.

Crystal Travel and Tours, the West Roxbury-based travel agency that has long specialized in travel to Ireland, has organized a one-time round trip charter flight from Logan Airport, non-stop to Ireland West Airport at Knock, according to Jim Kelly, the agency's founder. The flight, an Aer Lingus charter, will leave Boston on July 14 and return on July 21, he said.

Kelly says he is offering all-inclusive seven-day packages, including motor coach escorted tours of Mayo, Donegal, and Galway at a price beginning at \$2,995. One package, called the "Boston Gathering," is being hosted by Richie Gormley, "The Lord Mayor of West Roxbury," Kelly said.

For most Americans, the charter flight offers a first-time chance to fly into Ireland West at Knock, the Emerald Isle's newest airport. Established in 1985, the facility is located in Mayo, just 3.5 miles from the town of Charlestown, and 12.5 miles from the village of Knock.



The Shrine at Knock.

The airport is the brainchild of a Mayo priest, Msgr. James Horan, who conceived of the idea of building a place where pilgrims could conveniently fly into to visit the shrine where, Catholics believe, there had been an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1879. Horan began an intense lobbying campaign to persuade the Irish government to build the airport on a hill in the bogs, to the point of raising almost one million dollars by means of a lottery drawing. His efforts were chronicled in a memorable report telecast by CBS News's "60 Minutes" team. The airport initially was named Horan International Airport, but the priest died shortly after the airport opened in 1986, and the facility took on a new name.

Not a busy place, Knock is convenient for air travelers to and from the northwest, including Mayo, Sligo, and Donegal. It is served mostly by small regional jet and short-haul passenger planes. Although travel agents have organized one-off charter flights from the US, the July flight by Crystal Travel will mark the first time an Aer Lingus charter will fly there from Boston, and Irish tourism officials hope it's a sign of increased tourism in the future.

According to the *Irish Independent*, Joe Kennedy, chairman of Ireland West Airport Knock, said the flight was another "stepping stone" in securing regular transatlantic services for the airport. "Today's announcement is even more historic given the airport will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the official opening in May of this year. We look forward to welcoming our Boston visitors to the West of Ireland next July," he said.

Meanwhile, Brian O'Dwyer, International Chair of Ireland West Airport Knock, said: "This is a further important step in opening the West of Ireland to tourism and to travel from the Irish in the diaspora. I congratulate both Aer Lingus and the staff of the airport for making this possible."

# There are many things that will make 2016 an interesting year

By Joe Leary  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

With all the trauma caused by the recent erratic turns of the world's stock markets, investment executives and those responsible for Ireland's economic well being have become very nervous about 2016.



Joe Leary

While Wall Street experts keep saying don't panic, stay the course, even the smallest of investors have lost \$5,000 and \$10,000 and more. Ireland is still suffering from the impact of the 2007-2008 economic collapse; the fear of a repeat is quite real. The country's major cities have come back strongly but its smaller towns and villages in the West continue to lose population and job-creating businesses.

In looking to the years ahead, the Irish government is vitally interested in developing a permanent thriving economy. For an island so small, much of the investment in that economy must come from outside the country. Last month, Ireland Taoiseach Enda Kenny and the Irish Development Authority's chief executive, Martin Shanahan, led a mission of government executives to the famous World Economic Forum Annual Conference in Davos, Switzerland. Shanahan was quoted in the *Irish Independent* newspaper as saying his agency can hold as many meetings in three days during the conference that would otherwise need three months to accomplish.

Meanwhile consumer confidence in Ireland last year was at a ten-year high. The KBC Bank/ESRI consumer sentiment index rose again in December. A stronger jobs market and higher household spending power were behind the optimism.

But economies don't simply keep moving up, so caution must always taken, especially after the recent severe problems.

This will be a busy year in Ireland with several major events on the calendar. Kenny has announced he will call for new elections to the Dail in early spring. Candidates are being chosen throughout the country,

television commercials are being produced, and the major political parties are making announcements every day promising the voters whatever they want. The time between the election announcement and the election is only a matter of weeks, but the campaign has been going on for some time now.

The results will change the Dail almost completely. Labor will probably not be a major party and there may be unheard of coalitions necessary to form a working government. Fine Gael will most likely be the lead party, but they will have to agree with former rivals to accomplish anything.

In the North a new leader has been appointed to head the Unionist DUP. Ms. Arlene Foster has taken over from the retired Paisley successor, Peter Robinson, as First Minister and head of the Northern Ireland Assembly. Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness makes it his business to get along with the First Minister and has been very successful at it. But the old scars remain, so difficulties will come up. This will be an interesting transition.

McGuinness is taking on a new challenge himself by changing districts and running for election in his home district in order to add to Sinn Fein seats in the assembly.

The most impactful election to take place this year will be in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales - probably in early summer. The British conservative party now in control of Parliament has decided to have its people vote on whether or not to leave the European Union. It is called the "Brexit vote" for Britain's exit from Europe.

In classic British empire fashion - "Nobody tells us what to do" - many leaders of the Conservative Party want to leave Europe and fend for themselves. One of those leaders is the current Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the not so popular Theresa Villiers.

An exit would greatly impact Ireland and affect its dealings with Northern Ireland, and it would also greatly complicate Ireland/Britain business relationships. We can imagine a return to border controls and security stations and passport controls on ferries and planes that travel between the counties many times each day. All of which will further impede economic activity.

So it will be an interesting year for all of us.

## Off the Bench

# What's a lonely widower to do? The questions keep on coming

By James W. Dolan  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Sometimes I think I need a girlfriend; not a new wife, just a companion, a friend with whom to share the lonely hours. At other times, I think that would be disloyal. It would suggest that someone could replace my late wife. I don't want to convey the wrong impression, yet I don't want to remain alone.

Such is the dilemma faced by those who lose a spouse. In a way, I welcome the grief. It provides a connection, an expression of love too late that makes up for the times that opportunity was overlooked. I now know how fragile and brief life is and regret the times I could have done more to strengthen our relationship. It was good, but it could have been better had I made the effort.



James W. Dolan

That regret, mixed with loss and the joy of times remembered, are grief's components. Sometimes I actually enjoy the grieving process as I reflect on how fortunate I have been. Can I live a lonely life to preserve the bond we shared? Should I risk diluting that bond by turning to someone else for companionship? Can I preserve the one, yet have the other? What would my children and grandchildren think if I showed up with another woman? Those are the questions I ask myself.

How would I adjust to another woman's peculiarities and how would she adjust to mine? I am stuck in my ways and long out of practice of adjusting my routine. Having been married so long, I am afraid of the new accommodations involved in a relationship. And just what does a relationship entail in this day and age? Where does one look? And is it worth the effort?

Women tend to be much more independent after the loss of a spouse. They get along better without us than we without them. That's why most men think they should die first. They know their wives have better survival skills. My father lived a lonely life in the years after my mother died. I so wished he had found a companion.

A companion does not replace a deceased spouse. Nobody does. But she can fill that basic need for sharing time, thoughts, hopes, and fears that is so

much a part of human nature. Some can be alone without being lonely, but others cannot. Most crave attachments of various kinds that provide happiness, meaning, and fulfillment.

At this stage of life, how does one establish a relationship? Time is running out. Do you simply go on in the hope that someone will pop up? Or do you actively engage in trying to identify a suitable companion? Dating services may work, but they're not for me. Nor is hanging out at a local cocktail lounge. So, I guess I'll just wait to see who, if anyone, comes along. Probably not the most efficient way, but more dignified.

If it's meant to be, it will happen; otherwise I will adjust to being just another lonely widower. I've gotten to know myself pretty well over the years and, by and large, am content with who I am. I like myself enough to remain alone so long as I have the joy of my family and books and memories to fill my lonely hours. I would prefer the right girlfriend. But if not, I can handle it.

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

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# Irish films win acclaim at Sundance Film Festival

By JENNIFER SMITH  
REPORTER STAFF

Among the dozens of foreign films screened at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival, Irish features offered some of the strongest and strangest showings. The Emerald Isle consistently churns out a mix of charming quirk and compelling narrative at the festival in snowy Park City, Utah each year, and its unusually high number of offerings this year have been met with positive buzz and clamorous applause.

Sundance favorite John Carney, who burst onto the world stage in 2006 with his written/directed Irish musical *Once*, returned this year with the charming coming-of-age musical *Sing Street*. Carney brings the semi-autobiographical rock drama set in 1980s Dublin to life with youthful exuberance and original songs that cleverly evoke the rock staples of the era.

*Sing Street* follows Conor, played by newcomer Ferdia Walsh-Peelo, as a middle-class teen dropped in a rough state-run Christian Brothers school on Synge Street after his family hits financial hardship. Along with a ragtag group of friends, Conor starts a rock band to win the heart of the cool and 80s-permed Raphina (Lucy Boynton), riffing affectionately on everything from Duran Duran to The Cure and The Clash with cheerful abandon.

Experienced Irish talent helms the less-adolescent side of the film, with Aidan Gillen and Maria Doyle Kennedy making deft turns as Conor’s financially-strapped parents.

Met with a standing ovation at its Sundance world premiere, *Sing Street* is a refreshing breath of pure musical joy and teenage romantic wish-fulfilment among a slew of twisting, brooding independent films. Carney shows once again a masterful take on the contemporary performance-centered movie musical, without quite the tight focus of *Once* but with what feels like a natural return to Ireland after his more broadly commercial New York-based 2013 release *Begin Again*.

Already sparkling from its debut at the Cannes Film Festival in 2015, *The Lobster* was featured in the Sundance Spotlight section, which highlights some of independent film’s buzziest offerings.

The bizarre, sharply funny, and surreptitiously touching satire of a society obsessed with romantic coupling is the Greek writer-director Yorgos Lanthimos’s first English language film. It features a riveting cast, including Colin Farrell and Rachel Weisz, in a searing send up of nuclear couplehood against the dour backdrop of Ireland and the United Kingdom.



A scene from the film *Sing Street*. Photo courtesy of Sundance Institute.

Another Irish film shown in the Spotlight category was the Benicio del Toro-produced *Viva*, the story of a young man working in a drag club in Havana, Cuba. When Jesus (Héctor Medina) is given the opportunity to perform as one of the drag queens, his estranged, abusive father (Jorge Perugorria) re-enters his life. Director Paddy Breathnach, of Dublin, known for creating the Irish comedy *Man*

About Dog, received acclaim for *Viva* at the Telluride Film Festival in Colorado.

Initial reviews were positive for both Irish-produced romantic comedy *Love & Friendship*, directed by Whit Stillman, and Irish director Rebecca Daly’s *Mammal*. An adaptation of Jane Austen’s early novel *Lady Susan*, *Love & Friendship* stars Kate Beckinsale and Chloe Sevigny and follows the schemes of a beautiful widow staying with in-laws. *Mammal* is a quiet story about a grieving mother (Rachel Griffith) who befriends a homeless teenager (Barry Keoghan) after the death of her son in contemporary Dublin.

Ireland is represented among the many short films screened at the sky-high festival by *A Coat Made Dark*. The 10-minute short follows two burglars who steal a mysterious coat that gifts them with a stroke of luck. *Midnight*, an anthropomorphized dog, and his human servant Peter struggle over the coat’s power in this animated black comedy.

## Point of View

# Corporate greed energizes the “inversion” movement

By PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

It didn’t take long. We’re barely more than a month into the new year, but another controversial America-to-Ireland inversion merger is front-page news. At the end of 2015, Pfizer gobbled up Allergan Plc. to wash away Pfizer’s US tax bill by shifting its corporate headquarters to Ireland. Now, Johnson Controls Inc. plans to merge with Tyco International PLC. in a tax ploy that will allow Johnson to relocate its corporate headquarters from Milwaukee to Cork, Ireland, where Tyco has taken up residence. This latest “Irish and American alliance” will allow the companies to elude some \$150 million in US taxes annually.

In an article last month (Jan. 24), *The New York Times* reported: “One of the first big mergers of the new year resembles a number of other deals in recent years in one crucial respect: It will allow an American corporation to move its headquarters to a country where corporate taxes are lower.”

Johnson Controls, Inc’s company profile describes the outfit as “a technology company. The Company provides products, services, and solutions to optimize energy and operational efficiencies of buildings; lead-acid automotive batteries and advanced batteries for hybrid and electric vehicles; and seating and interior systems for automobiles.”

Tyco has a checkered past replete with several moves to overseas headquarters and a front-page scandal in the early 2000s, when CEO Dennis Kozlowski was convicted of ransacking the company coffers. Broken up a few times since the Kozlowski era, Tyco now focuses on fire safety and security products. At the time of the merger, Tyco was worth around \$13 billion.

The US Treasury Department ostensibly made corporate inversions more difficult in September and November 2014, but you’d never know it given Pfizer’s contemptuous decision to “turn Irish” in late 2015. According to Bloomberg Business, “the combination between Johnson Controls and Tyco is the 13th such deal to be announced in the last 16 months, according to data compiled by Dealogic.

When the Pfizer-Allergan merger was detailed in this space in December 2014, it was noted that several presidential contenders quickly denounced “inversions.” On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders both responded shortly after news of the Johnson-Tyco deal. Clinton said, “These efforts to shirk US tax obligations leave American taxpayers holding the bag while corporations juice more revenues

and profits.” She added that she had a plan to “block deals like Johnson Controls and Tyco, and place an exit tax on corporations that leave the country to lower their tax bill.”

Sanders branded Johnson and Tyco “corporate deserters. If you want the advantages of being an American company then you can’t run away from America to avoid paying taxes.” Of course, in the unlikely event that Sanders, an avowed Socialist, wins the White House, American companies will have a collective corporate stroke.

On the Republican side, presidential frontrunner Donald Trump – unlike most of the GOP field’s wan or mumbled responses to inversion – has strongly denounced American companies that have outsourced jobs. He responded to the Pfizer-Allergan deal in a press release: “These corporate inversions take capital and, more importantly, jobs offshore. We need leadership in Washington to get the tax code changed so companies will be coming to America, not looking for ways to leave.”

According to the Kellner Merger Fund’s Chris Pultz in an interview with Yahoo News, Trump’s approach would differ from Clinton’s and Sanders: “[Trump] believes companies shouldn’t be punished for doing inversions, just that the corporate tax structure should be changed. If the corporate tax structure is changed where the United States becomes a beneficial place to do business because of its taxes, then we wouldn’t have to worry about these kinds of inversion deals.”

Any of the 40 million or so Americans who have ancestral or immediate family ties to Ireland certainly want both the US and Ireland to prosper. As I wrote in December, though, there has to be a better way than one-sided corporate inversions, one that is grand for both American and Irish bottom lines.

## A Grandeur Hue of Green

In a different sort of green gambit, 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of a notable sports event – the foundation of the US Professional Golfers Association. Standing in the forefront of the organization’s birth was Boston Irish golfing great Tom McNamara, “the Wollaston (Mass.) Whiz.”

In that year, the Taplow Club, in New York City, was the scene of a luncheon whose guests were the best and most influential professional and amateur golfers in the US. Their host was Rodman Wanamaker, the heir to the Wanamaker’s department-store fortune and a decent amateur golfer himself. By the meal’s end, the group had agreed to form the PGA, to codify rules

for both touring and teaching pros, and plan the first PGA Championship. Tom McNamara was one of the band’s “Founding Fathers.”

McNamara, “Tommy Mac” to his family, friends, and foes on the links, rose to acclaim as one of the “Homebreds,” the first golfers to put America on the game’s map in the early 20th century. McNamara long held the “always-a-bridesmaid” tag in the US Open of his era. Admired as one of the finest shot-makers of his time, he crafted several of the more memorable rounds in Open annals, but always fell a shade short when the final rounds were tallied.

Frustration? McNamara finished second in three Opens – 1909, 1912, and 1915; in the latter tourney, he lost by one stroke to Jerry Travers. He also notched Top 20 finishes in seven other Opens. Many golf historians would contend that despite his Open frustrations, McNamara did not come empty in the majors because of his triumphs in the 1912 and 1913 North and South Opens. In the pre-Masters, pre-PGA Championships days, players and scribes alike viewed the North and South as a major.

In various accounts over the years, golf writers have stated that McNamara was born in Lahinch, Ireland, but local researcher Albert Greene, who has traced McNamara’s career through the United States Golf Association and other sources, has spoken with one of McNamara’s great-granddaughters; she relates to Greene that “Tommy Mac...was not born in Lahinch [his parents apparently came from Lahinch] but in Brookline on November 18, 1882.”

Greene provided a clipping of a Professional Golfer of America Magazine’s 1939 obituary for McNamara, and it provides a glimpse of the Boston-American golfer who learned the game in Brookline as a caddie and went on to become one of the game’s most notable “Homebreds.” The notice relates: “Professional golf had to endure another unexpected loss in the sudden death to heart failure of Tom McNamara at his home in Mount Vernon, New York.”

“Tommy Mack[sic.]”...developed his game as a boy in the Boston district, and it wasn’t long before he began to show prominently as a player... Only a week before his death he was [at a tournament] reminiscing with other old-timers of incidents long ago.

At 57, McNamara was hardly an old-timer. His legacy lives on a century later with the PGA, the organization that he helped found and that changed the landscape of the game for touring and teaching pros.




# Mike Mullane: Labor boss, champion of his America

**BY MIKE BARNICLE**

As we collectively wring our hands over wealth inequality in the US, perhaps we should look no further than our disembowelment of unions.

It was nearly 9 p.m. that January night and more than a couple of thousand people had already paid their respects at a wake held in a union hall for a man who led his life helping others climb the ladder. Now the line had thinned to fewer than 200 who stood in the chill outside Florian Hall waiting to offer one final prayer for Mike Mullane, firefighter and union leader who died the previous week at 68, leaving a legion of people grateful for his unyielding commitment to a cause that seems distant in today’s culture of self absorption and self promotion.



**Mike Mullane: “He wanted people to get paid fairly.”**

“His whole life, he wanted people to get paid fairly,” his brother, Bo Mullane, a retired Boston police detective, was saying. “He didn’t care what color or what religion you were; if you were on the job, he was gonna’ fight for you. And if you didn’t have a job, he’d fight for you, too.

Mike Mullane was a firefighter, a union guy all his life, a vice president of the International Association of Firefighters. He was part of a job that when the call comes, the bell rings, and the doors of the firehouse open, nobody asks if those who need help are Muslim, Catholic, or atheists.

The ladder truck and Engine 21 roll down the boulevard, the firefighters on

board not knowing or caring who they’ll find hanging from a window, caught in a hallway, or hiding from flames and smoke beneath a bed or in a closet. Climb the ladder. Save a stranger. Do your job, the only mantra.

For more than a decade now unions in America have been under a more sustained assault than our government sometimes seems to have waged against ISIS. Unions have been weakened, enrollments diminished, negotiating strength reduced.

Certainly the union movement has suffered from some self-inflicted wounds, but in the debate about income inequality in America few voices have been stronger and louder in pushing to close the gap and move working people’s wages forward than unions. Negotiating alone is like trying to walk on water. You drown.

“His wake and the funeral Mass were amazing,” Bo Mullane was saying. “You had big people and little people. The secretary of state, John Kerry, was at my brother’s funeral. Imagine that. Like he doesn’t have other stuff to do? Wow. He was there because he knew Mike was his guy. Knew Mike was in his corner. When Kerry was running for president, Mike told him, “John, you’re surrounded by guys in suits who couldn’t find Fields Corner for you. I’ll get my guys out for you. And he did. And Kerry won New Hampshire.

“Right up until he died, Mike was looking at the candidates for president this year and he couldn’t believe it. He was saying to me when he’d hear what this Cruz or Trump was saying and Mike would say, “Jesus, Bo, we’ll be walking around in loincloths if any of these people ever get the big job.

“My brother knew how to negotiate. He knew what was fair and he knew what was unfair. Wanna’ know where he did his best deals? He’d tell you he settled more contracts in the s\*\*\*house than anyplace else. He’d tell me, ‘Bo, they all gotta’ piss. Just wait for ‘em there and talk to them.’“

Mike Mullane could help settle anything successfully – a labor deal, a college



**The life and legacy of Mike Mullane received full remembrance honors as his funeral cortege approached St. Brendan’s Church last month.**  
*Bill Brett photo*

application, a mortgage default, a rent payment, a marriage, a street corner argument, or a family feud.

“All the guys who spoke at his funeral,” said Bo, “they were all great. Joe Finn, “Edso” Kelly, they were terrific. The one I loved, though, was when my nephew stood up and told about the time he was getting kicked out of UMass for screwing up or something and he called Uncle Buck – that’s what he called Mike. He tells him what the problem is and Mike says he’ll see what he can do and, of course, he fixes things up and the kid gets back into UMass. And he thanks Mike and tells him that the light finally went on in his head, and he pauses and tells the people in church that Mike said to him, “And it’s a dim light at that.”

A decent wage and a good education. Two items always held in high regard by a man who fought hard so that everyone would have a shot at both in a country where the language of fear and the politics of division angered and frustrated him.

Michael Mullane climbed the ladder of life and he wanted everyone else to have a decent chance at doing the same thing, one rung at a time, without anyone in public life trying to rig the game. He sought a few simple things that once seemed to be the strongest aspect of the American spirit – fairness and opportunity – and he died fighting to the end.

*This article first appeared on the website The Daily Beast. It is reprinted with the author’s permission.*

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BRIT, DANIEL AND LIAM  
IN THE WEST OF IRELAND  
DURING THE GREAT HUNGER

CHRISTINE KINEALY  
AND JOHN WALSH



Brigit, Daniel and Liam are three teenagers from County Clare in the west of Ireland who live through the horrors of the Great Hunger, also known as the bad times. Their friendship sustains them as they find a way to survive. Their story is movingly told in this new graphic novel by historian Christine Kinealy and graphic novelist John Walsh.

This is a story of pain and suffering, but also of love.

Published by **Quinnipiac University Press** in collaboration with **Ireland's Great Hunger Institute.**

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# Boston Irish Reporter’s Here & There

**By BILL O'DONNELL**  
**Parents Sue For All Berkeley Students**  
The parents of all those killed or injured in the apartment balcony collapse in Berkeley, California, last June have joined in a civil suit against the builders, owners, and management of the building. Six Irish students lost their lives and seven others were injured, some severely. The defendants in the lawsuit number 35.

City of Berkeley inspectors have said that the balcony that collapsed fell because the joints supporting it had suffered severe dry rot due to water damage. In addition to the litigation by the parents seeking damages, there is an ongoing criminal investigation into the lethal incident.

The students were working in Berkeley for the summer, participating in the J-1 visa program. In their lawsuit, the families and the students claim that building owner Black Rock and other named defendants failed to investigate, inspect, or respond to complaints about water intrusion, wood rot, fruiting bodies and a tilt on the balcony. Attorneys for the students and parents said their clients hope that the legal action alleging wrongdoing would result in “appropriate industry, legislative, and other responses that will be undertaken to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.”

**‘God Save The Queen’ Headed for Dust Heap?**  
The tune in question is the national anthem of the United Kingdom, not England alone. And a Chesterfield MP thinks England (or the mainland, as we colonists call it) deserves its own anthem. And all this inside cricket brings up another dicey situation: Shouldn't Northern Ireland have its own anthem? Currently, the official anthem for the N.I. Commonwealth Games team is “Danny Boy,” and “Ireland’s Call” is played ahead of the rugby team’s games. And to add to the Brit dilemma, there is a growing debate, mostly on talk radio, on what song might replace ‘God Save The Queen’ if Northern Ireland should get its own anthem for sports. The top contenders for the public’s choice: ‘Land of Hope and Glory,’ ‘There’ll Always Be an England,’ ‘Swing Low Sweet Chariot,’ and ‘Rule Britannia.’

Ofcourse, the British sporting fraternity could always call U2’s Bono for anthem advice.  
**Fox Anchor Indicts Obama For Bush Bust**  
What would our monthly entry be without having to correct the record of the largely truth-less Fox news readers when their fake “news” turns to delusion at the hands of **Rupert Murdoch and Roger Ailes**. A case in point, one among many: At the GOP debate on Jan. 14, **Neil Cavuto** cutely shifted the blame for the 2008 financial crisis from then-outgoing incumbent **George W. Bush** to **President-Elect Obama**.

There is nobody, save a few right-wing diehards in a cave in Texas, who believe that Obama (not yet sworn in as president) was responsible for the country’s finances in 2008 or for the unnecessary war that Cheney and Bush lied us into. Yes, the recession is totally owned by Bush, and Cavuto and his Fox puppet colleagues all know that. But that doesn’t stop them from trying to sell yet another false opinion or phony news report. However, Cavuto’s and Fox’s outrageous attempt to score political points in lieu of truth-telling drew a cascade of economists, academics, news media, and those who cherish facts versus Fox’s sad revisionism to accusing Cavuto and Fox of bias and a total disregard for journalistic honesty. Is anybody surprised?

A second quick point from the same newsroom: Sean Hannity, hosting his weekday Fox show, had all the answers to the Iranians capture and detaining of a US naval ship and its crew for entering their territory. While the folks at the White House Situation Room and the Pentagon were taking a few hours to handle the situation, our desk-bound loudmouth had all the answers anybody, including our military leaders, needed to accomplish the release. Mr. Hannity’s solution, and I quote: “Why don’t they [Obama and **John Kerry**] just send the message, ‘You either let those people out in three hours or we’re going to bomb the living crap out of you.’ ” Smart stuff, Sean! Thanks and credit to Media Matters, which shadows and reports on Fox and other fiction-driven news outlets.

**Free Speech Can Get To Be Expensive**  
Britain and Ireland, if truth be known, are regarded by many lawyers as soft targets for defamation and libel-lawsuit plaintiffs. Thousands upon thousands of euros, plus legal fees, exchange hands every week in British and Irish courts in cases where someone who is alleged to have publicly insulted someone is then sued by the so-called injured party who is seeking damages; yes, cold, hard cash.

It is comforting to think that the court systems of two great countries are looking out for insults and similar affronts and are willing to generously order payment or damages to the plaintiff for his/her bruised reputation. But in the real world, say the United States, there is a much greater threshold to gain success and big money settlements. US settlements are tied to motive or intent and evidence of loss.  
A recent case being tried now – an alleged libel of a British Ulster Unionist Party MP by a Sinn Fein Stormont Assembly member – could result in damages amounting to a small fortune, plus enormous legal fees. The alleged libel was a tweet

on Twitter that stayed up for an hour and was seen by just 167 people, but there you go. A similar libel case came down with a judgment of \$150,000 plus assessed legal fees against the defendant. Something to think about, but then maybe that’s the point.

**‘Spotlight’ Movie Hits The Spot**  
I finally had a chance to see “Spotlight,” the filmed story of how the *Boston Globe* resolutely ran down the Catholic priests abuse scandal and shook up Catholics and their church around the world. I loved the film even as I was saddened by the theme, a reality since 2002 when the story of how Boston’s **Cardinal Bernard Law** and his clerical associates shuttled abusive priests from parish to parish became an international scandal. My only regret is that none of the church big shots were dealt with. As in real life and reel life, all the bishops, cardinals, et al. had immunity.

About the movie itself: We now know that Spotlight has been nominated in six Academy Award categories. If I had a vote, I would add the individuals who can’t be nominated, those casting geniuses who select and suggest actors for a movie. The two people who did that job for Spotlight picked well and wisely. Without the phony heroics of so many films – bullets flying, cars exploding – the ensemble was quietly magnificent. There was no room for **Stanley Tucci as attorney Mitchell Garabedian** on the marquee, but he was solid, memorable. From **Michael Keaton to John Slattery**, the cast was outstanding. The story itself was intelligent and largely riveting on film.

Father **Peter Daly**, a columnist for the National Catholic Reporter, saw the movie alone and he wrote that he was saddened and ashamed. There was one comment in his review that stuck with me: “The Archdiocese of Boston would never have reformed without the *Globe* stories.”

**Still No Action On British Bill Of Rights**  
In the days before the last British national election, the Conservative Party spoke about introducing a bill that would embed in legislation a ‘Bill of Rights’ that would lay out the rights of the British people. Presumably, that would include the Irish living in the North in some cases.

In any event, it has been a while since that quasi-promise was made for the first hundred days of the reelected ruling party’s administration. Here in Boston there was also talk about such legislation. If memory serves, the Boston attorney **Michael Donlon** volunteered to lead some meetings or a conference on the proposal, but the British silence on the subject has left it on the back burner.

Late reports indicate that a draft bill has been prepared and ready for introduction. If so, the call seems to be with the leadership at 10 Downing and Whitehall. Stay tuned.

**Last Hurrah For Ireland’s Hero, Chuck Feeney**  
For over 30 years the compulsively generous benefactor **Chuck Feeney**, 84, has spent his duty-free-driven fortune around the world. He has given away millions to Vietnam, Cuba, South Africa, and Australia, among other places, but Ireland, north and south, has been his main interest and passion. His total philanthropy is up in the billions, but this year, 2016, will mark the end of Feeney’s three decades of giving to enrich Ireland and other recipients with his smart, well-conceived projects. He has announced that he will finally divest his remaining fortune this year. Over the decades Feeney, through his Atlantic Philanthropies, has given away almost \$8 billion, a healthy chunk of that directly to Ireland.

One of Feeney’s guiding principles in philanthropic funding is that private money can take the risks that governments cannot or are unwilling to take. And these have often involved controversial causes. In its final year Feeney and Atlantic will focus on care of the elderly, children’s services, and human rights and reconciliation.

Essentially, Feeney is a private person who likes to avoid the limelight and do his giving anonymously, but that changed when a court case in the 1990s threatened to disclose the details of the disposition of his fortune. He then pre-empted the effort to look into his fortune by going public.

Chuck Feeney has kept the faith with Ireland over the years and when fellow philanthropist and Microsoft co-founder **Bill Gates** described him as “a hero,” he was spot-on in his assessment.

**Baker, Walsh and the GE Move**  
While the highways and back roads of Iowa and New Hampshire are filled with frenzied Republican candidates for president saying anything they believe will turn a few heads or grab a few votes, the two top elected officials in the Bay State, Republican Governor **Charlie Baker** and Boston and Connemara’s son and Democratic Boston Mayor **Marty Walsh** are taking care of business at home.

Like the famous Mr. Inside, Heisman Trophy winner **Doc Blanchard**, and Mr. Outside, **Glenn Davis**, of the late 1940s golden era of college football at West Point, Charlie and Marty seem to have assumed those roles during the weeks of delicate negotiations with General Electric and the successful selling of the city and state as the new world GE headquarters site.

I will leave it up to our senior citizen readers to decide which man played the inside and outside positions, but the cooperation and good will displayed by Walsh and Baker on the GE project is a keen example of what quiet talk and a fact-based case to make can achieve. Congratulation to both men for keeping their eye on the sparrow: the well-being and commercial future of

the commonwealth.  
**I, Too, Am Very Tired Of Big Pharma On TV**  
What an industry! We have 5,000 percent increases on a life-saving drug, and a Gilead drug company executive dismisses public outrage at enormous drug cost increases, calling the protesters “an abomination.” And Big Pharma whines about supposedly hefty research costs. Meanwhile, television and print advertising costs for drugs have gone through the roof and now are higher annually than the research costs.  
It’s about time that Medicare and similar health plans change the law and start negotiating prices so that US drug costs (and Ireland’s also) are cheaper, as they are able to do in most of Europe.

**City Hall Loses A Good Man**  
**Howard Leibowitz**, 63, died late in December of a heart attack at his Jamaica Plain home. He was a key figure in two city administrations covering a quarter century. Between deadlines and some health issues, I never got a chance to say goodbye to him in print. Howie was often the busiest man in the mayor’s office. He handled all the tough jobs, the inter-governmental relations, policy problems, the people pressing for the mayor’s ear, urgent issues, and the last-minute Gotcha problems that beset high level elected officials. Howie was invariably kind, generous, and he made time to hear your problem or solutions. He was a ray of hope and energy for the homeless and a dedicated advocate for affordable housing. One characteristic that I will always remember is that he cared, really cared, and much of that compassion was for people grappling with hard times, poverty, unemployment, etc.

During my time in City Hall, Howie always had time to listen, even when he didn’t. He served Mayors **Flynn and Menino** honorably, with long hours and with compassion, energy and creativity. Howie was a hero to many of us and I am sorry he left so soon. He was what public service at its best is all about.

**Belfast Remembers The Nazi Blitz of ‘41**  
While there will be commemorative events marking the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising, the good people of Belfast will also be marking a somber anniversary this spring: the German Luftwaffe’s bombings of Belfast that killed more than a thousand people in April 1941. The prime targets of the German bombers were the shipyard, Shorts aircraft plant, Mackies, and the linen works. Although industrial sites were targeted, the worst of the bombing was in the north of the city, where thousands of civilians were left homeless.

A number of events recalling the blitz and a memorial to the lives lost 75 years ago are in the final planning stage. There are also likely to be services at St. Anne’s Cathedral and Belfast City Hall.

**RANDOM CLIPPINGS**  
Retired Stormont First Minister and DUP leader **Peter Robinson** has won the Tipperary International Peace Award. Past recipients include the Pakistani activist **Malala and Nelson Mandela**. Other nominees for the award were **Mary Robinson, Angela Merkel, John Kerry and former Israeli President Shimon Peres**. ... Salmon stocks, the *Irish Independent* reports, on the Fane River near Dundalk are on the brink of being wiped out due to diesel pollution by IRA launderers. ... Update: Former Anglo Irish Bank chief **David Drumm** has gone 0 for 4 with judges in American courts in the past year. ... Studies are showing that migrants provide more to host states in taxes and social contributions than they receive in benefits. ... The timing of a referendum on a British exit from the EU is scheduled for the end of 2017, but the vote could happen this summer. ... Galway’s mayor has announced that the city will be certified as a “bilingual status” city. ... Irish Labor Party Leader **Joan Burton** will support **Michael D. Higgins** if he decides to run for a second 7-year term as Irish president. ... It seems that Dublin’s street entertainers, the buskers, have been the target of complaints from some businesses in the capital city for blocking access and for making bad music.

Coming up to two decades after the Good Friday Agreement, there is still an average of four bomb scares every week. ... The political promise game in Ireland has begun with Fine Gael and other parties offering young families as much as 2,800 euros more in the new budget, increased benefits for pensioners, and improved living standards for 124,000 workers. ... British entertainment writers and mags have begun employing the “shifting nationality syndrome,” where Irish actors who win or are up for major awards suddenly become British in nationality. ... Little Rhode Island, with its vigorous contingent of Irish (some 190,000 residents are of Irish ancestry) will center its commemoration of the 1916 Rising in Patrick’s Pub on Smith Street in Providence and at other venues. ... Britain’s Supreme Court has ruled against **Donald Trump** in his effort to stop an offshore wind farm from being set up near his upscale Scottish golf resort.

In case you missed it, a judge has ruled that Fontbonne Academy in Milton discriminated by rescinding a job offer to a man in a same sex marriage. ... Stormont, the N.I. seat of legislative government, is facing a \$3.3 billion debt. Is there still a hue and cry about a united Ireland? On the International Peace Wall in West Belfast, the city will replace its more contentious murals with images of the 1916 Rising. ... **P.J. O’Mara** was a larger than life character in Irish politics. For years he was **Charlie Haughey’s** press officer and a major figure in Fianna Fail politics for over three decades. I knew him a bit and P.J. had as much charm and more institutional memory than the Boss.





PATRICK PEARSE  
Only a “bloody sacrifice” could ignite the independence movement.

(Continued from page 1)  
(IRB). By 1916, they were joined by a wide array of groups with their own ideas for what independence meant. One of the common threads was armed rebellion. Among the groups were James Connolly’s Irish Citizens Army, or ICA, which was composed of trade unionists; the Hibernian Rifles, a small band of Nationalists; Cumann na mBan, women Nationalists willing to fight alongside the men; and Fianna Éireann, which various historians have likened to a an independence-minded incarnation of the Boy Scouts.  
The key leaders of the Irish Volunteers were Chief-of-Staff Eoin MacNeill and Commander Patrick Pearse. A teacher and a gifted poet, Pearse had few illusions that an armed rebellion would succeed, but he staunchly believed that only a “blood sacrifice” would ignite a true war for independence in Ireland.

National Library of Ireland joins with Google on a 1916 experience

The National Library of Ireland (NLI) has announced its partnership with the Google Cultural Institute’s 1916 virtual tour “Dublin Rising 1916-2016” as part of the Ireland 2016 centenary program. The tour is a virtual city streets look exploring the iconic places, people, and stories of 100 years ago, narrated by actor Colin Farrell and featuring exhibitions from six prestigious cultural institutions.  
The virtual tour was launched at an event in Dublin last month by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Heather Humphreys, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.  
As well as bringing viewers worldwide to parts of Dublin synonymous with the Rising, the interactive Google Street View tour

SIMMERING TO A BOIL  
‘Home rule’ legislation gives way to a world war

Fellow Nationalists had long hoped that Germany would aid a rising against Great Britain. The Kaiser and his military favored anything that might divert British attention and even forces from the Western Front, but no “German invasion” of Ireland was a realistic possibility for Pearse and his comrades. With no chance for victory, Pearse was willing to lay down his life for his belief that a rising would somehow prove the spark for future independence.  
Throughout Ireland’s tormented history, informers had helped the British penetrate and turn back Irish insurrections such as those of Young Ireland, in the 1840s, and the Fenians, in the 1860s. British intelligence knew that the IRB was plotting a revolt; and the British knew who the leaders were and were trailing them. Most of all, the British realized that the rebels did not have the weapons and munitions to unleash an island-wide campaign.



EOIN MacNEILL  
Chief of Staff of the Irish Volunteers

A few years earlier, Erskine and Molly Childers had smuggled 1,500 rifles into Howth Harbor (see last month’s BIR); that cache, however, was not nearly enough to battle the British. More ominously for Parliament and the British Army in early 1916, Irish Republican Roger Casement was traveling throughout Germany to recruit an “Irish Brigade” from Irishmen held in German prisoner-of-war camps and to arrange for a shipment of arms, ammunition, and explosives from the Kaiser.  
In Boston and other Irish-American centers, few knew how close to a rebellion the IRB and others were. Pearse, Connolly, MacNeill, Eamon de Valera, and other Irish men and women were about to become household names. Ireland’s own Declaration of Independence would soon appear on America’s front pages from coast to coast.



Dublin City, April 1916.

also offers unique access to important historical and cultural resource material. The visitors will stop at city centre locations as they are today, hear what happened there and click to explore photos, stories and witness statements from the Dublin of 2016. The aim of the experience is to enable anyone, anywhere to participate in the

1916 Centenary. Google’s new virtual experience has been created in partnership with leading Irish cultural institutions, including the National Library of Ireland, Military Archives, Glasnevin Cemetery Museum, the Abbey Theatre, the Royal Irish Academy and Trinity College Dublin Library alongside

Century Ireland. The Dublin Rising 1916-2016 Tour can be accessed at: dublinrising.withgoogle.com. The dedicated hashtag for the launch of the virtual tour ‘Dublin Rising 1916-2016’ is #DublinRising; the dedicated hashtag for the NLI’s programme of events to mark 1916 is #MyNLI1916

EATING AND EMOTION  
Dr. Bernadette Rock

What not to say to a fussy eater

As parents, we often fret about whether our children are “getting enough.” A mother recently stated to me, “My daughter won’t eat for me.” I replied, “Why would she eat for you? Shouldn’t she eat because she’s hungry and wants food?” The mother’s statement highlights how dinnertime can be a place of conflict, a battlefield where power is played out. Here’s what *not* to say if your child is a fussy eater:



Bernadette Rock and her daughter Keela.

**“You’re not getting dessert if you don’t eat more of your dinner”**

Using dessert as a threat or a sweetener (no pun intended!) is so tempting, especially when you know that most children love nothing more than a sugar trip. But here’s the problem: It shows that you’re eating savory food simply to “get to” the sweet stuff, and that the savory food is not to be enjoyed, but to be eaten under duress. It also shows your child that you’re a little desperate. It’s an indirect but clear message.

**“Eat it up. I don’t want to see anything left on your plate”**

Ah, the sins of our parents! How often were you told as a child to “eat it up, your father worked hard for that food!” One of my memories of dinnertime as a child is sitting around the table with my six siblings and being warned to “eat up everything before it goes cold,” or “there are children starving in Africa so eat it all up.” And so we all obliged by licking out plates clean, literally, as if that would somehow help alleviate a famine in another continent. Clearing the plate was usually met with parental approval: “Well done Bernadette. Aren’t you great!”

Childhood eating habits can be so deeply engrained, and it’s tempting to tell our children the same message – “Eat it all up.” Don’t do it. These messages are often based on guilt and the need for approval. Be aware of how your own childhood eating habits can lead to extra eating for your child, and sometimes that means that we do not always need or enjoy the food we eat.

**“Good girl. You ate all your bolognese!”**

You might say this in a fun and happy way, but you may also be sending the message, “It’s good when you eat it all,” or shouting the message “I really want you to eat it all!” “You will receive approval when you eat it all.” It’s much better to instead praise your children for activities, such as doing well with homework, clearing away their toys, or leaning how to read the time. After all, eating is our most basic instinct, and it should be enjoyable.

**“You’re not leaving the table until you eat your peas.”**

Have you ever stood over your child and insisted that the now cold greens are eaten? Then step away. Don’t do it. You have more chance, not less, of them choosing to eat a food if you don’t tell them to – and not just in the short term. Research found that a majority of third-level students whose parents had insisted they ate a food as a child did not eat that food when they left home. The students viewed the parent as the “winner” and themselves as the “loser.”

**“You’re so fussy with food.”**

Even if your child would happily live only on plain cooked pasta or cereal, do not refer to them as “fussy.” This label gives them a reason not to eat. After all, no one is expecting them to eat this. Instead they are expected to wrinkle their noses in disgust when the dinner is placed in front of them. It tells them, “I am a fussy eater, and that’s just the way I am.” Don’t let them hear you telling it to other people, either.

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## Updates from the IIIC

### Business Leaders

#### Breakfast – April 28

The IIIC's 7th annual Business Leaders Breakfast will be held on April 28. Our featured speaker this year will be Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey. Join us for an engaging discussion on immigration, the economy and other issues facing Massachusetts and the United States.

### US citizenship?

#### Is now the time?

Perhaps you've been thinking about it but just never got around to doing anything about it. We're talking about the decision to move forward to U.S.

citizenship.

If you are making this country your permanent home and want to participate fully in the American democratic process, becoming a citizen is a necessary step because only US citizens can vote, which is probably the most significant benefit of citizenship status.

We are all members of the community that we live in and periodically we are asked make decisions about how we shall be governed by the election of our representatives. You may have many strong opinions about political issues, but if you cannot express your beliefs



Attorney General Maura Healey

through the ballot, you are not a stakeholder and others will determine your future.

We are all aware of the ongoing contentious political debates leading up to the election of our next president this year. Apply for US citizenship now and you will have a role in making that decision in November.

The IIIC is ready, willing and able to help you! Our legal staff and citizenship specialists will assist you throughout each phase of the naturalization process. To start, stop by our Downtown office to visit a special Citizenship

Clinic on any Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to discuss your status with a staff specialist.

For further information contact Ambreen at 617-542-7654, Ext. 41, or by email at aahmad@iicenter.org.

Are you worried about the naturalization interview and test questions? We have that covered as well. The IIIC offers a six-week Citizenship Preparation Class. For information about our late winter classes, Contact Sarah at 617-542-7654, Ext. 36 or by email at sarahcs@iicenter.org.

### Legal clinics lineup: Feb. 2, 8, 16, and 23

Tues., Feb. 2. and Tues., Feb. 16 – IIIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston. Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street. Registration 9 a.m.; consultations at 4 p.m.

Mon., Feb. 8 – Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton. 6:30 p.m.; do not arrive before 6 p.m.

Tues., Feb. 23 – South Boston Labouré Center, 275 West Broadway, S. Boston. 6 p.m.; do not arrive before 5:30 p.m.

For further Legal Clinic information, call 617-542-7654

## Matters of Substance

### The opioid epidemic: What you need to know

BY GINA KELLEHER  
IIIC WELLNESS DIRECTOR

Opioid-related overdoses have been getting a lot of media attention in recent months as the numbers of deaths continue to rise in the US. In Massachusetts, communities and families have been hit hard by this devastating epidemic, with the death toll reaching past 1,200.

While we're not seeing this trend in Ireland, this epidemic has most definitely affected Irish immigrants and so it's vital to educate ourselves and our families about this highly addictive drug.

What is causing this huge increase in opiate-related overdoses? The consensus is that prescription painkillers are being over-prescribed in the US, which leads to easier access. Medications such as Percocet, Vicodin and OxyContin are very effective for the treatment of the acute pain associated with cancer, but doctors are now prescribing these drugs more frequently for moderate pain.

Some important facts to be aware of if prescribed these painkillers or if tempted to take them recreationally:

- These medications are opiates, which have very similar effects to heroin. If taken long enough, anyone can become physically dependent on opiates, which means that if the medication is discontinued without tapering, very uncomfortable withdrawal symptoms can occur.
- Tolerance to opiates



Gina Kelleher

develops very quickly, so people often need higher doses and additional prescriptions to manage their pain. For those predisposed to addiction, once their prescription runs out, they may have the compulsion to continue use of the drug and may doctor-shop to get more prescriptions or try to get pills from friends or on the street.

- The going rate for OxyContin on the street is up to two dollars a milligram. People who are addicted often find themselves turning to heroin, which is a lot cheaper.
- It is very easy to overdose on opiates, especially if injected. As addiction research continues to shed light on mechanisms in the brain affected by drug-use, we now know that decision-making areas of the brain are strongly impaired in people addicted to drugs.

What can we do to reduce the harm of these powerful medications? Education is the key to prevention and treatment.

People with a personal or family history of addiction need to exercise caution if they are prescribed these medications for pain management. They need to be taken as prescribed and under supervision. If there are leftover pills, there are places to safely dispose of them in your community; you can find this information at a local pharmacy. Parents need to talk to their older children and teens not only about avoiding "alcohol and drugs" but also about prescription medications.

If you find yourself addicted to opiates, please know that treatment continues to improve and there is always hope. Studies show that medication assisted treatment (MAT) combined with behavioral support is the most effective treatment for opiate dependence.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker strongly

supports public health policies that effectively address this problem, including expanding treatment access and availability to all who seek it.

Families of people addicted to opiates also need treatment and support. Counseling and/or regularly attending Learn2Cope or Al-Anon meetings can be a great source of comfort and guidance. Remember; you did not cause it. You cannot control it. You cannot cure it.

If you or a loved one is struggling with any type of addiction, please don't hesitate to reach out in confidence to Gina at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14, or at gkelleher@iicenter.org.

Additional resources can be found at: helpline-online.com; learn2cope.org; store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA09-4443/SMA09-4443.pdf.



### IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER IMMIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE

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

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

#### Upcoming Clinic Schedule

Wednesday, January 27th  
St. Marks Parish (School Hall)  
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Tuesday, February 2nd  
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### Immigration Q&A

## I have my green card – now what?

**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 commit certain acts or 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 effect of criminal offenses on immigration issues 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.

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.

USCIS has issued a pamphlet entitled "Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants." This publication is available in eleven languages at no cost to view or download from the USCIS web site, uscis.gov. It contains detailed information on your rights and responsibilities, as well as discussion of many practical issues facing new residents: finding jobs and accommodations, health care, education and child care, taxes, learning English, and so on. This would be a good place for general orientation if you have questions in these areas. Keep in mind, however, that while the publication was current when it was last revised in 2007, laws and regulations are subject to change at any time and can vary significantly from state to state. Also, no general publication can fully address the particulars of your individual situation.

Visit one of our weekly legal clinics as reported in the *Boston Irish Reporter* for a free confidential consultation on your specific questions about any immigration-related issue.



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Dublin native Alan Kelly (second from left) and the company of the Tony Award-winning Stephen Schwartz musical “Pippin.”

Shinobu Ikazaki photo

# On the road With ‘Pippin’

BY R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The musical “Pippin” originally opened on Broadway in 1972. With a score by Stephen Schwartz (“Wicked,” “Godspell”), the show was created under the watchful eye of iconic director and choreographer Bob Fosse.

In 2012, “Pippin” was revived under the watchful eye of inventive director Diane Paulus. Her bold new production first came to life at the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge (where she’s artistic director) before heading to New York. Paulus put her own stamp on things by re-imagining the show within an eye-popping, circus-inspired setting. Broadway critics raved and “Pippin” picked up a Tony Award as Best Musical Revival.

As the curtain rises, a troupe of players has gathered to tell the story of Pippin, a young prince in search of significance in his life. Should he settle for a happy but simple existence or go for that moment of glory?

John Rubinstein, who originated the role of Pip-

pin in the 1972 production, plays King Charles, Pippin’s father, in the touring production, playing the Boston Opera House from Feb. 2 to Feb. 14.

Dublin-born Alan Kelly is one of the players as well as understudy for the role of The King. The actor-singer-dancer trained at the National Performing Arts School and the College Of Dance in Dublin.

He was subsequently awarded a scholarship to Laine Theatre Arts in London, graduating with a national diploma in Professional Musical Theatre and a national diploma in Professional Speech and Drama from Trinity College London.

Kelly is also a sought-after voice-over artist. You may have heard his voice in ads for companies including Google, Bank of Ireland, Guinness, Kerrygold, Apple, BMW and McDonalds, among others.

We spoke by phone when the show was in Memphis. Boston marks the 50th city on the show’s tour.

Q. Since this revival of “Pippin” first came to life at the ART before heading

to Broadway, Bostonians feel a warm sense of ownership with this show. What was it like working with Diane Paulus?

A. She’s so creative. She’s got this incredible vision and it was really great working with her. We did her famous presentation workshops, which she does with all her shows . . . It really added another dimension to the show. We weren’t just being directed by her – “Stand here. Say this.” She didn’t tell us *what* to think, she’d tell us *how* to think . . . It was nice to have that approach from a director.

Q. Her vision of “Pippin” incorporates a circus setting. Did you have to master any new skills?

A. Yeah, I had to learn a contortion trick for the show, which I had zero experience in. I can’t say too much because it’s like a magic trick, and I can’t give away the magic . . . I just had to do it, learn it, and be proficient . . . In another scene we do partner work and I had to partner with another guy. That was new for me . . . We both lift each other and that was another new experience. It was really cool.

Q. You’ve performed throughout Europe in everything from “Aida” and “We Will Rock You” to “Cinderella” and “Tanz Der Vampire.” But “Pippin” is your first tour in

America. That has to be exciting.

A. I moved to New York three years ago. I was auditioning in New York for about a year and got this show, so I was very lucky.

Q. I know “Pippin” played Japan. How were audiences there? They have a reputation for being a bit quiet.

A. They loved it! They loved it! We heard so many rumors that they weren’t going to applaud until the very end of each act . . . It wasn’t like that at all. They were so respectful . . . They always brought us gifts after the show.

Q. Any special mentors in your life?

A. Working with John Rubinstein and Adrienne Barbeau (a member of the cast in Memphis) has been a lesson in consistency and professionalism. They have both been absolutely wonderful to me and given me lots of advice. They’ve just been there. When you’re on the road you really only have each other and you become very close. You become good friends, which has been really nice. So it’s nice to have confidants.

Q. When you’re not working in the ensemble, you understudy John’s role of The King. Have you had an opportunity to go on?

A. I have, but not often. John is an absolute

machine. He’s incredible like that. So I’ve only played the role four times in the past year and a half. With John, there are some big shoes to fill. He is fantastic.

Q. Beyond the show schedule, you also do a lot of voice-over work. In a way, that has to be a treat. No costumes. No make-up. Just you, a microphone, and a computer, from wherever you are.

A. It has been ideal, being on the road, like a little second career for me. I’ve been doing it for about five years . . . You get to create all these crazy little characters. It’s usually short little gigs, so it’s been a nice way to have a distraction on the road when things are quiet.

Q. When did the performing bug first bite?

A. I was very, very late to the game. I started out at 17. I just really enjoyed watching the old movie musicals, “Dirty Dancing” and all those dance movies, and just decided I wanted to give it a go.

Q. What are your memories of studying in Dublin and London?

A. I remember it being very tough. It was very heavily dance-based. What I wanted to do was be an actor. (But) they just had so (many) dance courses that I found I was a good dancer. . . It was great. We did ballet, jazz, contemporary, tap,



Alan Kelly

hip-hop, everything.

Q. Your dance credits are really impressive. Do you have an emphasis? What do you enjoy the most?

A. Probably theater jazz. (“Pippin”) is a Bob Fosse show. I feel like I found something I really, really, really, enjoy. It’s such a great style to dance. It’s all about the feelings you get when you dance, you know? It’s very self-indulgent. And sexy. I really enjoy that side of storytelling, through this style of dance.

R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of on-stageboston.com.

•••

“Pippin,” Feb. 2-14, Boston Opera House, 539 Washington St., Boston. Info: 800-982-2787 or BroadwayInBoston.com.

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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

February will see Greater Boston-area appearances by such internationally renowned Irish/Celtic performers as Altan, Lúnasa, Paul Byrom, and Robbie O’Connell, as well as popular locally based acts like Matt and Shannon Heaton, Hanneke Cassel, and Cat and the Moon.

• Cellist **Natalie Haas** and guitarist/ vocalist **Yann Falquet** will perform a concert of Scottish, Quebecois, and Celtic music on Feb. 4 at Boston College as part of the university’s Gaelic Roots series. Haas is known for her partnership with Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser, while Falquet is co-founder of Quebecois trio Genticorum. The event, which is free and open to the public, takes place at 6:30 p.m. in the Cadigan Alumni Center on BC’s Brighton Campus. See bc.edu/gaelicroots.

• The Burren’s Backroom series hosts singer-songwriter **Robbie O’Connell** on Feb. 10. O’Connell is the author of “Keg of Brandy,” “Islander’s Lament,” “You’re Not Irish,” “Hard to Say Goodbye,” and many other songs that have become staples throughout the Irish/Celtic scene. In addition to his solo work, he performs as part of The Green Fields of America and The Clancy Legacy. Opening for O’Connell will be Cape Cod fiddler **Rose Clancy** and her family.



Prince Edward Island trio Ten Strings and a Goatskin will appear as part of The Burren Backroom series on February 17.

On Feb. 17, Prince Edward Island band **Ten Strings and a Goatskin** will appear in the Backroom. The young trio of Jesse Périard and brothers Rowen Gallant and Caleb Gallant has garnered critical and public acclaim for its mix of traditional Irish, Acadian, and French music with original creations, which they flavor with modern and world rhythms. Another youthful musician, County Clare uilleann piper and concertina player **Tara Howley**, will make her Boston debut as the night’s opening act.

For tickets and other information, see burren.com/Backroom-Series.html.

• Hailed as “The Swanky Tenor,” Celtic Thunder charter member **Paul Byrom** will present “The Great Irish Songbook” on Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton. The Dublin native has forged a successful solo career since leaving Celtic Thunder in 2010, releasing the CD “This Is the Moment” and a DVD of his PBS special of the same name. The \$30 admission to Byrom’s concert includes a “meet-and-greet” opportunity. See irishculture.org.

• Club Passim’s Irish/Celtic offerings this month kick off with “The Pure Dead Fiddle Concert” on Feb. 11, led by fiddlers

**Hanneke Cassel** and **Lissa Schneckenburger** along with **Natalie Haas** (cello), **Keith Murphy** (guitar) and **Corey DiMario** (bass). These musicians, with strong connections to Boston and New England, play a range of traditions, including Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, French Canadian and New England, as well as their own material.

Also on tap at Passim is husband-wife duo **Matt and Shannon Heaton**, who will play on Feb. 20. Matt (guitar, bouzouki, vocals) and Shannon (flute, whistle, accordion, vocals) play Irish music devoted, as they say, “to strong traditional bones,”

but over the years have incorporated other material – including from Thailand and contemporary songwriters, such as themselves. Opening for the Heaton’s will be **Neil Pearlman**, a keyboard and mandolin player who masterfully ties together Scottish and Cape Breton music with jazz, funk and world-music influences.

**Lúnasa**, one of the most dynamic groups to emerge from Ireland over the past two decades, comes to Passim on Feb. 25. Kevin Crawford (flute, whistle), Sean Smyth (fiddle, whistle), Trevor Hutchinson (double bass), Ed Boyd (guitar) and Cillian Vallely (uilleann

pipes, whistle) have been celebrated for cultivating a sound marked by polished, tight playing that is full of passion and power.

The following night, Feb. 26, local quintet **Cat and the Moon** will be on stage at Passim. Its members – Kathleen Parks (fiddle), Ricky Mier (five-string banjo), Eamon Sefton (guitar), Elias Alexander (percussion, whistle, pipes) and Charles Berthoud (electric bass) – met at Berklee College of Music and established themselves as an exciting instrumental ensemble blending traditional bluegrass and Celtic music with jazz and other contemporary sounds.

For times, tickets and other information, see passim.org/calendar.

• **Altan**, another pioneering Irish group, comes to the Somerville Theater on Feb. 20. For almost 30 years, the band (Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, fiddle, vocals; Ciarán Curran, bouzouki; Ciaran Tourish, fiddle; Dáithí Sproule, guitar; Martin Tourish, accordion; Mark Kelly, guitar) has brought a fresh perspective to the Donegal music tradition that is at the core of their sound. Their most recent album, “The Widening Gyre,” saw them continue their explorations by collaborating with American/Appalachian musicians like Alison Brown, Tim O’Brien, and Mary Chapin Carpenter. See worldmusic.org for details.

• The Newton Free Library will host a concert on Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. with the Boston-area duo of **Colleen White** (flute, whistle, vocals) and **Sean Smith** (guitar, bouzouki, vocals), who will present “Love, True and/or False,” a nod to Valentine’s Day. The two will focus on songs of love, romance and courtship – happy, sad, comical, or otherwise – mainly from the Irish tradition. The concert is free. See newtonfreelibrary.net for directions.

• **Boston College Irish Dance**, the university’s undergraduate student ensemble, will hold its annual performance at BC’s Robsham Theater Arts Center on Feb. 25 and 26, at 7:30 p.m. The shows will feature traditional Irish dances as well as contemporary choreography, with special guests. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the Robsham Theater website, bc.edu/robsham.

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# Kieran Jordan steps smartly into world of multi-video

(Continued from page 1) for reels, Volume 2 looks at jigs.

This is the third video overall Jordan has produced: In 2008, she released "Secrets of the Sole," a documentary in which she interviewed and performed with two dancers she regards as major influences, Kevin Doyle and Aidan Vaughan.

Jordan is by no means the only Irish dance teacher who has turned to video as an instructional tool. But her experience serves to illuminate the continuing post-"Riverdance" popularity of Irish dance, and the role of technology in sustaining it in an era where distance-learning is becoming all the rage.

"There's no question about the impact of 'Riverdance,'" says Jordan, whose career as a full-time professional dancer, teacher, and choreographer began a few years after "Riverdance" first caught the public fancy (she graduated from Boston College in 1996, the same year the show had its North American debut). "Irish dance has changed a lot from the rather insular world I grew up with, and it is alive and well in many forms and stylistic expressions, whether it's large stage shows, or great solo dancing in the context of a band performance, or something smaller and more intimate – like a pub session or a house party. It's also grown in terms of academic research: There are an increasing number of places where you can do a serious study of Irish dance."

"I feel very fortunate to be in Boston, where there is so much interest and activity in Irish dance along so many lines."

As Jordan explains, part of the impetus for producing the "Musical Feet!" videos was simply meeting a demand. "I've constantly received requests for videos from Irish dance students, especially if they'd been to a special, 'one-off' workshop or class. A video can be a helpful tool for review."

Jordan also was mindful of those people who, while not necessarily dance students, might want some kind of introductory resource. "Sean-nos dancing, thought it's becoming more popular, is something you'll find in only a handful



Kieran Jordan in a scene from her new instructional DVD, with musicians Armand Aromin (left) and Benedict Gagliardi.

of cities, especially in the US," she explains. "There simply may not be access to a class on a regular basis. So I thought a video could be a way for someone to at least learn about sean-nos and what it's about, to try it out at their own pace – with the possibility of someday being able to take part in a class or workshop."

"At the same time, I wanted to give people – whether experienced or not – the option to stream or download instead of buying the whole DVD. So now, someone can sample one of the modules to see if it's what they want, and then have the choice of trying more." Jordan says she gets orders "from all over the world."

She has enjoyed using video as a medium, and found it an educational experience for herself. "It looks like a small production, but it's pretty involved and complicated – we use two cameras and theatrical lighting, and that means finding the right angles and the proper amount of illumination to get the shots we want."

"One thing I learned was to get more help on the production side, such as lighting and costume, even getting my hair done – those things you may not think are important. A live performance is one thing, but in a video whatever

you do is multiplied and highlighted: For example, I had quite a few people point out to me that, in one video, the shoelaces on one of my dance shoes were frayed; you could see that whenever we did a close-up shot of my feet."

Jordan says she tries to approach her teaching on video much the same way as she does in person – at some junctures during "Musical Feet!" you can see her working with a small group of dancers, as she does in her studio.

"There are many different philosophies and stylistic things to consider in sean-nos and other Irish dance, so I try to anticipate the questions that may come up, based on my experiences with students," she says. "But the main thing I want to get across when I teach is that in sean-nos, improvisation is very important. And even though I am providing instruction, I want to convey how critical it is for a dancer to find his or her own creative way."

Another hallmark of Jordan's videos has been her recruitment of respected area musicians like George Keith, Sean Gannon, and Amanda Cavanaugh to play for her dancing; for the new volume of "Musical Feet!" she asked Rhode Islanders Armand Aromin and Benedict Gagliardi (who perform as The Vox-

hunters) to sit in. The two are often in the shot as they play during many of the sequences in which Jordan demonstrates steps, and they also can be seen at rest while she is talking, as is the case with the musicians in the earlier videos. And that's as it should be, Jordan says.

"The relationship between dancer and musician is so important, and I felt the videos I make should underscore that by having the players be visible. I was very happy to have Armand and Bene-

dict join me for this one: Armand is himself a wonderful sean-nos dancer, and Benedict has a profound interest in how the dances and the music fit together. Our rehearsals were a lot of fun, talking about the dances and which tunes they should play."

"As with the other musicians who've played with me, this was a true partnership, and it felt very natural to have them there in the shot, even when there was no dancing at the time."

Jordan is currently fin-

ishing up another project, a 15-track CD of music for set dances, including popular ones such as "The Blackbird" and "Garden of the Daisies." Jordan, whose dancing will be featured on three of tracks, worked with musicians Sean Clohessy – a fiddler in the Boston area – Sean McComiskey, Matt Mulqueen, and Josh Dukes on selecting and arranging the tunes.

For more information about "Musical Feet!" see Jordan's website, [kieran-jordan.com](http://kieran-jordan.com).

## The County Donegal Association, Boston

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5-11 pm



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CD Reviews

By Sean Smith

**Oisín Mac Diarmada with Samantha Harvey, “The Green Branch”** • There are “power couples” in business and politics, so why not Irish music? Oisín Mac Diarmada is universally touted as one of the leading Irish fiddlers to come along in the past couple of decades, a co-founder of the band Téada and part of a duo with bandmate Seamus Begley. Samantha Harvey’s got a pretty impressive resume, too: In addition to her talents as pianist and accordionist, she’s an accomplished stepdancer, and she has performed internationally with Téada, “Irish



Christmas in America,” and Tomásean Foley’s “A Celtic Christmas.” As of last month, they’ve been married a year, and “The Green Branch” is quite the keepsake of their first 12 months together as husband and wife.

The album is nominally a showcase for Mac Diarmada and his Sligo fiddle style – known for its light, bouncy character and “lift” – which would be enough right there to recommend it. But the classically trained Harvey shows herself very well-suited to accompany traditional Irish music on piano: She strikes an ideal balance in laying down a rhythm that complements rather than commands or commandeers the melody; she also varies her chord voicings in a way that makes her backing agile and melodic.

This combination makes for a multitude of exquisite moments on “The Green Branch.” Listen to their interplay on, for instance, the jig set “Mixing the Punch/

Both Meat and Drink” – taken at a lusciously leisurely pace – or the medley of hornpipes, “Céad Bliain Ag Fas” (a Mac Diarmada original) and Charlie Lennon’s “Salthill Hornpipe.” Mac Diarmada is in particularly fine form unaccompanied on the set dance “The Ace and Deuce of Piping,” leading into the James Kelly tune “Sarah Kelley’s,” which provides a sterling example of Harvey’s chording. Yes, there is plenty of up-tempo stuff here, too, such as the trio of reels – “Miss Monahan’s/Vincent Harrison’s (another Lennon piece)/Woman of the House” – that concludes the album. (Just for good measure, Harvey’s stepdancing gets a turn in the spotlight during a medley of tunes composed by Mac Diarmada in tribute to Sligo fiddler James Morrison.)

The couple that plays together, stays together, so they say – and Irish music aficionados will be very happy if Mac Diarmada and Harvey do both.

**Battlefield Band and guests, “Beg & Borrow”**

• That Ireland and Scotland have many common threads in their respective music traditions is one of those truisms people seem to know intuitively, yet can often overlook or underappreciate. So a recording project specifically dedicated to pointing this out is welcome indeed, especially considering the talent assembled: Scotland’s venerable Battlefield Band, with 12 special guests (the 12 is no random number – it’s the number of



miles between Ireland and Scotland at their closest distance from each other) from the Irish and Scottish music scene, including New York City’s Tony DeMarco, Nuala Kennedy, Christine Primrose, Alison Kinnaird, Aaron Jones and Mike Whellans. Also among them is

Robin Morton, who is not only the album’s producer and founder of the Temple Records label through which it’s been released, but also a former charter member of the Boys of the Lough – a band founded on the principle of Irish-Scottish musical ties.

There are more than a few revelations on “Beg & Borrow” (the title is a sly reference to the interplay between the Irish and Scottish traditions), especially for those whose dominant impression of the Battlefield Band is their 1980s-90s incarnations, when they were known, among other things, for pairing synthesizers and other electric keyboards with Highland bagpipes and fiddle, and for covering Creedence Clearwater Revival’s “Bad Moon Rising” – all of which they pulled off with singular taste and ingenuity. The group has had a complete turnover in personnel over time – the last remaining co-founder Alan Reid, player of those aforementioned keyboards, departed in 2010 – and is now a trio of some geographic diversity: Sean O’Donnell (vocals, guitar) from Derry; Alasdair White (fiddle, banjo, whistle) from the Isle of Lewis; and Mike Katz (bagpipes, whistle, guitar, bouzouki, bass) from Los Angeles.

These three prove to be worthy successors to the Battlefield Band legacy, and along with their guests, have judiciously assembled a collection of tunes and songs that demonstrate very well the dimensions of the Irish-Scottish musical bond, as explained in the invaluable liner notes.

Some connections are fairly obvious and straightforward: For example, the four-reel set with Co. Tyrone melodeon player Leo McCann (formerly of the Scottish band Malinky) is a nod to John Doherty, the noted fiddler from Donegal, which has well-documented Scottish influences in its music; another set with McCann includes tunes taken from Allen Feldman and Eamonn O’Doherty’s “The Northern Fiddler,” a landmark collection of tunes and reminiscences from musicians in Donegal and Tyrone; Kennedy and Primrose, meanwhile, team up for a gorgeous rendition of the classic Jacobite song “An Gille Mear (The Gallant Lad),” originally in Irish Gaelic but translated here by Primrose into Scottish Gaelic, a lament for Bonnie Prince Charlie – whose efforts at securing Scottish independence were viewed with no small sympathy by many Irish. Primrose also sings her Gaelic translation for a verse in O’Donnell’s performance of “The Blantyre Explosion,” about the horrendous Scottish mining disaster that claimed the lives of Irish as well as Scottish laborers.

Other instances of the Irish-Scottish rapport on “Beg & Borrow” are perhaps more obscure, and quite fascinating. A set featuring Whellans on harmonica begins with the well-traveled “McCarthy’s Quickstep,” collected by Co. Kerry piper James Goodman but also found in Scotland, England and even the US (“The Gettysburg March”) and then proceeds – with Whellan switching to rhythm behind Katz’s small pipes – to “The Drunken Piper,” a mainstay for Scottish pipers and dance band musicians but also played by Doherty (his name crops up a lot here) as a march. Fiddler John Martin (who played with pioneering 1970s Scottish band Ossian) cameos on a medley that opens with “The Braes of Mar,” a strathspey in Scotland that may be recognizable to Irish listeners as “Love Will You Marry Me” or “Some Say the Devil’s Dead”; it’s also played as a polka in the south of Ireland and has a Quebecois relation, “La Belle Catherine.” DeMarco and harmonica player Don Meade unite with the band for a Sliabh Luachra version of a tune found in Ulster but originating from Scotland – fiddler Kevin Burke translated the title from Irish as “The Whole Chicken in the Soup” – then proceed into a couple of reels, the first of which is the familiar “Fairy Reel,” associated with the likes of Nathaniel Gow and Willie Clancy. Morton shows up on bodhran and backing vocals for “The Mickey Dam,” a song – about a beleaguered Irishman’s response to workplace harassment – that’s been a fixture in Glasgow’s Irish community.

Of course, you’re certainly free to pass up the sociological dimension of the album and just listen to it for its own sake. But a little education can be fun, you know – and it can be quite enlightening to realize that the tune or song you’re sure was thoroughly Irish was also enjoyed by the tartan-clad folks across the Irish Sea. [You can learn more about the project at begandborrow.net.]

**The New England Irish Harp Ensemble, “Another County Heard From”** • New Hampshire-based Regina Delaney has done yeoman’s work as a performer and teacher in preserving the music of the Irish harp, and sharing it far and wide around New England. This is the first CD by the New England Irish Harp Ensemble, a sub-group of the New England Harp Orchestra that she established in 2005. Delaney and her five cohorts – Marci Richardson, Donna Cerny, Raymond Mark, Mary Paul, and Pat Ford – play several tunes from Irish tradition, including the requisite Turlough O’Carolan composition (“Hewlett’s”) and the session standard “The Rights of Man,” but also mix in a number of contemporary pieces by notable musicians like Maeve Gilchrist, Aidan O’Rourke, Jim Sutherland and Boston resident Shannon Heaton; Scottish, Appalachian, Scandinavian and classical influences crop up over the course of the CD’s 17 tracks. The sound of six harps is mesmerizing, of course, but don’t let your attention waver too much or you’ll miss some fine musicianship, such as their improvisations on Tommy Potts’ “The Butterfly,” the harmonies on Gilchrist’s expressive “Ladies of the Day,” or their deft handling of Sutherland’s “Easy Club Reel.” You can order copies or find out more at neiho.org.



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A (very) young festival-goer relaxed as The Kelly Girls led a song at BCMFest.



The 13th annual Boston Celtic Music Fest (BCMFest) took place in Harvard Square on January 8 and 9, featuring area performers of Irish, Scottish and Cape Breton music, song and dance. BCMFest is a program of Passim, which hosted some of the festival events in its Club Passim venue; others took place in The Atrium on Church Street and First Parish Church. BCMFest will hold its summer festival in July, and return for a 14th year in January of 2017.





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# How Much Money Will You Need In Retirement?

*Have you underestimated?*

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

**What is enough?** If you’re considering retiring in the near future, you’ve probably heard or read that you need about 70% of your end salary to live comfortably in retirement. This estimate is frequently repeated ... but that doesn’t mean it is true for everyone. It may not be true for you. Consider the following factors:



**Health.** Most of us will face a major health problem at some point in our lives. Think, for a moment, about the costs of prescription medicines, and recurring treatment for chronic ailments.

These costs can really take a bite out of retirement income, even with a great health care plan.

**Heredity.** If you come from a family where people frequently live into their 80s and 90s, you may live as long or longer. Imagine retiring at 55 and living to 95 or 100. You would need 40-45 years of steady retirement income.

**Portfolio.** Many people retire with investment portfolios they haven’t reviewed in years, with asset allocations that may no longer be appropriate. New retirees sometimes carry too much risk in their portfolios, with the result being that the retirement income from their investments fluctuates wildly with the vagaries of the market. Other retirees are super-conservative investors: their portfolios are so risk-averse that they can’t earn enough to keep up with even moderate inflation, and over time, they find they have less and less purchasing power.

**Spending habits.** Do you only spend 70% of your salary? Probably not. If you’re like many Americans, you probably spend 90% or 95% of it. Will your spending habits change drastically once you retire? Again, probably not.

**Will you have enough?** When it comes to retirement income, a casual assumption may prove to be woefully inaccurate. You won’t learn how much retirement income you’ll need by reading this article. Consider meeting with a qualified financial professional who can help estimate your lifestyle needs and short-term and long-term expenses.

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. Tel: 617.439.4389

# Taoiseach asks voters to let him keep his program on track in 2016

(Continued from page 1)

**Q.** Isn’t that what the October budget was about?  
**A.** We’ve set out a very clear long-term strategy that is prudent, that is fiscally responsible and that is in the best interest of the country both from an infrastructure investment point of view and from a service point of view. Now, I see the economy not as some sort of entity in itself. It’s really an engine to provide the resources to invest in services for people, and jobs are the best way out of austerity, jobs are the best way out of poverty, and we set out a plan just this week for a further 200,000 jobs between here and 2020, but to bring back 70,000 of the young people who left and are working in other economies at the moment, come back with that experience to jobs that pay well and that are demonstrated to pay well.  
So the tax situation in the budget in October is fiscally very responsible, but is based on optimistic figures for the next period, and one thing that we’ve learned from the past lessons is that we are now controlling public expenditure. In the past, it followed growth up, but this time it’s being controlled, kept at 4 percent, so it’s below the underlying rate of growth, which means that that cushion is always there.

**Q.** The money that you spent there, though, in order to finance those tax receipts, was corporation tax income. When we look at the US multinationals, the valuations in the tax sector, the strong dollar, is there not a concern actually that the backdrop of the economy is not going to allow the money to come in this year to finance that? Is it responsible?  
**A.** Well, the indications are that the corporate tax rates will be able to continue, and we’re very clear about that. Our tax rate as you know is 12.5 percent. It doesn’t move up, it doesn’t move down, it’s across all sectors in all areas of the company, and we have introduced the knowledge box at 6.25 percent, the first OECD fully compliant knowledge box for qualifying research and innovation funds, so we are very happy that the extent of taxation will continue from the corporate sector. Remember, we’ve got 1,000 multinationals in Ireland with a cauldron of innovation and research going on.  
**Q.** Yes, but while we’re on the tech sector, are you

worried that Donald Trump might damage Ireland’s technology leadership? He’s saying things like Apple should bring all its manufacturing home, technology companies should bring back to America what’s American. Do you think he’s going to hurt Ireland?  
**A.** It’s a matter for the American people who they elect when the candidates emerge from the Democratic and Republican sides. It’s also a matter for the American government to deal with its taxation policy. We have no control over that, but we are very clear what our taxation policy is.  
**Q.** It’s surely a concern, though?  
**A.** Well, I wouldn’t presume to assume the result of the Republican nomination, or the Democratic nomination, or the result of the American election, that is a matter entirely for the American people, and clearly, obviously, whoever they elect, you’ve got to deal with that administration then.  
**Q.** When is the election in Ireland?  
**A.** It’s in the next number of weeks. We’re going to have the election early in spring, I said that last November, so that’s when we’re going to have it. So people know this. ... I’d like to think that the people will give us the continued trust and confidence to finish the job that they gave us, which was to fix our public finances and to put our country back to work. We still have many challenges up ahead, but we put in place a very good platform for the future and continue to manage that successfully in the people’s interest. So they’ll have their say in a few weeks’ time.



## Save the Date!

### The Eire Society of Boston


Cordially Invites You to the  
**79<sup>th</sup> Annual Gold Medal Dinner**

**Honoring Mary P. McAleese**  
**President of Ireland (1997- 2011)**


**Saturday evening, April 2, 2016**  
**Omni Parker House, Boston**

*The Eire Society of Boston annually honors a person or persons who exemplify the best of Irish culture and ideals. On the occasion of our 79th anniversary, we are proud to honor President McAleese for her contributions to Irish culture on both sides of the Atlantic.*

*In the coming weeks, more information will be forthcoming on this elegant and prestigious event. For more information on Eire Society of Boston programs and events, contact Barbara S. Fitzgerald, ESB Corresponding Secretary, at [barbara.s.fitzgerald@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.s.fitzgerald@gmail.com).*



Mary P. McAleese served as the eighth President of Ireland from 1997 to 2011. She was the second female president and the first from Northern Ireland. She earned a Law degree from Queen's University Belfast in 1973 and today remains a member of the Irish Bar. McAleese described her presidency as "building bridges," regularly visiting Northern Ireland during her two terms. Throughout her career, she received numerous awards and honorary doctorates, and is a member of the Council of Women World Leaders, an international network of current and former women presidents and prime ministers who seek to mobilize the highest-level women leaders for collective action on global issues of critical importance to women.



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# Focus of IAP breakfast is on women as leaders



Top row L-R: Ambassador David O’Sullivan, Ambassador Melanne Vermeer, Partnership Executive Director Mary Sugrue, Monique Choiniere, Susan Davis, Mary Mellor; bottom row L-R: Mary Robinson, Ambassador Anne Anderson, and Nick Robinson at the Partnership’s Nollaig na mBan Celebration.

The Irish American Partnership (IAP) kicked off the 1916 centennial, a pivotal year in Irish history, with its annual Nollaig na mBan Breakfast Celebration in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 6, the day of Nollaig na mBan in Ireland.

Over the past four years, The Irish American Partnership has been re-inventing the Irish tradition of Nollaig na mBan, or “Little Women’s Christmas,” by highlighting female leaders who have made an impact in their communities.

While the origins of the celebration harken back to rural Ireland, when families would express thanks for women’s labor over the holiday season by sending them off to the pubs for a day of festivities with their



Mary Robinson speaking at the breakfast.

mothers, sisters, and friends, the Partnership has reclaimed the day as a broader celebration of women’s contributions to society.

Keynote Speaker Mary Robinson delivered remarks on the importance of women in leadership roles, reflecting on her term as president of Ireland and UN High Commissioner of Human Rights, and her own experience with Nollaig na mBan.

The Partnership donated \$12,000 to the Mary Robinson Centre, Ireland’s first Presidential Library and Museum, located in Ballina, Co. Mayo. The Centre will serve as a permanent reminder of the importance of female leaders in Ireland’s history.

# JFK birthplace will be open during Presidents’ Day Week

The John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site in Brookline will open for the week of Presidents’ Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., beginning on Mon., Feb. 15, and closing on Fri., Feb. 19. Guided tours of JFK’s birthplace will be available throughout the day on the hour and the half hour.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy NHS preserves the 1917 birthplace and early boyhood home of the 35th President of the United States. The modest house was the first home shared

by the president’s parents, Joseph P. and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy. JFK, the second of nine children, spent his formative years in Brookline as his family began its rise to national prominence. In 1967, Mrs. Kennedy returned to 83 Beals Street to commemorate her son’s life, recreating his birthplace to her recollection of its 1917 appearance.

Today, National Park Rangers provide tours of the nine-room house where Kennedy family furnishings, photographs,

and mementos personally collected and arranged by the president’s mother are on exhibit. In addition to ranger-guided tours, John Fitzgerald Kennedy NHS invites visitors to step back in time and share Mrs. Kennedy’s memories of her family’s early home via cell phone; normal usage rates apply. To access the tour, dial 617-992-9172. The tour can also be accessed via the web at <http://myoncell.mobi/16179929172>.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy NHS is located just

outside Coolidge Corner at 83 Beals Street. The site is a ½ mile-walk from the Coolidge Corner T-Stop (Green Line, C-Cleveland Circle). Free on-street parking is available on Beals Street for up to two (2) hours.

For more information please call (617) 566-7937, or visit [nps.gov/jofi](http://nps.gov/jofi).

At right, 83 Beals Street, Joseph and Rose Kennedy’s first home, and JFK’s birthplace in May 1917.



## The President and Board of Directors of The Charitable Irish Society

Cordially invite you to attend the  
279th St. Patrick’s Day Dinner

Save the Date

March 17, 2016

Omni Parker House Hotel, Boston



Diarmaid Ferriter  
Featured Speaker



# The Burren offers entrancing views, and lots more

By JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

What? Orchids grow wild in Ireland? Well, sure. In fact, there are about 27 native orchid species that grow in Ireland and more than 20 of those are found in the Burren in Co. Clare, on the Wild Atlantic Way on the West Coast.

**MOONSCAPE**

If you haven't been there, the Burren should definitely be on the agenda for your next Irish visit. With more than 150 square miles of surreal and magical moonscape close to the coast, the Burren is also handy to fun, interesting towns like Lisdoonvarna, Kinvara, Ballyvaughan, and Doolin, where there are numerous great places to stay, from B&Bs to castles, and also many excellent pubs and restaurants and lots of things to do.

As you drive along the coast, the Burren rises up in the distance as you leave Ballyvaughan and from beside the road as you approach Doolin. At first glance, the Burren looks like hills of dull, gray stone. But when you get out of your car and walk among those stones, you will see an incredible floral display of lovely blue gentians, bright pink thrift (also called seapinks), yellow Marsh Marigold and white Woodruff, to name just a few. You don't have to be a botanist or even a gardener to appreciate the beauty of the varieties growing there or to marvel at Arctic/Alpine flowers growing alongside Mediterranean species.

## ORCHIDS AND MORE

And then there are the orchids! The early purple orchid starts the blooming season in April and we've seen them along roads and in meadows everywhere in the Burren. They are abundant and stunning. In September, Autumn Lady's Tresses end the annual run.

The Burren has slightly less than 0.5 percent of Ireland's land mass but it has more than 70 percent of the country's native plants, which support an assortment of wildlife, including feral goats, pine martens, and butterflies. In addition to flora and fauna, the Burren is a treasure trove for archaeologists. More than 500 ring forts and Neolithic tombs have been identified there. Perhaps the most famous dolmen (portal tomb) is Poul nabrone, which attracts many visitors to the area.

One group we've supported is the Burrenbeo Trust ([burrenbeo.com](http://burrenbeo.com)) in Kinvara, which is Ireland's first landscape charity and promotes and supports the sustainable management and use of the Burren and its heritage. Individual memberships are 40 euro each and support efforts to protect this national treasure. An online shop sells books, maps, and postcards; you can buy a membership there, too. I did buy a membership several years ago because I support this group's



Beautiful blue gentians grow between rocks in the Burren, Co. Clare, in the spring.



Sea pinks, also known as Thrift, grow wild amidst the Burren rocks in Co. Clare.

mission and wanted to support the preservation of the Burren, but I let my membership lapse. Will have to rectify that this year!

Nearby is the Burren National Park, the smallest of six national parks in Ireland. The visitor center is in Corofin, Co. Clare. And if you're in Lisdoonvarna, be sure to stop in at the Burren Smokehouse for some of their extraordinary smoked salmon (also available at Shannon Airport.)

**BURREN CENTER**

Another worthwhile attraction is the Burren Center in Kilfenora, which has fascinating displays all around the area. While you're there, be sure to watch the beautiful video by the late wildlife film producer Eamon de Buitlear. His images trace the formation of the Burren 320 million years ago. The video alone is well worth the price of admission. There is a tearoom and craft shop on site, too. The Center closes for the winter but reopens on March 11 for the 2016 season.

Next door to the Center is the magnificent medieval Kilfenora Cathedral. Known as "City of Seven Crosses," Kilfenora has one of the greatest concentrations of high crosses in Ireland, including the famed "Doorty Cross." If you are interested in studying art, the Burren College of Art certainly offers a wide array of courses. Learn more at



Boston is one of many towns in the Burren region of Co. Clare.

## burrencollege.ie BURREN CHOCOLATES

Would you expect to find delicious chocolates being made in the rugged hills of the Burren? Well, like a lot of other hidden surprises about Ireland, there is a wonderful chocolate factory in Oughtmama, Bellharbour – eight minutes down the coast from Kinvara and 35 minutes from Galway City.

Hazel Mountain Chocolate ([hazelmountainchocolate.com](http://hazelmountainchocolate.com)) offers dark chocolate made in small batches from Trinitario cacao beans and raw cane sugar and milk chocolate with Irish milk from grass-fed cows.

A friend in Mayo had been to Clare and told us about the chocolates last spring. If you have even the tiniest sweet tooth, we defy you to stop at Hazel Mountain without stocking up. We brought home numerous bars and boxes

of the lovely and delicious chocolate.

The website says Hazel Mountain chocolate begins with a "team of chocolate makers ... hand roasting, cracking and winnowing cacao beans before stone grinding for 40 hours. We then age our chocolate for further 3 weeks before our chocolatiers create our award winning range of bean to bar chocolates. You just can't rush the process of making the world's best chocolate." We have to agree that the chocolate is very, very good.

There's a farm-to-fork café on site and you can arrange to take a 45-minute tour through the various stages of chocolate making, followed by a yummy tasting session. Tours are available Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. For details, [info@hazelmountainchocolate.com](mailto:info@hazelmountainchocolate.com)

## MCCAMBRIDGE'S BREAD



One of 28 species of native orchids that grow wild in The Burren in Co. Clare.



Making candy in the Burren, Co. Clare.  
Judy Enright photos

It's probably a wonder that between chocolate and bread, I don't weigh 600 pounds! I absolutely love McCambridge's bread and am always excited to get into an Irish market to buy it so I can enjoy my favorite lunch of smoked salmon on buttered McCambridge's wholewheat soda bread. It's always disheartening to get home and not be able to find it at the local grocery store.

I emailed McCambridge's to say how much I enjoyed their bread and received an email from Michael McCambridge recently saying, "Just to let you know we have introduced a McCambridge Bake at Home kit. It is

available in the USA at [foodireland.com](http://foodireland.com). You can view the product in a short video on our website at [mccambridge.ie](http://mccambridge.ie)."

There are many, many Irish products on the excellent Food Ireland site, including McCambridge's wholewheat, spelt, and seeded bake-at-home bread kits!! Take a look and have fun!

**TRAVEL**

Enjoy Ireland whenever and wherever you go, and keep an eye out for all the commemorative events that are being prepared around the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. This will surely be a banner year for travel to Ireland!



# The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

In our study of Irish “**irregular**” **verbs** recall that there are only eleven or twelve – depending on how you count the “defective verbs” **is**, the **copula verb** “be” which has no **future tense**, and **bi**, the descriptive verb “be. Many of these “**irregular verbs**” are the most common verbs in all languages – “to be, to do, to get”. etc. So far we have reviewed **abair** to speak” and feic “to see”.

Why is is called a **copula**? It is used only to “link” or “equal” two states such as **Is Seán garda**, “John equals policeman.” (Think of our verb “copulate” to express “joining”). **Bi** on the other hand is used to describe a more temporary state or condition such as **Tá fuar inniú**, “It is cold today”.

Let’s practice these two verbs. In which case would you use **is** or **bi**?

- 1.) “Seán is tall.” 2.) “Where will you be tomorrow?” 3.) “Today is beautiful.” 4.) “That’s true.” 5.) “Are you thirsty, too?” 6.) “What time is it?” 7.) “Nóra is a teacher.” 8.) “Was the plate broken?” 9.) “Nóra is studying to be a teacher.” 10.) “I’m hungry.”
- 2.)
- Answers: **Is** – 1, 4, 7, 8. **Bi** – 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10.

One “**irregular**” verb listed in many, if not all, grammars and dictionaries as “**irregular**”, is the verb **beir**, “to be born” or “to lay an egg”. Yet only one of **beir**’s forms is used much. Unless you are speaking metaphorically, you only need to know one use of **beir**, that is when someone asks you, **Cén bhliain a rugadh tú?**, “When were you born?” **Beir**, “to be born” or “to lay eggs” is only “irregular” in the **definite past tense**. In some dialects **rugadh** /ROOK-uh/ is simply **rug** /rook/, **Cén bliain rug tú?**

The trick lies in the answer – **Rugadh I 1999 mé**, /ROOK-ah ee NYN-teen NYN-tee NEYN BLEE-uhn mey/ “I was born in 1999.” Remember, when you count beyond “ten” you have to split the number up. However, when it comes to long numbers, Irish speakers usually go to English and then switch back to Irish. We linguists call this “code switching” and it is not unusual in true bilinguals, especially with difficult or awkward words. A friend of mine’s mother from Argentina “code switches” in the middle of sentences when we are speaking Spanish together. To say “1999” in Irish one must say “nine teen four twenty year nine”. Notice that you must keep the **noun** – in this case “year” – **singular** even if it is with a **plural** meaning.

Now, for the next “**irregular**” verb. **déan** /jen/, “do” or “make”. This is not to be confused with the English auxiliary “do” which is our way of vocalizing **tense** or in the set phrase, “How do you do?” in place of, “How are you?” when first meeting a person.

**Déan**, as in many Irish **verbs**, is truly “irregular” only in the **definite past tense**.

Present: **déanaim, déanann tú, sé, sí, sibh, siad** but **déanaimid** “we do”

Past Definite: **rinne mé,tú, sé, sí, sibh, siad** but **rinneamar** “we did”.

Future: **déanfaidh mé, tú, sé, sí, sibh, siad** but **déanfaimid** “we will do”

Déan is also used in a number of idioms, the most common include:

<b>Déan</b>	“establish” or “carry out”
<b>Déan airgead</b>	“Make/earn money”
<b>Déan do rogha rud</b>	“Do as X wishes”
<b>Déanfaidh sé múinteoirmaith.</b>	“He will make a good teacher.”
<b>An talamh a dhéanamh</b>	“to reach land”
<b>Déan amach</b>	“make out / distinguish”
<b>Déan as X</b>	“to make / construct out of X”
<b>A mhór a dhéanamh do rud</b>	“to make the most of”

Now, referring to these, see if you can translate these sentences into Irish:

1.) “The boat reached land?” 2.) “I’m Bill.” 3.) “Do as you wish!” 4.) “She will make much money.” 5.) “It’s very warm today.” 6, “How much is it?” 7.) “The jersey was made out of wool (olann). 8.) “Peter will make a good priest. 9.) “What is your name?” 10.) “The weather is very fine today.” 11.) “Mary is very pretty.” 12.) “It was very cold last night.”

- 1.) **Bhí an mbád an talamh a dhéanamh.** 2.) **’S mise Liam.** 3.) **Déan tú do rogha rud.** 4.) **Déanfaidh sí mórán airgead.** 5.) **Tá sé an-bhlath inniú.** 6.) **Cá mhéad atá air?** 7.) **Rinné an geansaí as olann.** 8.) **Déanfaidh Peadar sagart maith.** 9.) **Cén t-ainm atá ort?** 10.) **Tá an aimsir go breá inniú.** 11.) **Tá Mairi go hálainn.** 12.) **Bhí go fhuar aréir.**



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FEBRUARY 2016			social-club/ Silver Spears Fenian Sons Co. Roscommon Association Annual St. Patrick’s Dinner 5 pm. \$40. Call Richie Gormley at 617-327-7777 . Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton Noel Henry’s Irish Showband Emmet Cahill from Celtic Thunder. Meet and Greet SOLD OUT. Show tickets are \$30. Doors open at 7:30 pm. Contact <a href="http://www.emmetcahill.com/tour-dates/">http://www.emmetcahill.com/tour-dates/</a> Mossie Coughlin Lenny Clarke and Friends Comedy Show. Contact Joe Finn at joeker finn3@verizon.net Fintan Stanley Members Meeting at 7:30 pm. Bring your membership card for admittance.
6 Saturday	Pub Night with Boston’s Erin Og – Free Admission CLOSED: SUPER BOWL SUNDAY	6 Sunday 11 Friday 12 Saturday	
7 Sunday 14 Sunday 18 Thursday	Denis Curtin Paint Party and Irish Trivia Night: 7 pm until 9 pm - \$40, \$15 to benefit the Irish Social Club. Call Johnny Costello at 617-678-7949.	13 Sunday 17 Thursday 18 Friday	
21 Sunday 28 Sunday	Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton Noel Henry’s Irish Show Band		
MARCH 2016			
4 Friday	Gentlemen’s Gym Youth matches. Call Kevin Kelleher at 617-680-3301.	20 Sunday 26 Saturday	
5 Saturday	Emmett O’Hanlon from Celtic Thunder at the Irish Social Club. For tickets please visit <a href="http://emmettohanlon.ticketleap.com/emmett-ohanlon-live-at-boston-irish-">http://emmettohanlon.ticketleap.com/emmett-ohanlon-live-at-boston-irish-</a>	27 Sunday 31 Thursday	

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