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The senator is preparing breakfast



Congressman Stephen F. Lynch and Rep. Nick Collins joined State Senator Linda Dorcena Forry and Dorchester's Donna Gittens, left, at Castle Island in South Boston on Sunday as the elected officials filmed video in preparation for the annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast. Forry will host the event on March 16.

Photo courtesy Sen. Forry's office



Yesteryear: Stephen Lynch, former Senate President Robert Travaglini, and former House Speaker Tom Finneran share a yuk. Right, time to dance outside the convention center last year.



History in the making: Dorcena Forry to host St. Patrick's Day fete

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

On Sun., March 16, the date of this year's traditional St. Patrick's Day Breakfast in South Boston, state Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry will make history. Her first turn as the host of the much-ballyhooed event will provide a political, cultural, and gender "hat trick" at a venue in South Boston that has always been where the Boston Irish "boyos" ruled the podium. As a Haitian American woman, a resident of Dorchester, and the first non-Irish-American host, Dorcena Forry will turn three stereotypes of the breakfast on their heads.

Dorcena Forry, who has been planning the program for her debut while working to raise the tens of thousands of dollars necessary to fund the event, said recently that Jack Hart, a former state senator from South Boston, and Congressman Stephen Lynch, also of South Boston, both of whom have been breakfast hosts, have been helpful to her in setting up the breakfast. "They have been key advisers and their teams have been stepping up to help my committee. So has Nick Collins as well," she said, referring to the South Boston state representative who was her rival last year in the election for the state Senate seat.

Like past hosts, Dorcena Forry has remained coy about details big and small ahead of the breakfast, a big one being the name or names of guests from outside the Massachusetts political world who will be attending, and a small one being the nature of the planned skits. "We're having fun, that's all I can say," she said, adding, "The set is going to change a little bit. Every host puts their own stamp on it."

Asked about the historic nature of her hosting, Dorcena Forry said, "This event has always embraced the idea that everybody is Irish on St. Patrick's Day." She and her husband, Bill Forry, the editor of the *Dorchester Reporter* and associate editor with the

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Rita O'Shea-Chaplin is celebrating 60 years of teaching Irish dance in the Boston area. Says her daughter Lisa, "she's not just a teacher, but a mentor and a friend." Story, Page 19.

Sean Smith photo

'A relaxed, easy-going St. Patrick's Day party'

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Alan Kelly, one of Ireland's most celebrated piano accordionists, will bring his "gang" to appear at this year's "A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn" concert, which will also feature Celtic/world music piper Carlos Nuñez, and concertina-fiddle duo Caitlín Nic Gabhann and Ciarán Ó Maonaigh.

In addition, the concert will showcase the musical and organizational talents of guitarist-pianist-vocalist

Presenting "A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn" in Worcester (March 14), Cambridge (March 15-16)

Keith Murphy, who has been the show's music director since 2012.

WGBH-FM's Brian O'Donovan will host the event, which takes its name and ethos from his weekly radio show "A Celtic Sojourn," with performances at Worcester's Hanover Theater (March 14) and the Harvard University Sanders Theater in Cambridge (March 15 and 16).

True to form – and much like its "Christmas Celtic Sojourn" cousin – the "St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn" explores Irish traditional music in a broad context, reaching even beyond Ireland itself. "Everyone's heard the saying that 'the whole world is Irish on St. Patrick's Day,'" says O'Donovan. "We take that to heart in this show. So

you'll hear the pure-drop traditional kind of Irish music, as well as other kinds that bring in more modern-day influences and styles – and then we reach farther outwards to other lands and cultures to show the common ties they have with Ireland.

"The other thing we've always made a point of

(Continued on page 21)

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Bridgewater State to host tribute to Seamus Heaney

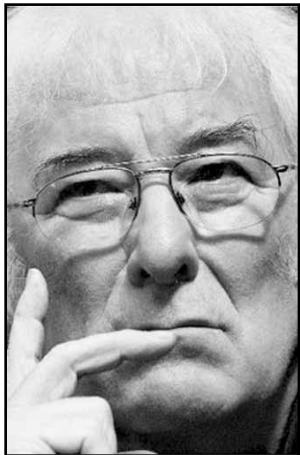
On Aug. 30 last year, the world lost one of its greatest literary figures, the poet, writer, and Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney. Although he hailed from Ireland, Heaney spent many years in the Boston/Cambridge area, a number of them as Harvard University's Boylston Professor. He made many friends in his years here, doing poetry readings and participating as a valued member

of the local community. He was a popular figure at many area universities, including Bridgewater State and Boston State, where he developed close and lasting friendships with students and faculty. Recently Bridgewater State University received a generous collection of Heaney's personal correspondence and memorabilia from retired BSU English professor Maureen Connelly, whose

friendship with Heaney dated back to the 1970s and continued until his passing. She introduced him to numerous people who became friends and admirers. On Sunday afternoon, April 13, which would have been Heaney's 75th birthday, Bridgewater State will host a tribute to him in the university's Conant Science Building auditorium from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. A reception

will follow featuring live Irish music, Irish-themed food and drinks and an exhibit of Heaney items from BSU's own special collection and from items owned privately. In keeping with the warm and generous spirit of the honoree, all are invited to attend this free event and share in his life and work as recalled by his friends. Speakers will include *Boston Globe* columnist and author Kevin

Cullen, UMass Boston English professor Shaun O'Connell, former Boston firefighter Bobby Breen, a Heaney friend whom Heaney immortalized in his poem *Helmet*. Members of the audience who knew or shared a friendship with the poet will be invited to participate in this roundtable style event prior to the reception. For more information, call 508-531-1389.



64 years later, 'Sister Evelyn' says goodbye to St. Brigid's

By JORDAN FRIAS
SPECIAL TO THE BIR
After 64 years of service to the St. Brigid's Parish neighborhood in South Boston, Sister Evelyn Hurley will say goodbye to the community on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, her 99th birthday, and retire to the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth's motherhouse in Kentucky where she began her journey into convent life 82 years ago.

"When I see them or hear their names, I can still picture how they looked at their first grade desk. In the beginning, just being with the children ... to me it was a real joy."

During those eight decades, Sr. Evelyn served and taught for some 20 years at the order's missions in Mississippi and Kentucky before being assigned for medical reasons to her home town, and St. Brigid's School, where was a classroom fixture for 45 years. She also taught at the old Nazareth School, which is now South Boston Catholic Academy, before her retirement in 1995. Of that long stretch, she noted, "When you were assigned to a place, you didn't know if you would be there for 10, 20 years." Sr. Evelyn is the last nun from the community of Sisters of Charity of

Nazareth in South Boston that first set up shop in a convent on M Street and East Broadway 102 years ago. Asked why she is retiring now, she said, "It is the right time. There's a time for everything," she said. "Although I have great health, thank God, at age 99, a lot of people that age don't have the health I have." The oldest of four girls, Evelyn was born in South Boston, but moved around with her family during her childhood, living in Quincy and Roxbury, among other places. After entering the convent at age 17, completing the order's religious and educational requirements, and receiving her habit, she took the name Sister Alice William (the first names of her mother and father) before she left for her assignment in the missions in the South. Her father, William, who was popularly known as Bill Hurley during his 20 years in office as a Boston City Councillor, later opened a restaurant in the neighborhood, Billy Hurley's Log Cabin. Sr. Evelyn said she decided to go back to her baptismal name in the 1960's. "I asked my parents and they said I should change it since you use your legal name for voting and things like that. It's easier really," she said. She and her youngest sister, Carol Chemlen of Bedford, Massachusetts,



Sister Evelyn Hurley: After 64 years, a fond adieu

are the only surviving members of their original family. Sr. Evelyn said her sister regrets that she will be leaving South Boston after retirement, but understands why she is doing it. "She wants what's best for me." "We talk a lot and see each other quite often." In retirement, Sr. Evelyn plans to keep herself busy. "Whatever little job I can do, I will do it," she said. There will be "a lot of time for prayer" and crocheting while she is at the Congregation. What she's going to miss most about South Boston are its people. She said she sees a lot of her former students or "pupils" at church gatherings, functions, and funerals. "When I see them or hear their names, I can still picture how they looked at their first grade desk," adding, "In the beginning, just being with the children ... to me it was a real joy." A dinner reception in honor of Sister Evelyn will be held March 8 at South Boston Catholic Academy after a Mass of Thanksgiving.

Irish American Art and Music Foundation launches tour to the sounds of Uncle Bing

By ED FORRY
BIR PUBLISHER
The historic M. Steinert & Sons piano retail showroom at 162 Boylston Street across from Boston Common was the setting of a private musical concert last month to mark the Boston launch of the Irish American Art and Music Foundation.

The foundation was established in 2011 by Howard Crosby, a nephew of the late Irish American crooner Bing Crosby, and Ireland's Terence Browne, the brother of Boston attorney Aidan Browne. The two men sang and played in the first half of a 75-minute concert, with Crosby singing some Irish American treasures from his Uncle Bing's songbook, accompanied by Browne on piano. After a brief intermission, Crosby brought on a woman ensemble, Affiniti, featuring three classically trained master musicians: Irish soprano Emer Barry, harpist Aisling Ennis, and violist Mary McCague. The early evening hour program, sponsored by the Irish American Partnership, was followed by a wine and cheese reception centered among an array of Steinway pianos on the store's fourth floor showroom. The Feb. 6 concert was the first stop in an inaugural "Harry McKillop Irish Spirit tour," which was followed by three subsequent performances in Texas from Feb. 8 to 11. "Bing Crosby said that he started a love affair with his ancestral Ireland and its music upon hear-



Howard Crosby, nephew of the late Irish American crooner Bing Crosby, is flanked by Boston attorney Aidan Browne (left) and his brother Terry Browne following a February 6 performance at M. Steinert & Sons Boston offices.

ing John McCormack sing 'The Rose of Tralee' on his father's gramophone at the start of the 20th century," Howard Crosby explained in an accompanying program. "The Foundation will revisit the works of these Irish American masters and others to help keep them alive in the hearts and minds of the coming generations." A shared love for the game of golf bonded Howard Crosby and his late uncle, but a love for music discovered in later life has seen the nephew attempt to emulate the legendary crooner. The Crosby ancestors emigrated from Schull, Co. Cork, in 1870, and there was always a strong tradition of music in the family. Howard, however, didn't take up singing until later life, and is a successful businessman in his own right. "As I like to tell people, if your uncle is Bing Crosby, you need to find another line of work, which I did," said Howard. "I started

singing in a church choir when I was in my mid-20s, and the next thing you know they had made a soloist out of me and pretty soon after that I was singing and performing more and more. I will say that it is true that anywhere I sing some of his songs, it is in the same key as Uncle Bing, so let's just leave it at that," he said. Included among the foundation's current projects is the establishment of a retrospective exhibition based on the life and works of Irish-American artists John and Hazel Lavery, as part of Limerick's term as Ireland's National City of Culture 2014. The Foundation has also established a retrospective on the Irish influences on Bing Crosby's career with an exhibition drawn from the Bing Crosby collection at Gonzaga University, his alma mater, in Spokane, WA. More information about the program is available by e-mail to regenerationireland@gmail.com

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All held on SUNDAYS at 8 pm except where otherwise noted

2nd Silver Spears at the Irish Social Club	17th St. Patrick's Day! Noel Henry's Irish Show Band at the Irish Social Club from 8pm-12am. Admission \$20.
9th Andy Healy at the Irish Social Club (Thursday) Direct from Ireland – The Druids at the Irish Social Club. Doors open at 7 pm. \$10	22nd Erin's Guild Pub Night at the Irish Social Club: free admission.
13th County Roscommon Association St. Patrick's Dinner at the Irish Social Club beginning at 5 pm. Tickets are \$40 and include a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner and music by Erin's Melody with Margaret Dalton. Call Richie Gormley at 617-327-7777 for more information.	23rd Fintan Stanley at the Irish Social Club.
15th Mossie and the Boston Irish at the Irish Social Club.	29th Colm O'Brien Pub Night at the Irish Social Club: free admission.
	30th Erin's Melody with Margaret Dalton at the Irish Social Club.




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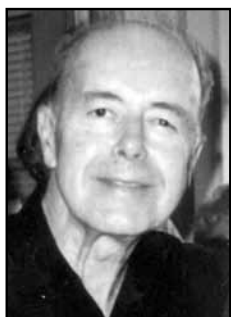
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Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

Orange Order's Ignorance Not Helpful – The *Derry Journal* was spot on when they criticized a senior Orangeman for issuing a “word of warning” to Protestants against learning the Irish language. The Belfast County Grand Master, **George Chittick**, claimed that speaking Irish was “part of the republican agenda.” The Journal editorial on Feb. 17 called the Orange warning “disgraceful and unsurprising” and ill-informed about Ireland’s native language.



Bill O'Donnell

For the past several years the Orange Order in the North has promulgated a steady stream of propaganda strongly suggesting that the order’s programs, marches, and celebrations be opened to all and to be eased into a grand tourism scheme, allowing the Order to try and pass itself off as mainstream. Not a bad idea if it weren’t coupled with the Order’s stark anti-Catholicism and its distrust of most anything emanating from the nationalist-Catholic community.

Although the recent Haass Mission to address some deep-rooted unionist concerns about flags, parades, and the past was flawed in some respects, the SDLP and other nationalists were willing to listen to the special envoy, while the unionist/loyalist party members were reluctant to sign off on anything that hinted of reform or cooperation.

It seems to this observer of Orange Order attitudes and actions over the past 40 years that the jolly paraders in their sashes and bowlers have little to offer to a society that largely desires peace and good will between the two traditions. The Orangemen represent a Carsonite throwback to an era best left to the history books.

Trappist Ale Now Brewed in the Bay State – Out in St. Joseph’s Abbey at Spencer in western Massachusetts sits a working brewery operated by Trappist monks. It is their first such operation in the United States. There are eight other Trappist breweries, six in Belgium, one in the Netherlands, and one in Germany.

The locally produced beer first went on sale in January and from early reaction, it is a thundering success, with the product flying off the shelves. Much like the state of Vermont, which closely monitors and brands its products, the Trappist brew, like its other products, is also closely regulated before it is labeled and “Authentic Trappist Product” by the International Trappist Association. The abbeys in the US make and market a variety of products like jellies, jams, special candies, etc. Unlike most breweries, the Trappist version is non-profit, with income used to cover living expenses of the monks and upkeep of the buildings and grounds.

The Spencer Trappist beer is available on a first come, first served basis at several outlets in Massachusetts, including Julio’s Liquors in Westborough and Country Spirits in Spencer. And readers should know that not all the beer produced in Spencer is for sale. The monks at the abbey will be served the house ale at Sunday dinner and on special occasions.

All Aboard, As Ireland Markets Itself – What would St. Patrick’s Day around the world be without the genial invasion of ministers representing the Irish government. The visiting officials, regardless of their cabinet duties, will all be selling Ireland from Mexico to New Zealand. The lads and lassies from Government House in Dublin will be led by **Taoiseach Enda Kenny**, who will be visiting – and marching – in Boston, Washington and New York.

The only senior minister not traveling later this month is Education Minister **Ruairi Quinn**, who is likely staying home to act as caretaker with the keys to Leinster House. Among the distant destinations of the traveling group are the United States (Chicago, Kansas, Boston, Cleveland, New York, San Francisco, Atlanta, Savannah, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia); Canada, China, the Arab Emirates, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, Vietnam, Lebanon, Russia, Norway, Germany, and the UK. Happy Times in the friendly skies.

AI Adds Weight To Finucane Inquiry Demand – It has been twenty-five years since **Patrick Finucane** was assassinated by a loyalist death squad in his Belfast home while having breakfast with his family. Finucane, a solicitor and a prominent defense attorney for nationalist defendants, has not been shuffled off into oblivion, gone and forgotten, as other political murder victims have been. A devoted family seeking justice and pressure from successive Dublin governments has ensured that the Finucane case will not and should fade and disappear from public view.

The latest blast from an unexpected source is the charge by Amnesty International that the British government’s refusal to hold an independent public inquiry is “not only cruel, but positively sinister,” as reported by the *Irish Times* last month. An official British government review found that “a series of positive actions by employees of the state actively furthered and facilitated [Finucane’s] murder” and “there was ... a relentless attempt to defeat the ends of justice.” Prime Minister **David Cameron**, in his

second apology to the Finucane family following the official review, said the “shocking levels of collusion” exposed by the review were “unacceptable.”

Despite the scathing British-government-sponsored review of the Finucane murder and the follow-up statements of the prime minister, the British continue to reject pleas by Finucane’s wife **Geraldine** for an independent investigation. If there is any chance for justice after a quarter-century it could be prompted by Amnesty’s public indictment of the British for its failure to hold a proper, open inquiry and the growing public disapproval of that inaction. We shall see.

Herald's Howie Carr 'Over The Top' on John Kerry – If you’re a public servant in American political life today it’s open season on your motives, your private life, your personal finances and your reputation. As the bromide goes, nobody twisted your arm to run for office or to accept a high position in a presidential administration, but after reading the latest fact-free ad hominem attack on US Secretary of State **John Kerry** one might wonder why anyone feels that the “honor” is worth the relentless trashing that so often comes with it.

First a confession: I do not buy or read the **Boston Herald**, nor its destructive, one-note invective and personal attacks that permeate **Howie Carr’s** column. Nor do I listen to Carr on radio. There is enough toxic vitriol in the Halls of Congress and the proliferation of hateful, knee-jerk blogs to fulfill anyone’s visceral desire for anger and attack.

For years Kerry, as a member of the US Senate, worked on a lot of the low profile, tangled, complex matters that crop up in high level statecraft and country to country relations. From international banking to the nitty-gritty of the Foreign Affairs Committee, he did a great deal of the slog work, the unglamorous investigations and negotiations that we rarely see except when they don’t work.

These days John Kerry is operating on a global stage, looking for a peace wedge with Israel and the Palestinians, working to get a US edge in Syria and other red hot tribal conflicts, and dealing with thugs like Karzai, the drug-taking, bribe-taking Afghan president.

And despite what the lying right-wingers, those rich swift boaters, had to say about Kerry in Vietnam, he served with valor, honor, and distinction and has the medals to prove it.

Meanwhile Carr talks about Kerry the “empty suit” and Kerry’s divorce, saying “she dumped him and he ended up sleeping on his ex-brother-in-law’s couch.” Carr also violates personal privacy and basic decency saying that Kerry’s marriage to **Teresa Heinz** saw his net worth go from perhaps \$2.78 to that of the richest man in the Senate. Carr suggests that for Kerry “the phrase idiot savant comes to mind.” And to underline the company he keeps, Carr closes out his hateful diatribe by quoting that pipsqueak patriot **Newt Gingrich**, who calls Kerry “delusional.”

Little Museum Of Dublin Wins Cash, Honors – Last year in this space I wrote about a small museum dedicated to celebrating Dublin that opened in 2011. I was impressed with its thrust and its collection of some 5,000 artifacts that are on display in the museum. The most striking aspect of the collection of Dublin memorabilia is that every piece in the museum is donated.

The top of the story on this update is that the Little Museum of Dublin has won an entrepreneurial award worth \$135,000. The judges called the founding pair, **Trevor White and Simon O'Connor**, “passionate, full of energy and positivity, great thinkers, and highly engaging.”

Last year the unique museum attracted 45,000 visitors to its quarters in the heart of Dublin at 15 St. Stephen’s Green in an 18th century Georgian townhouse. In addition to the recent award, the Little Museum was nominated as European museum of distinction. Drop by when in Dublin. It’s worth a visit.

Invitation for Pope Francis to Visit Ireland – If the Irish Dail hasn’t done it yet, it’s now in the process of formalizing an invitation to Pope Francis to visit the old sod sometime this year. It is thought that inviting the pope, immensely popular in Ireland as elsewhere, is just the thing to soothe the once-strained relations between the Vatican and Ireland following earlier critical remarks by the Taoiseach and the closing of the Irish Embassy, which is now reopened, albeit in a smaller context. At the time of the closing of the embassy in the Vatican it was described as an economic move; few, however, believed that was the cause.

Taoiseach **Enda Kenny**, speaking recently in the Dail, had nothing but praise for the pope: “I note the changes that Pope Francis is leading, changes in the way he goes about his work, the way he engages with people ... the changes he is creating to bring about a church that relates to people, to the poor, and leads from that point of view.” In other words, Pope Francis is not Pope Benedict and things are changing in the Vatican.

Bridgewater State Will Host Free Seamus Heaney Tribute – On Sunday afternoon, April 13, which would have been the late Nobel laureate’s 75th birthday, Bridgewater State University is hosting a gala celebration of the poet’s life and work. On display are artifacts and memorabilia from retired BSU Professor **Maureen Connelly**, a longtime friend of

Mr. Heaney, who is making the Heaney material available and will be on hand that Sunday.

It’s a great gift to the university student body and the public to help recognize the world-renowned poet in a free and open afternoon event with refreshments, Irish music, and a reception. Many who were friends of Mr. Heaney will be on hand to recount their memories of this inspiring and uniquely gifted major figure in contemporary world literature. The event begins at 1:30 and all are welcome. (More details about the afternoon program can be found on page 2 in this edition.)

Cyberworld Expanding in Ireland – Two major companies involved in computer communications, Google and Yahoo, are making significant moves to enlarge their footprint in the Republic of Ireland. Google, according to the Irish Independent, is looking to invest \$200 million in a huge new data center in Dublin. The new development will bring the total Google investment over the past four years in Ireland to \$650 million. This most recent investment proposal by Google reinforces its impressive physical presence in Ireland.

Yahoo’s Irish headquarters is bundling many of its European services to bring them together in Ireland. Yahoo’s centralization in Ireland it will mean closings of facilities in Cairo and Switzerland, and the addition of multiple services in operating from Ireland. Yahoo said the decision to focus on Ireland was driven by business needs and a desire to encourage innovation and collaboration.

A Good Man 'Gone To Heaven' – Ed Cronin grew up in South Medford. I met him in the third grade at St. Clement. We were friends for decades. He had a homespun sense of humor, was fair, kind, generous and he could (and did) talk with anyone anywhere, anytime. It was Ed’s line when one of our mutual pals left us. “Gone to Heaven,” he’d say. His folks were from County Cork and Eddie drove a bus for the T and was the world champion at dropping seniors off at unauthorized stops by their doorsteps. When we would visit a friend at the Soldiers Home in Chelsea, eight or nine of us, Ed would loudly proclaim “We’re in the will.” It always got a laugh.

Ed never made any trades at Goldman-Sachs, nor did he run the arbitrage unit at JP Morgan Chase, but Ed and millions like him – no apologies – made America! Middle class, hard working, solid. And they lived lives that mattered and shaped the character of their neighborhoods. He did his hitch in the army, came home, drove his bus for a third of a century. A Dunkin’s regular, he endured two big time heart surgeries, and Ed and Bernice looked after one another, were good to each other. That’s about right, I think.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

A Catholic football manager from the Republic is the frontrunner for the top job at Irish league giant Linfield. ... Papers are saying that crime author **James Patterson** gave a million to a clutch of US bookstores. Good reason to buy his books. ... The Time Warner Cable-Comcast merger is good for their CEOs and boards, bad for viewers. ... Clearer tapes agree **JFK’s** Berlin speech was on the money and translated perfectly, despite years of bad history. ... 2013 was a very good year for the Irish stock exchange, the best in 17 years. ... A salute to one of the original Chieftains, **Sean Potts**, who died last month at 83. ... The famed O’Connell Tower is open again in Glasnevin for entry, and climbing after 40 years. ... Notre Dame is spending \$400 million to flesh out its stadium area. Largest campus building project ever.

Ryanair passengers can now access electronic devices during takeoffs and landings, but still no cell phones while cruising. ... Sorry to hear that the Dublin Docklands Development Authority is set to shut down after \$240 million in property losses. ... If Fairfield University in Connecticut is on your screen, they will hold an evening with famed actor Stephen Rea March 19 at 7:30 pm. ... To my conservative friends: I hope the gold crash losers are not heading out their windows after latest reports. Down 28 percent in 2013. ... New and stricter rules for young (under 10) Irish dancers which bans makeup and false eyelashes. ... Somebody goofed and the famous Crown Bar in Belfast didn’t file its license on time. It was shut down but should be reopened by now.

The 2015 Irish Open will be played at Royal County Down, the first time there in 75 years. ... The Irish Republic had to pay Microsoft \$4.5 million in extra fees for being late updating their computer system security. ... Traveler sites to be built and opened in the Poshest section of Dun Laoghaire and in the south Dublin area. ... Northern Ireland is building two new film studios to accommodate an upswing in movies and TV series production. Much of this is attributable it to “Game of Thrones” success. ... Immigration reform should do well. It has a trainload of allies, from GOP fat cats to 11 million undocumented to the Republican Party base that is looking to cozy up to minorities for mid-term elections. ... Still trying to fathom how Sinn Fein and **Gerry Adams’s** All-Ireland electoral strategy works when the Sinn Fein party is against property taxes in the Republic. But property taxes in the North continue to rise in local councils that Sinn Fein controls?

May peace and civility be Saint Patrick’s gift to us this month.

For Boston and Ireland's West, a better connection

By Ed Forry

Even as officials of Tourism Ireland count up the successes of last year's promotion for "The Gathering Ireland/2013," the island of Ireland government is gearing up for a new way to encourage North



American visitors to put the Emerald Isle into their travel plans. The big tourism push this year centers around the designation of Limerick as Ireland's "City of Culture Year." This year alone, the city expects to be the venue for some 200 performances and exhibitions.

Limerick is conveniently located within a half hour drive of Shannon Airport, and a delegation from the

airport authority visited Boston last month to develop and enhance local ties between our town and the west of Ireland.

The Irish tourism officials used the inaugural flight of a new daily Aer Lingus service that began early last month. The airline has leased more fuel-efficient Boeing 757s for the Boston/Shannon run, and announced the commencement of "daily, year-round flights for the first time in five years into Shannon, which serves a catchment on transatlantic services that runs from the south right up to the North-West." Flight time to reach is just over five hours, and the new overnight service enables travelers from Logan to arrive before 6 a.m. local time every day.

Shannon Airport Authority Chairman Rose Hynes led the delegation, and met in Boston City Hall with Mayor Marty Walsh, who, she said, "is hugely supportive of Ireland and, given his own close ties with Galway and understanding of the US investment in the region Shannon serves on transatlantic services, sees the importance of this new daily service from Shannon.

"It says a lot about the mayor's relationship with the West of Ireland that we were not alone the first Irish delegation he met since his inauguration, but the first international delegation. His election as mayor is an opportunity for the West and South to not just underpin the economic and tourism ties between our two regions, but to grow them."

Commenting on the importance of the new daily route, Walsh said, "No one needs any introduction to the historical influence of the Irish on this part of America but there is also a very strong economic connection today between here and the West and South coasts of Ireland, which Shannon Airport serves.

"A number of Boston-headquartered multi-national corporations have significant investments in Ireland, which is an important gateway to the very lucrative European market. This daily service to Shannon will support this type of investment and will also be an excellent option for US tourists to fly into this unique and very special part of Ireland."

Hynes said the service will be key to supporting a number of leading New England multi-nationals across this region, including Boston Scientific, Fidelity Investments, EMC, and Analog Devices. It will also underpin the strong tourism market into the West of Ireland from the Boston and wider New England region. "Boston has the largest concentration of people in any US city of Irish extraction, and one town, Scituate, was identified in the 2011 Census as the United States' most Irish city, with almost 50 percent of residents there of Irish descent," she said. "The service is the latest strengthening of connectivity between the US and Shannon, which this year will fly to five US destinations – Boston, New York, Newark, Philadelphia, and Chicago."

Aer Lingus continues to operate daily Boston flights to Dublin, while several other air carriers also serve Shannon from New York and Newark.

Our Irish heritage – an inspiring, yet tragic, story about a mystery chair

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

As we celebrate the feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of our Irish heritage, it is natural to reflect on the lives of our ancestors, their sacrifices that brought us to Boston, and the later sacrifices they made to make a life for themselves and those who followed them.

I hope you will forgive me; this is a very personal story My grandparents, Michael Joseph Leary and Catherine Agnes Fennell, both with families stretching back 3,000 miles to West Cork, were married in Boston on



Joe Leary

April 10, 1901 at the Holy Cross Cathedral. Michael and several members of his family had been living in South Boston for many years when he met Catherine. He was 29 and she was 24. I suspect many of their family members were in attendance that day as were several firemen since Michael had been a Boston fireman since February 1898.

We can assume the day was filled with hope and energy, yet, as things turned out, it was the beginning of a long, yet uplifting, tragic story: Just eight-and-half months later, on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 1901, Michael was injured while fighting a brief but ferocious fire near South Station that ultimately took his life.

Michael was assigned to South Boston's Engine One when, according to the *Boston Globe* the next day, a hose got away from the Engine 38 crew and crushed his lungs. Michael was then pensioned by the Fire Department and went back to being an upholsterer, his job before he became a fireman. But the fire had damaged his lungs beyond repair, and Michael died five years, on Dec. 18, 1906.

Catherine went to work at the Liggett Rexall factory on Huntington Avenue near today's Northeastern University, beginning more than 40 years of supporting herself and my father. After the fire and before he died, Michael basically could not work anymore due to his condition, so with time on his hands he set out to create a unique and extraordinary "horned" chair.

My father told me the chair, which has been in my living room since my grandmother died in 1960, was crafted during Michael's hoped-for convalescence. The chair is made of 12 pairs of matched cow horns, hollowed out and fitted with a wooden dowel for strength. Each horn had to be dried, polished, and fit into place. My father, who was born a couple of years after the accident when Michael was still relatively healthy, was told by his mother that each horn took two weeks to make. They came from the Brighton slaughter house when it was located next to the Charles River near where the current Staples store is located.

Where did Michael get the plans? Or did he simply create his own design? Although there are many cow horn chairs in Texas and California, and deer horn chairs in various parts of the world, no one has seen a



Grandfather Michael's "horned" chair.

strong and muscular one like this. I did find a very different one on display at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts.

Who or what gave Michael the idea to build such a chair? Where was it built? In their apartment? Did Michael travel to the slaughter house? Probably. Did he have a friend or friends there? Probably. Did he have to pay for the horns? Was it to be sold? Are there other chairs he made that were sold? Did Catherine keep the chair for 50 years out of love and respect for Michael? Probably.

There is a humorous side to this story – Michael's doctor's advice that they move away from the South Boston's ocean-side environment to a place with a dryer climate. They moved all the way to Roslindale, which is where Michael died.

Catherine later moved to Pleasant Street in Dorchester, then to Dorchester Avenue next to the-then St. William's parish church. Michael's chair stayed with her the entire time. And for the past 50 years it has been with me wherever I have lived.

Catherine and Michael, two first-generation Irish Americans, started life with such excitement, then were forced to adapt their lives to what had been handed them. They lie together now, reunited side by side in Boston's New Calvary Cemetery. And the chair still stands in tribute to Michael's craftsmanship and their love of each other.

So this year, as I celebrate St. Patrick's Day, I will remember these two strong first generation Irish who contributed so much to my life.

Prayer for our union: 'Give love a chance'

By James W. Dolan
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The president is at the podium as the applause subsides. He looks across the array of faces before him, a gathering of many of the most powerful people in the country, and he speaks.

"Ladies and gentlemen I come before you today with a different message. Not what you would expect at this forum where normally you hear a litany of problems and proposed solutions. I am one of a long line of presidents who have delivered those easily forgotten messages.

"Today I intend to talk about love and how that noblest of all virtues should inform us as leaders of this great country. Love is what ultimately creates the obligation to act with compassion and understanding toward one another. It is the source from which truth, justice, mercy, and wisdom flow.

"It should be at the heart of governance and be reflected in the policies and programs we establish as we struggle with the problems that beset us. We undoubtedly will have differences of opinion, but so long as "love thy neighbor as thyself" is our common ground, we can agree on prudent public policy.

"Regardless of whether or not you believe in God or what kind of God you choose, we all value love. We want to have it and need to give it. Too often our virtues are distorted. Love becomes only love of self. In that form it can be self-destructive as we seek only to satisfy our own needs. Examples of this shallow, narcissistic love abound in today's culture.

"As important as it is, you almost never hear the word love used in political campaigns. It makes us uncomfortable; we don't want to confront it. It's as if it has no place in the day-to-day operation of government or business. Instead, we prefer self-interest, partisanship, rancor, and gridlock. Love is viewed as personal; it has no place in institutions wedded more to special interests than the common good.

"It's as if love is a Sunday thing, something to be ignored as impractical the rest of the week. It has no

place in the public square when we consider immigration, health care, gun violence, human rights, economic fairness. or the environment. I believe it should be at the core of all policy considerations.

"The ultimate impact question is: 'How does this policy promote or distort the concern we should have for one another as we grapple with the problems of the day?' In the balancing of often competing special interests, are we considering how to best serve the public interest? If love is considered, the answer is clear on many contentious issues.

"If we love one another, we provide food, health care, education, and shelter for all, regardless of their circumstances. We promote tax policy that assures economic fairness. We provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. We try to curb violence by enacting sensible gun control measures.

Instead of fighting about everything, we ask how, by our actions, we can best manifest our love for each other. Not everyone will agree on how that can be accomplished, but to the extent that becomes an issue, it provides a common ground for us to meet our responsibilities.

"Love of self is something we rarely forget. There is plenty of that around here. It's love of others, often those we consider unworthy, that is difficult. It is not up to our neighbors to earn our love; it is what they are entitled to by virtue of our shared humanity. That love has been lost, trampled, and ignored for too long in our deliberations.

Tonight, I propose to bring love to the table. Let us at least try to include it in all we do. Let it be evident in our deliberations and our policies.

"My message is simple. I am not asking for your support on any particular policy. I am only asking that we all look at those issues that come before us in a new light. That all matters be considered within the context of our mutual obligation to care for and do the best we can for the people we serve. Not just those who support us or contribute to our campaigns, but to the so-called 'least' of us. The depth of our love will be measured by what we do for them.

"Remember the old anti-war chant: 'All we are saying is give peace a chance.' Well now is the time to give love a chance. Thank you and good night, and may God bless the United States of America!"



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Point of View

OF ‘WETBACKS AND WILD BISON’

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

Once, the Boston Irish knew what it was to be “wetbacks.” Of course, the epithets that hateful, narrow-minded Nativists and “Know Nothings” of the 1840s and 1850s employed to deride Irish immigrants were “Paddies, Bridgetts, and Papists,” but in the lexicon of prejudice, those terms were, and are, interchangeable because of one ironclad trait – spiteful and willing ignorance.

In a recent edition of the *Dallas Morning News*, Tea Party US Senate wannabe Chris Mapp asserted that “ranchers should be allowed to shoot on sight anyone illegally crossing the border onto their land” and referred to such “anyones” as “wetbacks” while calling President Obama “a socialist son of a bitch.” Mapp added that use of the slur “wetback” is as “normal as breathing air in South Texas.” Once, that same brand of hate was as “normal as breathing air” in Massachusetts. That same fear and loathing of the “outsider,” the “newcomer,” plagued the Irish and fueled the St. Patrick’s Day Murders of 1845.

Last year in this space (August 2013), I wrote a piece entitled “Of ‘Hoodies’ and Historical Amnesia,” which compared the trial of George Zimmerman for the killing of Trayvon Martin to the aforementioned murders of three Irish immigrants in Hanover, Mass., on March 17, 1845. The article brought a letter from historian, retired Boston Police superintendant, and BIR reader John Gallagher. The author of the fine local history “Rum, A Tailor’s Goose and a Soap Box: Three Murderous Affairs in the History of Hanover, Massachusetts,” Gallagher has delved deeply into the tragic saga, uncovering a great deal of forgotten facts about the case. The following account owes an enormous measure of thanks to John Gallagher and his painstaking research of old records, newspapers, and other archival material. Featured on the Hanover Historical

Society’s July 2000 Calendar was an old photo showing a house and shed and bearing the inscription “Three Irishmen Shot Here by Seth Perry in 1845.” What had started as a St. Patrick’s Day 1845 celebration for three Irishmen working for the Old Colony Railroad to build a track from Boston to Plymouth ended in an explosion of violence.

In the early afternoon of March 17, the trio of Irish laborers – James Stapleton, Patrick Stapleton, and Pierce Dowlan (Dolan) – strode with other workers from a worksite near Hanson to a “noted groggery” in Hanover. The Irishmen’s plan was to celebrate their “old sod’s” patron saint on his holy day.

A “shanty” run by 52-year-old local Seth Perry, the groggery was deemed a loathsome affront by its neighbors, and Perry had been arrested and jailed several times for serving liquor without a license. After a few rounds, Patrick Stapleton and Dowlan started to argue with a man named Enos Bates, Perry’s cousin. Words fueled by liquor escalated to blows between Stapleton and Bates, and soon the brawl moved outside the shanty. Suddenly a musket pealed. Stapleton toppled dead to the ground as Seth Perry, standing nearby with the smoking weapon, reloaded.

Most of the Irish railroad workers fled in every direction, but not James Stapleton and Pierce Dowlan. James lunged at Perry. For a second time the musket belched flame and smoke. The ball tore into James Stapleton’s chest and killed him instantly. As Dowlan started to run, Perry, with another musket close by, picked it up, leveled it, and fired. Dowlan must have turned. The round slammed into his face, crushing his jaw into shards of bone and flesh. He would survive the grievous wound.

Constables later that day seized Perry and tossed him into a cell in Plymouth. That night, a mob of temperance zealots, likely motivated by their hatred of alcohol rather than any sympathy for the

two dead Irishman and their wounded companion, destroyed the shanty and were about to burn down Perry’s house when constables stopped them.

Because St. Mary’s Church in Quincy was the sole Catholic church between Boston and Hanover at the time, the brothers Stapleton were buried in unmarked pauper’s graves in the church’s cemetery. As for Seth Perry, he was indicted by a Plymouth County grand jury on April 14, 1845, charged with two counts of murder and one count of assault with intent to kill. He languished in jail without bail as both the “prosecution and defense petitioned the court to try Perry for the murders of Patrick and James Stapleton together, but the court denied their request, and ordered that Perry be tried first for the murder of Patrick.”

Few Irish immigrants likely believed Perry would be convicted. The disdain that many New Englanders heaped upon the “ragged Irish” of the era was rife with brutal stereotypes of “drunken Paddies,” Nativist newspapers and magazines were clotted with other ethnic caricatures of “Paddy and Bridget.”

On June 17, Perry stood trial in front of a twelve-man jury. It was truly a jury of his peers, as not one Irishman was among them. The verdict came two days later. Perry was found guilty of manslaughter only in the death of Patrick Stapleton. Gallagher notes: “The district attorney dismissed the charge of murder in the death of James Stapleton when Perry agreed to plea guilty to manslaughter. The prosecutor chose not to pursue the charge of assault with intent to murder Pierce Dowlan.”

If Perry had cut down two “native New Englanders” and wounded a third, he might well have been hanged. Still, given the unbridled contempt so many Yankees harbored toward the “ragged Irish,” any sentence at all for the murders of the Stapletons must have surprised many locals. As Gallagher noted in his letter to me, Thomas O’Connor, in

“*The Boston Irish: A Political History*,” writes that the Irish of the era were viewed by Yankee Protestants as “little more than ‘wild bison’ ready to leap over the fences that usually restrained the ‘civilized domestic cattle.’”

“Wild bison” notwithstanding, Perry’s sentence was ten years for killing Patrick Stapleton and three years for the murder of James Stapleton. From June 28, 1845, till his release in 1858, Perry was incarcerated in the grim stone-and-brick confines of Charlestown State Prison. He went back to Hanover, where he would die on November 25, 1874. No one knows the exact spot where he was buried, the murderer sharing the same fate in death as the two Irishmen he had murdered.

At 1359 Broadway in Hanover, the house that Seth Perry’s groggery flanked remains. The combination of brogues and too much St. Patrick’s Day revelry ignited something murderous in Seth Perry, something so dark that even his Yankee neighbors could not ignore one savage fact: he had gunned down two men. Irish though those men were, and even though Yankee prosecutors and a Yankee jury could not bring themselves to convict Perry of outright murder, they had held him to some account even in a day of antipathy toward the Irish.

Today, the era of anti-Irish, anti-Papist prejudice is distant. But when such bigots as

Chris Mapp of Texas and scores of men and women in Congress and in many state legislatures begin to speak, the stark evidence is that nativism and bigotry sadly remain intact in these United States. Yesterday’s “Paddies” are today’s “wetbacks.”

For further reading about the St. Patrick’s Day Murders of 1845, the BIR recommends “*Rum, A Tailor’s Goose and a Soap Box: Three Murderous Affairs in the History of Hanover, Massachusetts*.” (Available on amazon.com)



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An Appreciation

Brendan Tonra: Musician, poet, giver, wit – the real deal

BY SUSAN LINDSAY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Early last month, on Feb. 3, Boston lost Brendan Tonra, a 78-year-old fiddler and composer of Irish traditional dance tunes, who passed away peacefully at after a short but intense battle with cancer. To his three daughters and their families, it was the loss of a father and grandfather. To his longtime musical partner pianist, Helen Kisiel, it was the loss of a soulmate. To his musician friends in Boston and beyond, it was a loss of a direct connection to the continuum of traditional music of Ireland. To me, it was the loss of an inspiration and friend, because when it came to Irish music and Irish people, Brendan was the *real deal*.

Brendan exemplified what it means to be a musician at heart: a poet, an artist, a giver, an observer, an interpreter, a wit – the genuine article. Those who gathered with him at house parties from Boston to the South Shore knew him as a quiet man who watched it all but spoke little. Fellow musician Kevin Harrington said, “He would let his music do the talking, content to lean back by the wall and let his fiddle sing. But you knew for him that it was always about the friends as well as the tunes, and there continually lurked a latent Irish wit which he would every now and then let zing – with impeccable timing.”

When Brendan leaned over to you and said, “Great job on that flute,” you knew he meant



Brendan Tonra: A legend in his time. Sean Smith photo

it. Likewise, if he told you with a wink that that tune sounded like you’d learned it from a more flashy Boston player, you knew that it was time to pull back on the ornamentation and just play the tune. There was no pretense, no exaggeration, and no patronizing. He was the sort you may never have seen photographed by Bill Brett in the “On the Scene” pages, as he preferred staying home to being out shaking hands. The pointedness of Brendan’s opinion came from having been raised at the source, drinking at the well of authenticity – and he never lost it in his 50 and more years in Boston. He was a master of that

cliché about Irish diplomacy: He could tell you to go to hell and have you look forward to the trip. But if he told you it was good, then you could be sure that *it was*.

Growing up on the Sligo border – also home to fiddling legend Michael Coleman – Brendan began playing music at age 8, guided by his mother, a melodeon player. His uncle, John Henry, left him a fiddle and Brendan used it to play along with 78 RPM records in his Aunt Peg Regan’s house, and by the age of sixteen he had built the repertoire and skill to perform at local house dances and “porter sprees.” He also took up the tin

whistle, the band flute to play in the local fife and drum band, then the concert flute.

Brendan immigrated to Boston from Gowlaun, Co. Mayo in 1959, bringing with him his fiddle, flute, and a few tunes he’d written. His first stop was the Irish dance halls of Dudley Street in Roxbury. On Brendan’s first visit, he introduced himself to bandleader, Larry Reynolds, who many recognize as the longtime president of the Boston branch of the Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann. Reynolds invited him to come back the next Saturday with his fiddle, a jacket, and a bow tie, and he was in the band. His pay was \$12/night.

Tonra continued to perform with Reynolds in the Tara Ceili Band for many years and later with Mike McDonough’s Connaught Ceili Band. In the 1970s and 1980s, he frequented the traditional sessions at the storied Village Coach House in Brookline and later, O’Leary’s Sunday night session also in Brookline.

He continued to compose and play for four decades, resulting in a body of work that was published in “A Musical Voyage with Brendan Tonra: Sligo Fiddler and Composer,” as well as two commercial cassette recordings. In 2002, he won the prestigious Cumadóir na Bliana (Composer of the Year) from TG4, Ireland’s Gaelic language television station. He was inducted into the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Northeast Regional Hall of Fame in 2000.

In 2002 he was invited to the Comhaltas headquarters in Dublin for a special weekend honoring him, Leo Rowsome, and Séamus de Brún for their musical contributions to traditional Irish music. His tunes have been recorded by artists including Seamus and Martin Connolly, Sean Maguire, the Liverpool Ceili Band, Catherine McEvoy, Brendan Bulger, and others.

By the 1990s, he spent less time in the session scene and more time in private gatherings and at home, content to continually write new tunes for dear friends and play the occasional session. Throughout the 2000s, he performed frequently at musical/literary events with pianist Helen Kisiel, Dublin native Stephen Lindsay, and myself to support the release of “See You at the Hall: Boston’s Golden Era of Irish Music and Dance,” which featured Brendan’s contributions to Boston Irish music history. In 2013, Brendan, Helen, and I worked together to publish an illustrated children’s book based on a poem and tune he composed, “Three Ducks and a Goose.”

Such a good, honest, and true friend as Brendan is hard to come by. We’ll never see the likes of him again, and it is sad. We’re saying goodbye to the “rare auld stock” and we can move forward only hoping that we can bring such authenticity and talent to our every endeavor. Brendan Tonra was, without dispute, *the real deal*.

On the Cape, parade time is Sat., March 8 at 11 a.m; Yarmouth is starting point

Mark your calendars, get your green on, and gather your friends! The 9th annual Cape Cod St. Patrick’s Parade will take place on Sat., March 8, at 11 a.m. in Yarmouth. Now one of the largest and most anticipated off-season occasions on the Cape, the parade drew thousands of spectators from all over the country last year.

This year’s event, themed “Irish Sporting Pastimes”, will feature marching bands from all over New England, colorful floats, antique cars, Irish step dancers, costumed characters, special guests, and plenty of family friendly entertainment.

Among the bands slated to march are the Dennis Yarmouth High School Marching Band, Boston Gaelic Firefight Brigade Pipes and Drums, Highland Light Pipes, the Irish-American Police Pipe Band, The Brian Boru Pipe Band, The Colum Cille Pipes & Drums, Boston Windjammers, Boston Police Gaelic Column of Pipes & Drums, Holyoke High School Marching Band, Kevin Barry Pipes & Drums, and Ancient Mariners Fife & Drum.

In keeping with tradition, the Colleen Queen and her court will be coronated and ride in a special float. The four winners will also receive

college scholarships from the Cape Cod St. Patrick’s Parade committee.

Celebrity angler and TV host Charlie Moore, also known as “the Mad Fisherman,” will serve as grand marshal. One of country’s most well-known anglers, Moore hosts “Charlie Moore Outdoors” on NESN and “Charlie Moore: No Offense” on the NBC Sports Network.

For those who would like to meet Moore, there are a limited number of tickets available for the annual Grand Marshal’s Dinner/Dance at the Irish Village in Yarmouth on Fri., March 7, at 6 p.m. Call 508-362-PADY (7239)



St. Patrick’s Day action on Cape Cod.

for tickets.

Parade goers should note that this year’s parade will take a slightly different route than in years past. It will begin at Bass River Sports World at the intersection of Long Pond Drive and Route 28

in South Yarmouth and follow Route 28 west over the Parker’s River Bridge. The approximately two-mile route will end at the Town ‘N Country Motor Lodge, 452 Route 28, West Yarmouth.

Organizers have re-

routed the parade to take advantage of the increased number of amenities available to parade goers.

For more information, go to capecodstpatparade.com.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE LISTING

Sat., March 8, 2014

Cape Cod – Yarmouth at 11 a.m.

Route is about 2 miles long. Parade starts at Long Pond Drive and Route 28 in South Yarmouth. Continues west on Route 28, over the Parker’s River Bridge, ending at Route 28 and Higgins Crowell Road/Berry Ave. capecodstpatparade.com.

Sun., March 9, 2014

City of Worcester at noon

The parade begins at Mill Street at noon and ends at Highland Street. stpatparade.com.

Sun., March 16, 2014

Town of Abington at 1 p.m.

The parade begins at in Abington Center at the corner of Orange St and Washington St., otherwise known as St. Patrick’s Square. eddiebaileysgarage.com.

Sun., March 16, 2014

South Boston at 1 p.m.

The parade begins on West Broadway

(easterly) and ends at Dorchester Avenue. southbostonparade.org.

Sun., March 16, 2014

Town of Scituate at 1 p.m.

The Parade begins at the Gates Middle School on First Parish Road and ends at Hatherly Road by the Satuit Tavern. scituatechamber.org.

Sun., March 23, 2014

City of Holyoke at 11:30 a.m.

(Road race is March 22 at 1 p.m.)

The parade lasts about two hours. It begins at the Kmart Plaza and makes its way through the city. holyokestpatricksparade.com.

Sun., March 30, 2014

Manchester, NH, at noon

The parade starts on Elm Street at the intersection with Salmon and continues south along Elm Street. saintpatnsh.com.

Information courtesy of Boston Irish Tourism Association.



IBEW marchers strut their stuff in South Boston in 2011.



The road isn't going to rise up to meet you all the way over there in America, you know.

If you're looking for one good reason to come back to Ireland this year, we'll give you a million. That's the richest experience of anyone who leaves home for the U.S. during the year of The Gathering. And the wonderful festivals, music and sporting events are still going strong in 2014. So make plans today to visit the friends and family you've missed and some fairy tales. We'll meet you up to meet you when you're here.

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LOOKING BACK: A BREAKFAST GALLERY



Gov. Francis Sargent, Yankee, and Bill Bulger, South Boston.

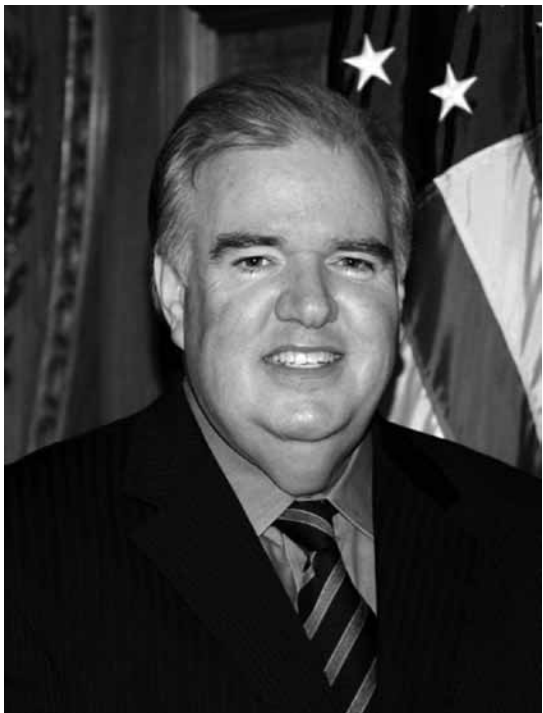


Ray Flynn, Bill Bulger, Michael Flaherty, Michael Connolly, standing, Joe Moakley, seated at left.



The political elite waiting on the food and entertainment at a crowded breakfast in the late 1960s.

Happy
St. Patrick's Day



State Representative
Kevin G. Honan
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**Dorchester's Eighth Annual
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\$100 per person
Reservations will be held at door

Dr. Larry Ronan and Jim Brett
Co-Chairs

Make way, the senator is preparing breakfast

(Continued from page 1)

Boston Irish Reporter, have four children, two boys and two girls. She has been to Ireland three times, she said, adding that celebrating Irish culture is something “we do anyway” at their home.

The breakfast will be telecast by New England Cable News beginning at 9 a.m.

Historically speaking, there are other urban myths about the breakfast that aren’t completely accurate. If you ask many in these parts how long the breakfast has been a tradition and how it has been run and by whom, the answers might run from “always” to “since the first parade” (officially in 1901). Many people would also assume that the event has always been a “political roast.” The facts are murkier, and a case can be made that the breakfast started as a dinner or banquet.

South Boston’s St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast owes a historical nod to the Charitable Irish Society. That venerable organization can lay virtually undisputed claim to the first St. Patrick’s Day event not only in Boston’s, but also in America. It was also the first to feature food and drink. On March 17, 1737, in the heart of Puritan Boston, 26 men gathered to commemorate a decidedly “Improper Bostonian” event. They were Irish-born individuals living in a place where most locals loathed anything that smacked of “popery”; celebrating a Catholic saint’s holy day could well have proven a risky proposition.

They pulled it off because they were Protestant; however, since some had been Roman Catholics who had “embraced” a new faith, their devotion to Protestantism may have been seen as wanting. The religious question aside, the men drew up a charter that professed their pride as sons of the Emerald Isle – and they were meeting on the day dedicated to Ireland’s patron saint.

The first Charitable Irish event did not take place in Southie. Of the first members of the Society, the historian James Bernard Cullen has written: “An important part of the membership of The Charitable Irish Society was the Irish Presbyterian Church, established in Boston in 1727. They first worshipped in a building which had been a barn on the corner of Berry Street and Long Lane [now Channing and Federal Streets]; and this unpretentious building served them, with the addition of a couple of wings, till 1744.”

Despite the Boston community’s continuing, and deeply rooted, prejudice against Catholics of the eighteenth century, the society ignored the religious restriction in 1764, just 27 years after the initial gathering, and it has held a dinner each St. Patrick’s Day since, save for a few gaps (the Revolution years, for one), toasting the old country and its patron saint.

The Society’s centennial celebration, held on March 17, 1837, featured a format that seems a distinct precursor to today’s South Boston breakfast. The festivities offered a special list of guests composing a “who’s who” of Boston’s movers and shakers: “Gov. Edward Everett, Mayor Samuel A. Eliot, Hon. Stephen Fairbanks, President of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, the Rev. Mr. John Pierpont, the Hon. John P. Bigelow, Hon. Josiah Quincy, Jr.” and numerous other luminaries. Fairbanks delivered an address testifying to the fact that Boston Irishmen, Protestant and Catholic, were indeed making their way in the city. In no way was the event a roast, but it was a meeting of notable politicians and businessmen.

The historical seeds of the breakfast also began to sprout – and do so in Southie – as Irish Catholic immigrants landed in Boston in ever-increasing numbers in the 1840s and staked their claim to a new life in America. One of the early manifestations of the local Irish love for their old sod’s patron saint was the Shamrock Society, a social club that gathered on March 17 to defiantly toast the saint and “sing the old songs,” the revelers’ voices peeling from Dooley’s, the Mansion House, and Jameson’s. No single building, however, would long serve to hold the growing numbers of local Irish longing to celebrate the day in a bigger way. As one historian noted, “No banquet room was broad enough to comprehend all the Sons of Erin, even had they the price of dinner.”

Dinners and banquets, but not yet

official “breakfasts,” followed the St. Patrick’s Day parades organized by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, which boasted some 8,000 members in Boston alone by 1900. Bands, organizations, refreshments – all were handled by the Hibernians’ Entertainment Committee. In the hands of Ward 17 boss “Pea Jacket” Maguire and other Boston Irish leaders, fun, festivities and pride in Irish roots ruled the city on March 17.

Come March 17, 1901, the blare of bands and the vibrations of marchers’ feet pealed above South Boston’s streets in the first official, city-sanctioned South Boston St. Patrick’s/Evacuation Day Parade. In its wake came post-march celebrations. Dignitaries in natty overcoats and top hats and figures such as Mayor Thomas Hart stepped from the open, horse-drawn carriages in which the city’s “high and mighty” had ridden in the parade and dashed into venerable Faneuil Hall for an official St. Patrick’s Day banquet.

It was hardly the politicians alone who partied on after the parade. Hordes of marchers and spectators streamed back to South Boston where the celebration of “all things Irish” continued in parish halls, in private homes, and at watering holes throughout the ward. A throng of Boston Irish jammed every inch of Gray’s Hall, nestled at the junction of I and Emerson Streets, for the South Boston Citizens’ Association banquet.

According to John Allison in his “History of the St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast,” the first public mention of the St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast came in the in March 1909 in the *South Boston Gazette*. At the Bellevue Hotel, Mayor George Hibbard hosted an 11 a.m. breakfast before the parade, the revelers including local and state politicians and military officers. Still, the breakfast was not held in 1910-1911, so it had not become an annual event, and certainly not one paid for by the city, as Hibbard’s event had been. Interestingly, no speeches were made nor were any jibes exchanged at the 1909 gathering.

Only when the city appropriated funds for the breakfast was it held intermittently between 1910-1920. In 1921, there was no breakfast, but 1925 brought both a breakfast and a pair of St. Patrick’s Day controversies. First, the Post Office in Boston seized a shipment of shamrocks from Ireland, then released them for the breakfast and parade under pressure from politicians and civic groups. Then came a row over invitations to the breakfast when J. Philip O’Connell, Boston’s Director of Public Celebrations, reserved 24 of 90 seats for city officials, but the Evacuation Committee griped that he did not leave them enough seats for other dignitaries. Newspapers’ coverage of the disputes referred to the St. Patrick’s Day gathering as the “Mayor’s Breakfast.”

Perhaps the most notable aspect of the 1921 event was the resemblance it bore to today’s breakfast. “Himself” – Mayor James Michael Curley – made “a witty speech” in which he leveled barbs at friends and foes alike. E. Michael Sullivan then stood and sang “The Wearing of the Green.”

Of the 1925 gathering, Allison writes: “These traits identify this breakfast as a very close ancestor of today’s event. However, it was still not an annual event. By World War II there was no mention of a breakfast.”

City Councilor Joseph Scannell hosted Mayor Maurice Tobin at an informal gathering before the 1941 parade, but there were few mentions in the papers of any St. Patrick’s Day gathering during the war years of 1942-1944. In March 1945, the *Boston Gazette* related that supporters of Mayor John Kerrigan wanted to hold a breakfast reception for him before the parade. In a move that would be incomprehensible today, Kerrigan nixed the idea because he “did not want any political demonstrations.”

Politics and a turf war of sorts surrounded both the intermittent breakfast and the annual parade in the years after World War II. From 1901 on, the South Boston Citizen’s Association had ruled the St. Patrick’s Day roost. But Allied Veterans Council members argued that because the parade was largely “a military procession,” they should run it and the pre-parade gathering. In 1947 the two organizations held separate “corned-beef banquets” before the parade; the following year, both organizations not



Back in the day: Bill Bulger, Larry DiCara and Ray Flynn and rear left Mike Flaherty break out in song hailing their patron saint’s holiday.

only held pre-parade meals, but also appointed their own chief parade marshal. Curley, who, as mayor, traditionally selected the marshal, appointed the Veterans Council’s choice, and, Allison writes, “suggested that the Citizens’ Association nominee could be the chief marshal’s adjutant.”

From 1951 to 1960, the pre-parade meal was a luncheon – actually two luncheons. The City Council luncheon, hosted by the mayor, was held at the South Boston Athletic Club, and state officials attended an affair at Dorgan’s Old Harbor restaurant on Columbia Road at the foot of G Street, with state Sen. John Powers serving as host. Eventually, Powers’s event superseded the mayor’s, with the papers anointing him “St. Patrick’s Day toastmaster,” a

precursor to the role that William Bulger would later take to a whole new level of wit and rhetorical flourishes.

What makes the 2014 breakfast so noteworthy is that at least since John Powers ran the show at Dorgan’s, the sitting senator of the First Suffolk District has followed suit. That “suit” has always been filled by an Irish-American men with names like Powers, Moakley, Bulger, Lynch, and Hart. Now, it is Linda Dorcena Forry’s turn to host a traditional breakfast gathering that has not always been the annual tradition that so many assume. Her debut will mark a new and fitting chapter in the annals of Boston political and social history.

Gintautas Dumcius, the news editor of the Dorchester Reporter, contributed to this report.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day



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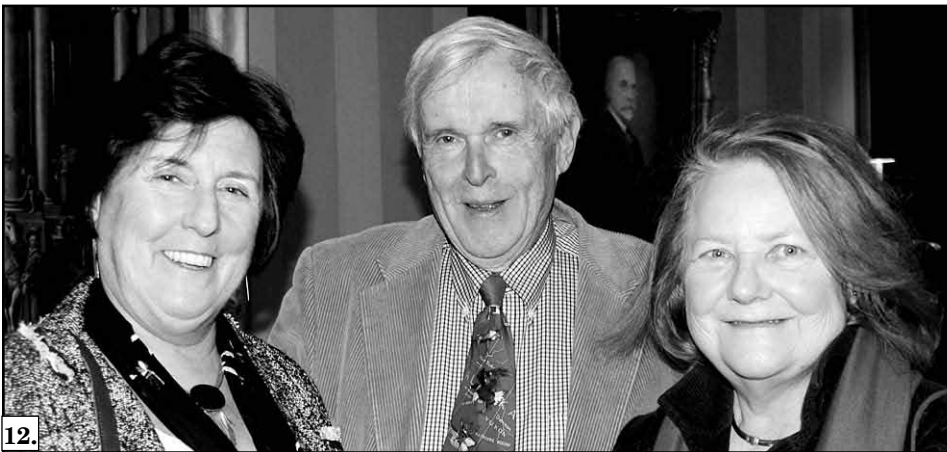
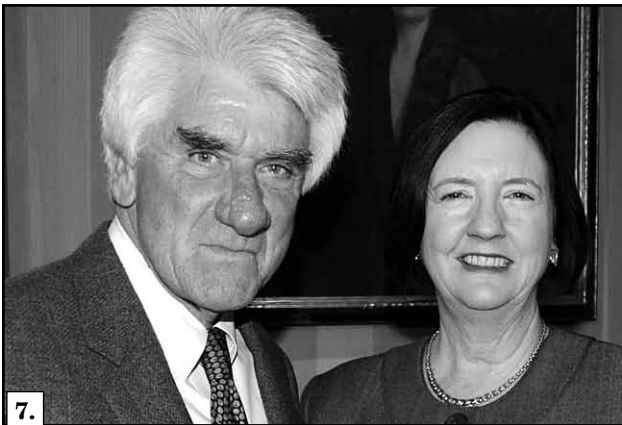
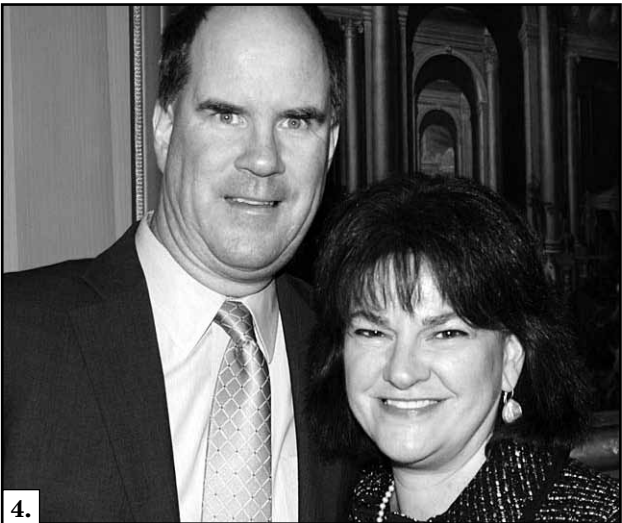
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BRETT'S BOSTON

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

The Charitable Irish Society hosted a Presidents Reception on Thursday, January 30, 2014 at the Union Club of Boston, Eight Park Street, Beacon Hill. The special guest was the Honorable Anne Anderson, the Republic of Ireland's ambassador to the United States. Founded in 1737, and now in its 277th year, the Charitable Irish Society is the oldest Irish organization in the United States; the group will host a St Patrick's Day Banquet on March 17 at the Algonquin Club in Boston's Back Bay.

1.) Irish Consul General Breandan O'Caollai, Irish Ambassador to US Anne Anderson, Charitable Irish Society President Paul McNamara, Past President Irish Charitable Catherine Shannon; 2.) Edward Duffy, President Eire Society, Mary Sugrue, Irish American Partnership; 3.) Ed Kirby, Brookline, Jeff Flagg, W. Roxbury; 4.) Patrick and Mary Cogan; 5.) Anne Auerbach, Brookline, John Rattigan, Newton; 6.) Patrick King, So Boston, Tom Connolly, Back Bay; 7.) Tom O'Neill, Boston, Kathleen O'Toole, So. Boston, Steve Greeley, Scituate; 8.) Megan Carroll, Sean Moynihan, Hingham, Bridgid Boyle, W. Roxbury; 9.) Karin Dumbaugh, Beacon Hill, Barbara Fitzgerald, Milton, Lee Costello, Boston; 10.) Frank Geraghty, Maeve Geraghty, W.Roxbury, Margaret Dalton, Milton; 11.) Mary Ellen Mulligan, Randolph, Kathleen O'Toole, So. Boston, Michael Sheehan No. Easton; 12.) Paula Carroll, Chatham, Charlie and Karin Dumbaugh, Beacon Hill.



IMMIGRATION Q & A

Planning a business trip to the States? Then read this first

Q. I plan to make several short business trips from Ireland to the US to meet with contacts, attend an industry convention, and do some contract negotiation. Can I do this without applying for a visa beforehand?

A. This should be possible, depending on a few factors. The US government operates what is known as the “Visa Waiver Program” (VWP) for nationals of a number of friendly countries, including Ireland. This program allows travel to the US for up to 90 days for business or pleasure, without applying for a visitor’s visa beforehand. Citizens of Canada and Bermuda are treated essentially the same as those of VWP countries for purposes of short-term visits to the US.

First, you must be a citizen (not just a resident) of one of the VWP countries. For example, a citizen of Ukraine temporarily residing in Ireland would not be eligible to travel from Ireland to the US under the VWP but would need to apply for a visitor’s visa instead, whereas a citizen of Ireland temporarily located in Ukraine could make use of the VWP.

Second, the business activity must fit within the US government’s definition. This does include the activities you mentioned, as well as travel for the purpose of conducting litigation. The permissible activity does *not* include “employment” (which can be loosely understood as doing work for pay that an American could be doing) while in the US. To work at a job in the US one needs a temporary work visa such as the H1-B or other employment authorization from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services. There are gray areas involved in the definitions of “business” versus “employment,” so if there is any doubt you should consult an immigration lawyer before planning to travel under the VWP.

Third, travelers from VWP countries also need to be personally eligible to take advantage of the VWP. Those ineligible to enter under the VWP because of a visa overstay or other problem, for example, would have to apply for a B-1 (business visitor) visa at the local US Consulate. The permissible business activities are the same for a B-1 visa as for the VWP. The B-1 visa application process takes time and requires a fee, but it has a couple of advantages: it can be granted for up to six months and can be extended, unlike the VWP, which is strictly limited to a maximum of 90 days. Also, a B-1 visa holder can in certain circumstances apply to change status in the US to that of another visa such as a J-1 exchange visa; such status changes are not permitted under the VWP.

US immigration and consular officials can question a traveler both about the business activities planned and the intention to make the stay in the US a temporary one. So, whether traveling under the VWP or applying for a B-1 visa, you should be prepared to document your business trip (your agenda, travel and hotel arrangements, conference programs, contact information, etc.) and your intention to return home within the time allowed (a return air ticket, proof that you are still employed at home, have family and property there, etc.). People used to believe that showing up in a business suit with a briefcase and business cards in one’s pockets virtually guaranteed entry for short business trips. Since the attack on the World Trade Center in NY, this is not necessarily the case. Travelers must be prepared for more scrutiny of their intentions.

For a free, confidential consultation about this or any other aspect of immigration law, visit one of our weekly legal clinics.

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

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IIRC’s Annual Business Leaders Breakfast to feature Mayor Martin J. Walsh as speaker

On Thurs., April 24 at the Seaport World Trade Center, the Irish International Immigrant Center will hold its Fifth annual Business Leaders Breakfast with Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh as the guest speaker. Mayor Walsh has been an outspoken supporter of immigrants throughout his years of public service, and has recently promoted the idea of a “Boston Integration Agenda” to support Boston’s immigrant communities.

IIRC’s Business Leaders Breakfast brings together leaders for an engaging discussion on immigration, the economy, and issues facing Boston. The IIRC has proudly assisted immigrants from Ireland and around the world for the past 25 years. We recognize how important it is to support immigrants as they work to build new lives in the United States. Today’s immigrants, their children, and grandchildren are America’s future leaders.

All proceeds from the breakfast will support IIRC’s legal, wellness, and education programs from immigrants from 120 nations, and its exchange programs for young people from the island of Ireland.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. To register or for more information, please contact Mary at 617-695-1554 or mkerr@iicenter.org.

Inside Job - newest immigration attorney presents a familiar face

By NIAMH LYNCH

Caitlin Slavin, the IIRC’s newest immigration attorney, will be no stranger to clients and friends of the Center. She has worked here since 2002 when, just out of college, she joined the team as a volunteer. Even she seems surprised at the chain of events that followed. After several months spent answering the phones Caitlin applied for and got a paid administrative position in the Center’s legal services department. Here, as the first point of contact for many immigration clients, she began to amass a great deal of knowledge about immigration processes. So much so that in 2005 she was made an accredited representative by the Board of Immigration Appeals, a designation that meant she could now officially represent clients in front of US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Caitlin found herself increasingly passionate about the work she was doing and the next logical step she felt was to become an immigration attorney. She went to law school at night while continuing her work at the Center during the day. It was a grueling schedule but Caitlin knew she had the support of everyone at the IIRC and that gave her a boost on the toughest days.



Caitlin Slavin

This fall she passed the Massachusetts bar exam and eleven and half years after she started, the one-time front desk volunteer became the IIRC’s newest full-time immigration attorney. Today she works on a variety of immigration cases, including those involving fiancé visas, marriage adjustment of status, family petitions, and naturalization.

Her lifelong affinity with Ireland has helped her build an easy rapport with her clients, many of whom are Irish. “It has been a long journey,” says Caitlin, “but every successive step I took left

me more convinced that this was absolutely the right path for me. I am honored and privileged to work for such an amazing organization and to be able to continue to help people through the hoops of the immigration world. The work I do is very rewarding, whether it’s a marriage adjustment of status case or helping a client petition for their elderly parent in Ireland to come and live in the United States. Reuniting families makes for pretty happy work.”

Matters Of Substance Escaping Heroin’s Hold

“Seven years ago I moved to Boston to get away from the heroin problem that was destroying families in our town. Boston was a fresh start. Now I have lost everything. While working in construction, I damaged my knee and was prescribed Oxycontin. After my knee healed, I continued taking the pills. When my prescription ran out, I found someone who could keep me stocked, but it soon became too expensive. I turned to heroin.”

Initially snorting it, I’m now using needles. I have become the very person I left Ireland to avoid!

This story is, sadly, being heard more and more often in my counseling room. Irish immigrants who left Cork, Dublin, Galway, and Donegal to escape the impact of heroin now find themselves facing it in their adopted homes. According to the *Boston Globe*, “Prescription opiate use has skyrocketed over the

past two decades, with about 39 percent of most opiates being prescribed in emergency rooms.” Experts agree that over-prescription of opiates, like Oxycontin, Dilaudid, and Percocet are a key factor in the rise of heroin use. Addiction is an illness and no one is to blame, yet shame and guilt affect everyone, including the users’ family.

These issues were addressed recently in our Family Healing Workshops in South Boston. Our message during the four-week program was “Recovery is Possible.” High profile deaths related to heroin overdoses are sadly familiar to Massachusetts families. Those who are newly detoxed or have relapsed after a period of abstinence are at greater risk. Families in our group expressed fear of finding their loved one unresponsive on the floor.

No matter how many times a person relapses, however, they can find hope. We are planning another series of Family Healing workshops later this spring and a Relapse



Prevention Group later this year. Others are moving forward on this issue too. A medication called Narcan can save lives in overdose cases. Boston’s Mayor Walsh has been proactive in getting Narcan into the hands of first responders.

There is light at the end of the tunnel. Please call Danielle at the IIRC if you struggle with these issues; 617-542-7654, Ext.14, or by e-mail to: dowen@iicenter.org. Check out our IIRC Wellness & Education Facebook page for updates on our next support groups: facebook.com/pages/IIRC-Wellness-Education-Services/546561038763273

 IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

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

Upcoming Clinic Schedule

Tuesday, March 4th

IIRC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston

Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street

Monday, March 10th

Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton

Tuesday, March 18th

IIRC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston

Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street

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Rev. Daniel J. Harrington, SJ; noted Scripture scholar was 73

Rev. Daniel J. Harrington, S.J., an eminent scholar, author, and professor of Sacred Scripture at Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry, died at the Jesuits' Campion Center in Weston, Massachusetts, on Feb. 7, after a four-year treatment for cancer. He was 73.

Fr. Harrington's dedication to Biblical scholarship was reflected in the more than 60 books he authored, shedding light on Scripture and the life and times of Jesus, and his decades-long tenure as the general editor of *New Testament Abstracts*, summarizing literature on the New Testament from hundreds of books and journals throughout the world. He also wrote "The Word" column for *America* magazine for three years.

A longtime faculty member at the Weston

Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Fr. Harrington was a 1958 graduate of Boston College High School in Dorchester, Mass., where he excelled in academics while rebuffing shots as the goalie on the school's hockey team, and the proud holder of two degrees from Boston College. He returned to his alma mater in 2008 as part of Weston Jesuit's re-affiliation with BC and joined the newly established School of Theology and Ministry (STM).

Like many Catholics of their generation, members of the young Daniel Harrington's family weren't Bible readers. He recalls two Protestants coming to his house when he was a child. "We'd like to discuss the Bible," they said, to which his mother replied, "We're Catholics. We don't read the Bible."

Fr. Harrington, however, has spent his profes-

sional life helping Catholics do just that, not only by teaching scripture for decades but by preaching Sunday after Sunday in the same two parishes for many years. "One of the pastors used to stand at the entrance of the church and tell people they got three college credits for the liturgy," Harrington once said of his preaching style.

For him, though, reading the Bible is not just intellectual but spiritual as well. "Immersing oneself in scripture won't necessarily make this or that decision easier for you," he said. "But it does help answer big questions such as: Who am I? What is my goal in life? And how do I get there?"

Fr. Harrington conceded that Catholics have yet to fully embrace the Bible as their own. "I think religious education perhaps hasn't emphasized the

Bible enough," he said. "But the Sunday readings are a great tool for people to learn the Bible. People sometimes don't realize how much Bible they're exposed to."

He saw facilitating that encounter as part of his job. "A preacher has to help people get familiar with the scriptures and not be afraid of them."

Material from the text of an interview with Rev. Harrington in the June 2009 issue of "U.S. Catholic" and from an obituary written by the Jesuit order was used in this report.



Rev. Daniel J. Harrington, S.J.

Ireland, the North mulling joint bid for Rugby World Cup

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBLIN – Ireland and Northern Ireland are considering a joint bid for the 2023 Rugby World Cup.

Sports and tourism ministers from both governments at a meeting in Armagh agreed to set up a working group to draw up a road map for a bid,

and report back to their governments in a few months.

Northern Ireland sports minister Caral Ni Chuilin said they're investing 110 million pounds (\$182 million) in upgrading Belfast stadiums, including Ulster's Ravenhill home, but they had a lot of work

ahead to be in position for a successful bid.

Michael Ring, an Ireland minister for tourism and sports, said, "An event of this scale will not only have a great benefit for rugby but will also raise the profile of what sport can do for the country," Ring said.



Irish International Immigrant Center's 5th Annual Business Leaders Breakfast

Thursday, April 24, 2014, 7:30 am, Seaport World Trade Center, Boston
Featuring Mayor Martin J. Walsh as guest speaker

Join us for an engaging discussion on immigration, the economy and current issues facing Boston as the IIIC celebrates its 25th year of service to immigrants from Ireland and around the world.

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For more information, please contact Mary at mkerr@iicenter.org or 617-695-1554.

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A happy birthday to Bill Bulger on reaching 80

A large group of friends and family members came together last Sunday to celebrate the 80th birthday of former state senator and UMass President Bill Bulger. Corned beef and cabbage and Irish soda bread were on the menu, and music filled the hall at the old German Club, now the Seapoint Bar and Grill on East 8th Street in South Boston, site of Bill's legendary St. Patrick's breakfast over the years. The festivities were reminiscent of those many notable breakfasts that Bulger hosted from 1971 to 1996.

Among the guests was his longtime friend, the noted historian David Mc-



Ray Flynn, the historian David McCullough, and Bill Bulger join in song at the latter's 80th birthday bash.
Harry Brett photo

Cullough, who joined him in singing "My Wife's an Irish Girl." McCullough beamed as he said his wife Rosalee's mother is Ireland-born, a native of Antrim. Other guests included former Boston Mayor Ray Flynn and his wife Cathy, and 99-year-old Sister Evelyn Hurley, a nun at St. Brigid's School who has taught in South Boston for 64 years, and is retiring next month.

Also present were City Council President Bill Linehan and his colleague, Stephen Murphy, who presented a citation proclaiming last Sunday "William M. Bulger Day" in Boston.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Grant me a sense of humor, Lord,
the saving grace to see a joke,
To win some happiness from life,
And pass it on to other folks.

-Irish Blessing

from

Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry and Family



Don't miss the St. Patrick's Day Breakfast on Sunday, March 16, 2014


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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

**BOSTON IRISH ARTS,
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The new high intensity dance extravaganza, "Heartbeat of Home," comes to the Citi Wang Theatre, March 26 - April 6.

Riverdream Productions Ltd; Photographer J. Byrne.

‘Heartbeat of Home’ sweeps Irish dance into new millennium

**BY R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**

"Heartbeat of Home" could rightfully be called "Riverdance" for the new millennium, taking Irish dance to the next level. When the exuberant production makes its East Coast debut at the Citi Wang Theatre from March 26 to April 6, Boston audiences will be among the first to see the show *The Irish Mail on Sunday* dubbed "jaw dropping."

More than three years ago, the "Riverdance" team of John McColgan and Moya Doherty had a vision for a new theatrical project, one that would fuse the vibrant rhythms of Irish, Latin and Afro-Cuban music and dance. Ultimately, it would be

both a love story showing what happens when these cultures meet and the dream voyage of those who were forced to travel for the sake of a better life.

With a narrative by award-winning Irish writer Joseph O'Connor, choreography and staging by David Bolger (artistic director of Cúiseim Dance Theatre), Irish dance choreography by world title winner John Carey, and a sweeping score by award-winning Brian Byrne, the team set off on a journey of the imagination.

"Heartbeat of Home" would not be solely about the home of the Irish. It would be about everybody's home, whether that be Africa or Spain or South America. As John Carey has

noted, the show would be about passion for dance as well as pride in who we are and what we represent.

"Heartbeat of Home" opened last fall in Dublin to a phenomenal response. It then traveled to Beijing and Shanghai and has just completed its North American premiere in Toronto. Director McColgan calls the high energy, state-of-the-art production an "immersive experience" that takes dance to an entirely new place.

Producer Moya Doherty notes that in the 20 years since "Riverdance" first burst onto the stage, Irish dance has evolved at a remarkable rate. That evolution is due in no small part to "Riverdance" itself. Young dancers

around the world fell in love with the intensity of the original show and began to study and hone their individual talents at a feverish pace. Today, exceptional Irish dancers are no longer exclusively from Ireland. Rather, they are emerging from around the world. And these new dancers have been straining at the leash to show what they could do.

With McColgan striving to give audiences something they had never seen before, this new show would be for and about these dancers. But how to involve them? The creative team took the daring step of using social media technology to open the floor to a worldwide search for dancers via the Inter-

net. During the process, their website got 2.2 million hits from 169 countries worldwide.

Said Moya: "When 'Riverdance' started, we were hand-writing letters to people and getting videos sent by post in brown paper envelopes. So to be able to push a button and to run an international talent search was extraordinary. We got ten of our dancers – ten – through that process. Ten extraordinary dancers whom we wouldn't have had a chance to even set sight on." With so many of today's dancers having additional training in ballet and contemporary movement, she said, "The physicality of the body of the Irish dancer is now in a new place."

(Continued on page 24)

Mass. Cultural Council honor for BC faculty's Jimmy Noonan

Jimmy Noonan, a faculty member in the Music Department and Irish Studies Program at Boston College, is the recipient of a \$10,000 Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship award.

The fellowships "recognize exceptional work by Massachusetts artists across a range of disciplines," according to the MCC website. "These highly competitive awards provide artists crucial validation among their peers and the public. They catalyze artistic advancement and pave the

way for creative innovation of enduring cultural value."

An acclaimed and award-winning Irish flute and tin whistle player, Noonan was one of two fellows chosen in the Traditional Arts category, and one of 15 overall. More than 700 applications were received for this year's awards, including 17 in Traditional Arts.

"I'm very honored to have been chosen," said Noonan, a Cleveland native who has taught at BC since 1996. Citing previous recipients of the



Jimmy Noonan has been acclaimed as both musician and teacher. Gary Gilbert, Boston College photo

Traditional Arts fellowships, including Sullivan Artist-in-Residence Seamus Connolly, director of

Irish music programs at BC, Noonan said, "I feel as if I am in very distinguished company."

Noonan is a two-time US Western champion on tin whistle and flute, and has performed at a number of premiere Irish and Celtic music events, including BC's Gaelic Roots festival, the Milwaukee Irish Fest and National Folk Festival. He has played at events for Irish Presidents Mary McAleese and Michael D. Higgins, as well as for Taoiseach Enda Kenny, and is a member of the Com-

haltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Hall of Fame Northeast Region. His recordings include the albums "The Clare Connection" and "The Maple Leaf."

With a father from County Clare, a particular hotbed for Irish traditional music, Noonan grew up in a household that embraced Irish culture and as a boy took up step dancing. As he grew older, he gradually found himself more interested in playing the music than dancing to it, and found teachers and mentors **(Continued on page 21)**

For 60 years, Rita O'Shea Chaplin has been teaching Irish dance, and building a 'family' along the way

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It's a dead-of-winter Saturday, but things are quite lively inside the German International School Boston building in Brighton where some three dozen students of the O'Shea-Chaplin Academy of Irish Dance are going through their paces.

Three groups of dancers, from elementary school to college age, are spread out in the gymnasium/auditorium, while a fourth group rehearses on the stage. Hard-shoe choruses reverberate through the room as O'Shea-Chaplin teachers scrutinize each group's progress, occasionally yelling out an instruction or offering a compliment.

Meanwhile, yet another group of dancers is practicing nearby on a smooth, shiny wooden floor in a narrow hallway; a recording of an accordion-piano duo playing a hornpipe blares from a CD boombox as the dancers shift and pivot and tap their feet, surrounded by turquoise and pea-green walls that are adorned with various signs like "Restrooms, Damen und Herren" or "Die Pinguine."

And watching intently – occasionally emphasizing the recorded music with a verbal "daddlee-dee-DAH!" – is 76-year-old Rita O'Shea-Chaplin, doing what she has done literally almost her whole life: teach young people the joys, responsibilities and traditions that go with Irish dance.

O'Shea-Chaplin – the person and the school – is marking 60 years of teaching Irish dance, and will formally celebrate those six decades with a banquet and dance on March 8 in Melrose [details below]. Technically, the Boston operation is younger, since O'Shea-Chaplin didn't emigrate here until seven years after she started the school in her native Galway. But however you compute the numbers, the O'Shea-Chaplin Academy – like its namesake – has compiled a distinguished

record of achievement.

Over the decades, O'Shea-Chaplin dancers have consistently enjoyed success at regional, national, and world Irish dance competitions, been featured on local TV and on a Discovery Channel program, and toured throughout the United States as well as Canada, Ireland, Germany, Italy, and Russia. Some O'Shea-Chaplin students have gone onto dance professionally, as part of well-known productions like "Riverdance," "Gael Force" and "Lord of the Dance," or with organizations like the Trinity Dance Company and the Busch Gardens dance troupe.

As for O'Shea-Chaplin herself, one of her most recent, and heartfelt, honors was being feted by her peers during the World Irish Dancing Championships held in Boston a year ago. "It reached greater proportions than I ever could have imagined," she quipped in a subsequent interview with *Boston Irish Reporter*. "I didn't think it was all necessary. But," she added, "I felt very honored, and it felt very much like a culmination of so many years of work."

A dancer at age four and a champion in her teens, O'Shea-Chaplin made the first of several fateful life decisions when her dance instructor told her she was retiring and invited the then 17-year-old O'Shea-Chaplin to take over the school. The teenager had planned to become a schoolteacher, but found she was as well-suited to teaching Irish dance as performing it, and embarked on what became her career.

The next crossroads for O'Shea-Chaplin came when, following her mother's death, she came to Boston for what was supposed to be a temporary stay. Instead, she wound up settling in the area. Although she was not as actively involved in dance during this period, to be Irish in Boston during the early 1960s almost always meant visiting the city's



CAPTION: Rita O'Shea-Chaplin watches students of her Irish dance school during a recent practice. She began teaching 60 years ago. *Sean Smith photo*

legendary social dance halls, and so she did.

There's that cautionary phrase about not talking to strangers, but an encounter one evening at the Irish Social Club in Dorchester led O'Shea-Chaplin to yet another crossroads. Two men, noticing her obvious skill on the dance floor, asked her if she would be interested in teaching Irish dance. She was initially reluctant, but the men – one of whom was the president of the Irish Shamrock Society – offered to find her a hall and help recruit students. Two weeks later, O'Shea-Chaplin received a phone call offering her the job.

"I started out at the Italian-American Club in Central Square with seven dancers, and made no money the first year," she recalls. "The days became weeks, the weeks became months, and the months turned into years. But I didn't mind; being a teacher keeps you young."

Today, the O'Shea-Chaplin Academy offers classes for children age four and up, beginner to championship level, and as well as ceili and step dancing classes for adults, taught by six professional, certified teachers, including O'Shea-Chaplin and her daughter Lisa Chaplin. In addition to the German School, O'Shea-Chaplin holds classes at satellite locations in a dozen communities including Norwood, Lowell, North Attleboro, Quincy, and Winchester.

While O'Shea-Chaplin says the school has enjoyed a fairly consistent enrollment over the years, there is no question that the arrival of "Riverdance" in the 1990s, followed by

other similar stage productions, helped spike interest in Irish dance. But as exciting as all the innovation and spectacle may be, she says, would-be Irish dancers have to understand there is no shortcut to learning, and appreciating, the tradition.

"The thing about progress is, it's easy to become a throwaway society," she says. "For years, people stopped doing the tradition, and then once 'Riverdance' and the like came along there often seemed to be an attitude of 'Can you top this?' Well, now in the Irish dance community we're retracing our steps – going back to some dances that are 600 years old – and you're seeing a lot more emphasis on technical aspects. It can be difficult to get the students to focus on those things that seem so simple, but they're part of the requirement."

"What those people, young or old, who truly love Irish dance understand is, the old dances and the traditions, they strengthen you. You feel more of a confidence and a stability, knowing that you are holding onto this great history."

Each successive generation has its own particular traits and quirks, obviously, but O'Shea-Chaplin always looks for one characteristic among dancers. "You see a spark, and maybe it can't be expressed yet," she explains. "They want to do something with it, so we

tell them that they have to be willing to interpret it, to work hard, even if it means doing the same thing 100 times. It's up to them, and we want to help each one find their comfort level, and do as much as they're capable of."

"The school keeps going because Rita has made it so family-oriented," says Lisa Chaplin, who's been a full-time Irish dance teacher for about 15 years. "She's not just a teacher, but a mentor and a friend; she's written recommendations for colleges, jobs and so on, and people remember that. So when they've started families of their own, we'll often see their kids take lessons – and then *their* kids' kids."

Echoing Chaplin's comments, five current O'Shea-Chaplin dancers ranging in age from 15-21, all with at least a decade of experience, will tell you – practically in unison – what the school is all about for them: "Family."

"So many generations come back here," says 19-year-old Brianna Sheehan of Raynham. "There's always someone whose mother or sister or aunt was a student at O'Shea-Chaplin. Even if their kids or other relatives don't dance, people who used to be students here come by to visit or go to the competitions. You just see lots of familiar faces, and that makes a big impression."

Sixteen-year-old Harper Mills of Boston and fifteen-year-old Ally Meringer of Belmont have been friends since they


met at the school ten years ago. Those kinds of bonds, which the school provides and encourages, are often vital, explains Mills: "Irish dance looks like fun, and it is fun, but takes a lot of work. It's hard if you don't have a support system, and that's something O'Shea-Chaplin definitely helps with."

Perhaps the greatest source of joy and satisfaction for O'Shea-Chaplin is to stand in a place like the German School gymnasium/auditorium and watch the O'Shea-Chaplin dancers and teachers at work. Where an observer might simply see children and young people practicing steps and figures over and over, O'Shea-Chaplin sees legacies and a million stories.

"That little girl there," she'll say, pointing. "I taught her mother, who went to the nationals." She points in another direction: That girl over there, she notes, is a cousin of an O'Shea-Chaplin alumnus who's gone on to great things. Then she nods in the direction of a girl, of late middle school age, who's working with another girl several years her junior: "She's recovering from a stress fracture," says O'Shea-Chaplin of the older girl. "She doesn't have to be here working, but she wants to help the little one. There's wonderful camaraderie among them, and that's what it's all about."

Periodically, kids flit by O'Shea-Chaplin, and their greetings unfailingly include two words: "Thank you." With a smile, she remarks, "I don't know why they say that. I didn't say anything, I didn't do anything. But if that's the badge they carry out into the world, where you show respect and appreciation, then I guess I've done my job."

The March 8 O'Shea-Chaplin Academy of Irish Dance 60th anniversary celebration will run from 8 p.m.-midnight at Memorial Hall, 509 Main St. in Melrose. Admission is \$40 per person, which includes a dinner buffet; beer, wine and raffle tickets will be sold. The event will feature music by The Silver Spears and the duo of Tomas and Patrick Bowling. For reservations and information, contact Brenda Crossen Finn at 978-758-9314 or brenda.finn@verizon.net.




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For more on Irish Studies at Stonehill, contact Director of Irish Studies Professor Richard B. Finnegan at 508-565-1135.



Revels launches its 'Fringe' series with Nuñez concert

Having built a loyal following for its annual holiday celebrations, Revels is expanding its reach with a new program entitled Revels FRINGE. The series will offer a variety of events, concerts, and workshops designed for audiences with a curiosity about emerging musical ideas, styles, and performers.

FRINGE launches March 7 with a performance at the Center for the Arts at the Armory (191 Highland Street in Somerville) featuring Carlos Nuñez, the extraordinary Galician piper who galvanized audiences on his world tour with The Chieftains. Local audiences will remember his triumphant performances as part of Boston's Sum-

mer Arts Weekend last July.

Joining Nuñez and his band in this collaborative evening will be harpist Maeve Gilchrist (who performed in Irish "Christmas Revels"), local virtuoso fiddler Hanneke Cassel, and Revels veteran Stan Strickland on soprano saxophone.

An honorary member of The Chieftains, Nuñez embodies the charisma of a rock star while expanding the borders of Celtic music to include Flamenco, Jazz, Cuban, Mexican, Brazilian and more. He will also be appearing from March 14 - 16 as part of WGBH's "St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn" with Brian O'Donovan.

For tickets, visit revels.org. — R.J. DONOVAN



Galician piper and "Honorary Chieftain" Carlos Nuñez kicks off Revels' FRINGE series with a concert at the Center for the Arts at the Armory in Somerville on March 7. Photo by Javier Salas

'A relaxed, easy-going St. Patrick's Day party'

(Continued from page 1)

doing since we began the show in 2004 is to bring in musicians who are perhaps less familiar to audiences over here," he adds. "So you can think of this as a kind of relaxed, easy-going St. Patrick's Day party, which hopefully will send you home in a festive mood with lots of good music and memories echoing in your head."

The Alan Kelly Gang, in addition to its namesake — who has been part of numerous innovative collaborations for more than two decades, with people like Cathal Hayden, Nollaig Casey, Matt Molloy, and Arty McGlynn, as well as Kelly's fiddle-playing brother John — includes Steph Geremia (flute, vocals) Tony Byrne (guitar, vocals) and Alasdair White (fiddle) completed the line-up. Starting out as a purely instrumental ensemble, the "gang" has also won plaudits for its arrangements and performances of songs, delivered with skillful aplomb by Geremia and Byrne. With a solid foundation of Irish music, the band draws on influences and traditions from Scotland, Brittany, America, and other areas, and has performed on stages in Australia, Europe and North America.

Nuñez is a native of Spain's Celtic-influenced region of Galicia, and widely hailed as one of its most popular exponents of traditional music. Whether fronting his own band, or appearing with such luminaries as The Chieftains, Nuñez has thrilled audiences with his mastery of various bagpipes and other wind instruments, as well as his energetic, rock-star stage presence. He continues to incorporate other music traditions and genres, such as Irish, Scottish, Breton, rock and jazz, as demonstrated on his newest album, "Inter-Celtic," which guest stars Donal Lunny, Sharon Shannon, and Ry Cooder. Nuñez's Boston-area appearances include The Burren's "Backroom" series and



The Alan Kelly Gang and Galician bagpiper Carlos Nunez are two of the featured acts at this year's "A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn."

last summer's *Boston Globe*/WGBH "Summer Arts Weekend." He'll be joined at "St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn" by his brother Xurxo on percussion, and Pancho Alvarez on Brazilian viola and fiddle, and guitar.

The combination of fiddle and concertina makes for a classic sound in Irish tradition, and Nic Gabhann and Ó Maonaigh are the latest in a distinguished line. A native of County Meath, Nic Gabhann is a three-time winner of the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil on concertina and — in addition to Ó Maonaigh — has performed with the RTE Vanbrugh Quartet, Paddy Keenan, Liam Ó Maonlaí, Cherish The Ladies and the Kilfenora

Ceili Band. She also is a talented dancer and was in the troupe for "Riverdance."

Ó Maonaigh, a former TG4 "Young Musician of the Year" award winner, is from Co. Donegal and part of an extended family that includes grandfather and teacher Francie Mooney, Altan members Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh and Frankie Kennedy, Derry fiddle player Dermot McLaughlin and Donegal fiddle legend John Doherty. He is a member of the band Fídal, along with Aidan O'Donnell and Damien McGeehan, which has released three well-received albums, and has cultivated a successful career in film and TV work, especially in producing music for documentaries

— he presented, produced and directed a film about Francie Mooney.

Murphy, who co-founded (along with his wife Becky Tracy, with whom he also plays as a duo) the groundbreaking trio Nightingale, is regarded as one of the finest performers and scholars of the New England folk tradition around today. Noted for his percussive yet refined guitar style and an equally polished voice, with which he sings in French as well as English, Murphy also has shown his prowess as a composer and arranger of tunes, notably as a member of the group Childsplay.

For more on "A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn," see wgbh.org/celtic.

March concerts: A sampling

Following is a listing of some of the Irish and Celtic music/arts-related events scheduled in the Greater Boston area this month; see websites for registration, admission and ticket information:

March 2: Semi-monthly Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann session, 3-7 p.m., Canadian-American Club, Watertown [www.cceboston.org].

March 3: Karan Casey Band, 8 p.m., Club Passim, Harvard Square [passim.org].

March 5: Niamh Ni Charra and Runa, 7:30 p.m., Burren Backroom Series, The Burren, Davis Square [burren.com].

March 8: Jamaica Plain Ceili, set and ceili dances taught, 7 p.m. (beginner lessons 6:15 p.m.), Doyle's Pub, Jamaica Plain [facebook.com/thejamaicaplainceilis].

March 9: Irish Cultural Centre of New England monthly ceili, 3-7 p.m., Canton [irishculture.org].

March 10: Monthly BCMFest Session, 7 p.m., Club Passim, Harvard Square [passim.org].

March 14: St. Patrick's Day pub party with Patrick Kennedy and Tin Can Hooley, 8 p.m., Canadian-American Club, Watertown [canadianamericanclub.com].

March 14-17: St. Patrick's Day celebration, Irish Cultural Centre of New England, Canton [irishculture.org].

March 15: Rose Clancy with Janine Randall, "Pub in the Club" series, Canadian-American Club, workshop at 2 p.m., concert at 3 p.m., session at 5 p.m., Watertown [canadianamericanclub.com].

March 15 and 16: "A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn," Sanders Theater, Harvard University, Cambridge [wgbh.org/celtic].

March 16: Ceol Traidisiúnta na hÉireann monthly music and dance session, 2:30 p.m., Hibernian Hall, Watertown [FrankMaryB@aol.com].

March 17: The Henry Girls with Ry Cavanaugh, 8 p.m., Club Passim, Harvard Square [passim.org].

March 19: Sean Keane, 7:30 p.m., Burren Backroom Series, The Burren, Davis Square [burren.com].

March 20-23: Boston Irish Film Festival, Somerville Theatre, Davis Square [irishfilmfestival.com].

March 23: Semi-monthly Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann session, 3-7 p.m., Canadian-American Club, Watertown [www.cceboston.org].

March 27: Sheila Falls and Mark Roberts, 6:30 p.m., Gaelic Roots series, Boston College, Chestnut Hill [www.bc.edu/gaelicroots].

March 28: "Masters of Tradition" tour, 8 p.m., Somerville Theatre, Davis Square [www.somerville-theatreonline.com/somerville-theatre].

Cultural panel honors Noonan with \$10k award

(Continued from page 18)

among some of his father's friends who were traditional musicians.

Moving to Toronto in the early 1980s, Noonan was invited by renowned musician P.J. Hayes to join the Tulla Ceili Band, considered one of the finest Irish traditional music ensembles. Noonan settled in Boston in 1985, opening up a music school — some of his students have since gone on to win national music competitions and qualify for the Fleadh Cheol, the world championship of Irish music — and later becoming a faculty member at BC.

Noonan credits Connolly, along with the mentors from his youth in Cleveland, as key influences in his musical development. "These men gave me an appreciation of the older, rural, simpler style of music. In this style of music, what you don't play is just more important sometimes than what you do."

Much to his delight, Noonan has seen his young

son Seamus cultivate an appreciation for Irish music and take up tin whistle himself, performing well in the Irish music competitions. Noonan plans to use some of the MCC Artist Fellowship award to bring Seamus to more such events, including the Fleadh Cheol. Doing so, he said, is part of carrying on the work of generations of musicians before him — especially those who have been his friends and mentors.

"I see one of my greatest attributes as being able to pass on their music, their humor, and what they thought was important in life onto students such as my son, so hopefully he in turn will feel the same way. If this happens, not only will the standard of music remain strong but so will the tradition itself."

Watch a video of Jimmy Noonan and Seamus Connolly performing at the 2013 National Heritage Fellowships awards banquet at youtube.com/watch?v=H7n-YV1zbJY.



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CD Reviews: ‘Capercaillie’; ‘The New Road’; ‘Friends for Life’

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR
Capercaillie, “At the Heart of It All” • Legend has it (OK, Wikipedia has it) that Capercaillie’s last album, “Roses and Tears” (2008), was originally going to be titled “Call It a Day,” heralding the group’s supposed plan to wind things down and disband completely. True story or no, this farewell hasn’t happened yet, because here they are celebrating their 30th year with a new release. And listeners old and new might like to celebrate, too, because “At the Heart of It All” shows them as a still vital force in the Celtic music scene.

For all their longevity, Capercaillie often seems like an under-the-radar band, which is too bad, because they make for an interesting story: Steeped

as they are in Scottish Highlands/Islands tradition, they also have a significant Irish bloodline, courtesy of guitarist-bouzouki player–vocalist Manus Lunny (Donal’s brother) and uilleann piper-flutist Michael McGoldrick. They’ve also run quite the gamut in terms of their musical style, from a pretty straightforward trad sound early on to experimentations with funk, jazz, and electric instruments during the 1990s, and then somewhere more or less in the middle for the past decade or so.

That’s where “At the Heart of It All” finds them, anchored by co-founders Karen Matheson – with her sultry-to-silky vocals in English and Scots Gaelic – and Donald Shaw, who on the one hand evokes the quintessential Scots trad sound through his

accordion but on the other can also lay out some cool, urban tones on a Fender Rhodes. Fiddler Charlie McKerron supplements McGoldrick on the melodic components, with the very able Ewen Vernal on double bass. Joining the band is a bevy of guests (percussionists James Mackintosh and David Robertson and uilleann piper Jarlath Henderson are the most frequent), including vocalists Julie Fowles and Kris Drever, banjoist Gerry O’Conner and fiddler Aidan O’Rourke, making for a manifestly 21st-century ceilidh atmosphere.

On the opening track, Matheson combines with vocalists Kathleen McInnes and Sinead MacIntyre (Lunny and Vernal also join in) on a gorgeous Hebridean waulking song, while Tommy Smith’s jazzy saxophone riffs blend with

Shaw’s keyboards, neatly grafting the modern onto the ancient. In a similar vein, Matheson and Fowles team up on “Abu Chuibl,” a song from the Isle of Lewis, while McGoldrick, McKerron and Henderson weave a counter-melody underneath, and a sax-trombone-trumpet trio cannily punctuates the rhythm. MacIntyre returns for “Nighean Dubh Nighean Donn,” which ramps up into a lovely McGoldrick piece.

The instrumental tracks include “Cal’s Jigs,” featuring two band originals, which for the most part eschews the overt jazz-funk stylings and puts Shaw’s accordion out in front with McGoldrick, McKerron and Henderson; the “Jura Wedding Reels” set also is more trad-oriented – O’Conner and Lunny in particular

providing a solid melody-rhythm foundation – and the track also should be of interest to Bostonites for ending with Maurice Lennon’s “Tribute to Larry Reynolds.”

The energy, creativity and talent on display here shows that Capercaillie has plenty of music left in its collective tank. Here’s to the next 30 years.

Leonard Barry, “The New Road” • North Kerry-born Barry got the uilleann piping bug as a teenager listening to The Bothy Band and Planxty, so naturally his early influences were Paddy Keenan and Liam O’Flynn, along with Finbar Furey. But he also went farther back in the piping tradition, to Seamus Ennis, Leo Rowsome, Willie Clancy, and Johnny Doran. Settling in Cork as a young adult exposed him to the music of Sliabh Luachra (Johnny O’Leary, Julia Clifford, Denis Murphy), and a sojourn in Galway furthered his development. All of which enabled Barry to become a top-flight piper (good enough to work not only with a plethora of great traditional musicians but also singer-songwriters Luka Bloom and John Spillane) and a collector of some impressive tunes not necessarily found in the piping repertoire.

After nearly a decade’s sabbatical from music, he’s back at it and “The New Road,” his second recording, should impel us all to urge Barry not to put down the pipes ever again. Christy Moore, for one, has praised Barry for the “hop” on his regulators and the “seductive” nature of his drones, but you don’t need to know piping terminology to realize that this fellow plays with masterful control and skill. Listen to the very first track, as he skirls his way majestically through a trio of Sliabh Luachra jigs from the O’Leary repertoire, including a less familiar version of “Tom Billy’s Jig,” or a medley of reels that begins with “Gerry Commans” – one of those august D-major tunes that make you glad the Irish music tradition exists. His featuring of relative rarities like “The Cauliflower” or the marvelously titled hop jig “Shaving the Baby with a Spoon” should send more than a few musicians scurrying to tune archives (or maybe thesession.org at least).

Aiding Barry’s cause on some of the tracks is a quite distinguished lineup of musicians including Cathy Jordan (bodhran), Seamus O’Dowd (guitar), Rick Epping (harmonica, concertina), John Carty (banjo), Andy Morrow (fiddle) and Cyril O’Donoghue (bouzouki): Epping’s harmonica-playing makes for a particularly robust combination with the pipes, notably on a trio of slides; Carty moves effectively between rhythm and melody on the march “Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine,” which segues into a pair of reels; O’Donoghue adds lovely textures to the reels that follow Barry’s solo on an intriguing North Kerry fling “Kitty Got a Clinging”; and Epping, O’Dowd and Jordan

ladle on the exuberance in Thomas O’Connellan’s festive “Planxty Davis.”

Closing out the album is another dose of Sliabh Luachra magic, the slow air “O’Rahilly’s Grave,” which provides further evidence of Barry’s virtuosity – and will undoubtedly leave you wanting more. Add him to the list of People You’d Really Like to See Here in Boston.

The High Kings, “Friends for Life” • With their fourth album, The High Kings continue to diversify their sound, moving well beyond (though not completely abandoning) the neo-Clancy ballad-band persona into more of the folk/rock/pop genre explored by the likes of Stockton’s Wing, Four Men and a Dog and, most recently, the Paul McKenna Band. Not that any of this is shocking, given their collective background, from the family legacies of Finbarr (son of Bobby) Clancy and Martin (son of Finbar) Furey to the concert hall experience of Three Irish Tenors member Brian (son of showband star Sean) Dunphy and theatrical stage stalwart Darren Holden. But whether you think this movement is more calculation than a natural evolution, their instrumental prowess and infectious vocal power are often difficult to resist – especially in the hands of producers Sharon Shannon (who guest stars on a few tracks) and John Dunford.

The most significant development here is that they’ve added their own material; seven of the album’s 12 tracks were written by the band. That includes the opener, “Maggie,” a charmingly modern take on the immigrant-far-from-home-and-family theme, with the Kings’ trademark four-part harmony. “All Around the World” is tender and romantic but with a catchy groove supplied by Shannon and guest drummer Steve Hogan. “High” – marked by a shifting rhythm between verse and chorus – is pleasant enough, as is “Come with Me Now” – redolent of a classic “boy-meets-girl” trad ballad – although the “ooh-wooh” harmonies in back don’t really sound necessary, while “High Ireland’s Shore” is straight off the ballad-band boat. Less memorable, though, are “Gucci” and the title track.

As for the non-originals, the band goes pleasingly *a cappella* for the sea chantey “Leave Her Johnny” and puts a syncopated, countryish stamp on another traditional song, “Health to the Company” that works rather well; they return to the ballad-band mode on “McAlpine’s Fusiliers,” with a witty “Wizard of Oz”-inspired vocal motif to boot. The other two songs are quite familiar, perhaps overly so: “Peggy Gordon” and, inevitably, Steve Earle’s “Galway Girl,” although having Sharon Shannon in the mix certainly helps matters. All told, it’s pretty easy, entertaining fare for the ears, which is what The High Kings are all about.

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Somerville Theatre to host Masters of Tradition March 28

The third annual Masters of Tradition tour, featuring an ensemble of seven highly acclaimed Celtic music performers, will make a stop in the Boston area at Somerville Theatre on March 28.

Fiddler Martin Hayes, the ensemble's artistic director, will be joined by his long-time collaborator, guitarist Dennis Cahill, as well as Cathal Hayden (fiddle), Seamie O'Dowd (guitar), Máirtín O'Connor (accordion), David Power (uilleann pipes) and Iarla Ó Léonáird (vocals).

Masters of Tradition is named for, and based on the concept of, the annual festival in Bantry, Co. Cork, an event that

presents Irish music in small configurations – solos, duos, and trios as well as full-group performances – and in intimate venues normally associated with chamber music. The format, according to organizers, promotes a true listening experience that enables audiences to appreciate the full depth and character of traditional music.

Hayes is steeped in the contemplative, lyrical East Clare fiddle style, and his partnership with Cahill has produced a minimalist yet mesmerizing approach to Irish traditional music. The two also are part of a recently organized band, The Gloaming, whose

members include Ó Léonáird, a *sean-nos* (old-style) singer and a former member of the pioneering group Afro-Celt Sound System.

Hayden, one of the most respected fiddlers of his generation, was the driving force behind the formation of the popular group Four Men and a Dog. Among his musical affiliations is a trio with O'Connor – whose versatility has been evidenced in appearances with The Chieftains, De Danann, The Dubliners, and Elvis Costello – and O'Dowd, a former member of the band Dervish.

A former Senior All-Ireland piping champion, Power was a member of



The Masters of Tradition tour, led by fiddler Martin Hayes (second from left), will be at Somerville Theatre March 28.

Liam Clancy's Fairweather Band and plays with Donal Clancy and Ciarán Somers in Pipers Union.

For links to details about the Masters of Tradition concert, and information about Somerville Theatre, see somer-villetheatreonline.com/somerville-theatre.

– SEAN SMITH

‘Heartbeat of Home’ sweeps Irish dance into new millennium

(Continued from page 18)

Many of the 30 cast members are indeed Irish born, including featured dancer Jason O'Neill. The 27-year-old Belfast native was principal dancer in “Riverdance” the last time it played Boston's Opera House. The only boy in a family of seven children, his local connection also includes a sister who has called Greater Boston home for the past 15 years.

As “Heartbeat” was slowly being formed, an inspirational “quote of the day” was posted outside the rehearsal studios to establish the tone. One day it read: “Success is not counted by how high you have climbed, but by how many people you brought with you.”

“I’ve always stepped into a show and had to be taught the steps. Here, the energy is so different,” said Jason. “We had our own little input. We could show who we were and they kind of put that on board as they guided the show . . . I’ve never been through anything like it before . . . (John Carey and David Bolger) really wanted to push us and let us express ourselves to the best of our abilities. What can we show? What can we do different from 20 years ago? . . . (It’s) such a new climate for Irish dancing.”

When I spoke with Moya by phone from Toronto, Jason had just danced the lead the previous evening. “He was simply extraordinary,” she said “ . . . I spoke to him afterward and he said ‘I am so ready for this now’ . . . We



At left, Irish Dancer Ciara Sexton in “Heartbeat of Home.” Right, a scene from the production.

Photo: Riverdream Productions Ltd; Photographer J. Byrne

have three sets of leads, simply because it is so intense. No two dancers could dance every night for eight shows. So each and every one of them has a different interpretation. And we allow them the space, within the show, to be themselves, to be their own personality, not to be part of the troupe. There is something special going on and I think they feel it.”

While maintaining a respect for tradition, the show is clearly explor-

ing new ground, which Jason finds exhilarating. “I come from the stringent Irish dancing, arms by your side. It’s all about technique. Personality comes second. For me to be able to put my personality across and have fun with things is a real breakthrough for me. Real growth.”

And while the evening is designed to showcase vibrant music and dance, the show also aims to dazzle with its imagery.

The production design calls for 16 projectors to fill the performance area with visuals from stage floor to ceiling, dropping the dancers directly into the action.

“We worked with a great Irish company called Image Now,” said Moya, “and with an artist called Dave Torpey who animated it effectively. John had in his mind, (a concept) of the space the show would take place in. He was incredibly taken by the film,

“The Life of Pi” and the effects. Now, we didn’t have anything like the budget “The Life of Pi” had, but it was a reference point for taking reality and just taking a slightly surreal approach to it.”

Immensely proud of their work, the company is indeed “straining at the leash” to share “Heartbeat’s” diversity with audiences. “We opened in Dublin, we were there for three weeks,” said Jason, “and that was a roaring

success. It was great to start it at home, keep it the core of Ireland. Now we’re trying to spread the wings.”

R. J. Donovan is Editor and Publisher of onstageboston.com.

“Heartbeat of Home,” March 26 – April 6, Citi Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont Street in Boston. Tickets: 800-982-2787 or citicenter.org.

Canadian-American Club hosts third ‘Pub in the Club’ concert on March 8

The Watertown-based Canadian-American Club of Massachusetts has started a new monthly concert series spotlighting Celtic musicians from the Greater Boston area. Titled “The Pub in the Club,” the series – which takes place on the second Sunday of each month – kicked off in January with fiddler George Keith, accompanied by bouzouki player Martin Langer, and last month featured fiddler Katie McNally.

This month’s installment – which has been moved to Sat., March 8 – will welcome Rose Clancy, a fiddle, banjo and mandolin player from Cape Cod who has played as part of the band

the Clancy Tradition. Future guests slated to appear include Frank Ferrel, Matt Petrie, and Rachel Reeds.

According to co-organizer Janine Randall, the format will comprise a one-hour workshop given by the performer, followed by the concert and then an open session.

Another important aspect of the series, she adds: The events will take place not in the function hall but downstairs in the club’s recently renovated pub.

“The club holds lots of dances, of course, which sometimes include workshops and sessions with a guest musician,” says Randall, an accomplished

Cape Breton-style pianist in her own right. “But we wanted to try something different – more intimate, more focused on music – and the pub is a perfect setting for that.”

Although the Canadian-American Club is celebrated in particular as a locus of musical, cultural and social activity for the Greater Boston Cape Breton and Canadian Maritimes community, Randall notes that the area’s Irish and Scottish communities have long made use of the place as well – the local Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann chapter, for example, holds a *seisiun* two Sundays a month and weekly dance workshops there

for most of the year, and more recently the Boston Scottish Fiddle Club has begun gathering at the club for sessions.

“The club has such a great history to it, and there has been a lot of interest among the various groups in each other’s music. So many people have one foot in Cape Breton and another in Irish – and maybe another foot in Scottish, too! So, we’re hoping for some nice exchanges between all these different musical crowds.”

Randall notes, by the way, that most of the proceeds from the series’ events will go to support the Canadian-American Club. “The musicians who are

playing here are doing so out of the goodness of their hearts.”

The March 8 event with Rose Clancy will begin with a workshop at 2 p.m.; the concert and dance will run from 3-5 p.m., after which will be a session. Admission is \$10 for the concert and session, and an additional \$5 for the workshop; for those wishing to attend only the workshop, admission is \$10. For more information and updates about the Pub in the Club series, or other Canadian-American Club events and activities, see www.canadianamericanclub.com.

–SEAN SMITH

Traveling People

There's only one focus in Ireland this month

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The headlines and focus for the month of March belong to Ireland's patron saint and the many festivities that will be held in his honor here and in Ireland.

Head for Dublin and you can enjoy the annual St. Patrick's Festival from March 14 to 17 with numerous events including an Irish craft beer and food market, walking tour, funfairs, music and street performances, and a parade at noon on the 17th with marching bands from all over the world. Or drive west to Achill Island to watch the traditional pipe bands from the villages of Dookinella, Dooagh, Keel, and Pollagh gather at various churches, pubs and hotels on the 17th to march and perform.

Head for Northern Ireland and you can visit St. Patrick's grave in Downpatrick and the fascinating St. Patrick Centre there. Downpatrick has planned many events from March 11 to 18 that include archaeology lectures, tours, a street music competition, and much more. Belfast and other Northern Ireland cities and towns have multiple events planned, too.

Or, point your car south and head for the annual festival in Cork City that is being held this year from March 15 to 17. Or head to Cobh or Waterford or just about any city or town in Ireland. There are celebrations everywhere. Ireland will be awash with the events honoring St. Patrick while welcoming spring during this month when everyone is Irish regardless of heritage.

STORMS

As much as we decry our New England winter weather, Ireland has been battered beyond belief this season by one storm after another. Flooding has been rampant and piers and car parks that have withstood winter storms and gales for many years have been destroyed. The damage has not been fully assessed as of this writing but it will surely be in the many millions of euros. Our prayers and well wishes go out to all the Irish whose communities have suffered so dreadfully this winter.

JONATHAN SWIFT

We all no doubt know about the epic "Gulliver's Travels," but how many of us know that author Jonathan Swift was born in Dublin in 1667?

He lived in Ireland off and on, and in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, we discovered that there's a park named after him. The Jonathan Swift Park offers a range of family-friendly activities. You can rent a boat, take a swim, walk the woodland paths, fish, visit the children's play area or seasonal coffee shop/café. If you're a fan of more active pursuits, you can take a specialized course in canoeing, hill walking, rock climbing or first aid, among others in the Lilliput Adventure Centre there. Single and multi-day courses are offered.



The boathouse on Lough Ennell in the Jonathan Swift Park, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

Judy Enright photos

See lilliputadventure.com for more information.

NEW TOURISM ROUTES

We read recently about a new tourism route through the Boyne Valley that was launched to draw "culturally curious" visitors to the area. Famed heritage sites in the valley include Newgrange, Knowth, Trim Castle, Monasterboice, Slane Castle, Bru Na Boinne, and Mellifont Abbey. All told there are 22 historic attractions on the drive.

The Boyne Valley Drive runs for 225 km through counties Meath and Louth, and includes a number of "hidden gems" as well as well-known tourist attractions. Signage along the route is planned.

Tourism Ireland (called Fáilte Ireland in Ireland) is also promoting the Wild Atlantic Way, a driving route that covers 2,500 km of coastal roads in the West of Ireland, from Donegal, through Sligo and Mayo and Galway and Clare to Kerry and Cork. The coast of the West is beautiful and this sounds like a wonderful tour.

POTATOES

Recently read about a potato called the Lumper that was said to be one of the causes of the Famine when it suffered a fungus and wouldn't grow. The Irish poor had relied so heavily on the Lumper that when the crop failed, they had nothing else to eat.

An Antrim potato farmer, Michael McKillop of Glens of Antrim Potatoes, reintroduced the Lumper to the Irish market recently. He had apparently read about those potatoes and how dreadful they tasted, so he decided to try them for himself and grew a few. He was amazed, he said, by how good the Lumper was.

Look for the Lumper potato the next time you're in an Irish market. I'll certainly be looking for them when I go back there.

THINGS TO DO

Did you know that there is a National 1798 Rebellion Centre in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, that highlights Wexford's Rebellion of 1798 as well as happenings in Europe, Australia, and the US? There's an audio-visual exhibit, restaurant, and gift shop, with locally-made crafts, and more. See 1798centre.com for details.

Flying boats? Well sure, and what better place to land a flying boat (seaplane) than on the Shannon River? Across the river from Shannon Airport in Foynes, Co. Limerick, is the Flying Boat Museum, which claims to be the only aviation museum in Ireland and the only dedicated flying boat museum in the world. Not only was Foynes a pivotal port for early flights between Europe and the US, but it was also the place where Irish Coffee was invented in the 1940s. The museum is open from mid-March to November. For more information, visit flyingboatmuseum.com.

Skipping over to the West – Dingle Peninsula, to be exact – do stop at the Blasket Centre in Dunquin, Co. Kerry, if you're nearby. The Centre celebrates the history of the Blasket Islanders, the literary achievements of island writers and their native language, culture, and traditions. I especially enjoyed the beautiful black-and-white photographs there by Anthony Haughey from Dublin. Depending on weather, you can take a ferry out to visit the abandoned village and walk the island. I was told that there are now more descendants of the Greater Blasket Island living in Springfield, MA, than on Dingle.

We all know about Waterford Crystal but how many of us have visited Newbridge Silverware in Co. Kildare? You'll find



Sign at the entrance to the Jonathan Swift Park in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

a sparkling, well-lighted visitor center – open seven days a week – where you can see everything from jewelry and silverware to Christmas decorations, lovely items all. For more information, visit newbridgesilverware.com.

GARDENS

Ireland is ahead of us climate wise, and daffodils were already sprouting in February. It's almost garden tour season, so be sure to be on the lookout for times and dates of festivals and tours if you are a garden and plant lover. Many sections of the country have organized festivals and tours during the growing season and probably the best source of information is Tourism Ireland's informative website – Ireland.com – or stop by any of the Tourist offices around Ireland. The tourist board is known as Fáilte Ireland there and offices, where staffers are knowledgeable and very helpful, are marked with a big green shamrock.

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Guide shows tourists the way to Boston’s Irish culture, heritage

If you’re a tourist coming to town for a convention, or a family reunion, or a business trip, you may have heard that Boston is an Irish city and so you want to tap into that scene while you’re here. Where do you turn for information?

Try the Boston Irish Tourism Association (BITA), a group that promotes the state’s Irish cultural community year round to visitors from all over the world. The association publishes a handy Travel & Culture Guide that helps people find the best places for Irish

sessions or dance recitals, gift shops or pubs, art exhibits, or information on Irish history in the Boston area.

“Annually, over 22 million visitors come to Massachusetts,” says Colette Quinlin, managing director of BITA. “They easily find the Freedom Trail, Harvard Square, Cape Cod or the Berkshires. But how do they find authentic Irish culture? We put together the Travel & Culture Guide to make it easy to connect with the Irish scene while they’re here.”

Published three times a year – March, June and November – the free magazine comprises 28-40 pages per issue, and includes stories on local Irish-American personalities, from Boston Mayor Marty Walsh to renowned chef Barbara Lynch. Recent interviews include Keith Lockhart of the Boston Pops and Brian O’Donovan, host of Celtic Sojourn radio show.

Founded in 2000 by Michael and Colette Quinlin, BITA also runs the popular website IrishBoston.org, which provides details on upcoming Irish events up to four months in advance, along with select listings of pubs, gift shops, cultural groups, and hotels.

BITA has also developed Boston’s Irish Heritage Trail (IrishHeritageTrail.com), a walking tour of 20 public landmarks in downtown Boston and Back Bay that tell the 300- year history of the city’s largest ethnic group. An additional 20 landmarks in Boston’s neighborhoods provide greater detail on the Irish experience in Boston.

Stops along the Irish Trail are often featured in the Travel & Culture Guide, and recent profiles have included Hibernian Hall in Roxbury, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Boston Common, the statue of Boston Mayor Kevin White, and Fenway Park, which was built by Irish immigrant Charles E. Logue.

While the guide is geared toward visitors seeking to connect to the region’s Irish heritage and culture, the magazine is also popular with Irish organizations throughout New England who are also active in the community.

You can pick up a free copy of Travel & Culture Guide at visitor centers on Boston Common and the Prudential Center, at the JFK Library in Dorchester, the Irish Consulate in Back Bay, at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton, and at dozens of other spots around the Commonwealth. A distribution list appears on IrishBoston.org.





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St. Patrick’s Day.

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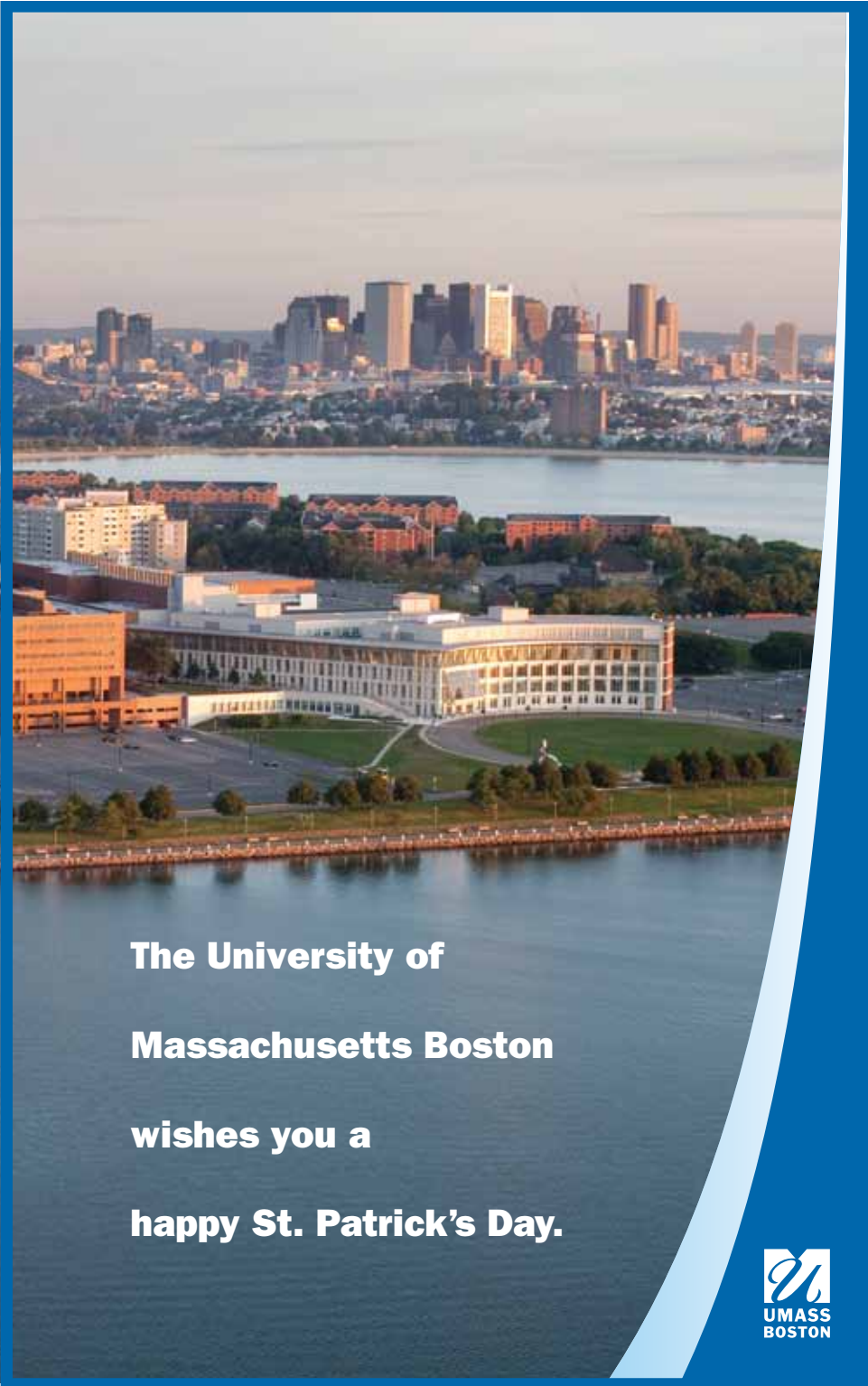


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Irish Heritage Month

March 2014 • Lawrence MA



Preserving and Fostering our Heritage and Culture

Sona Feile Padraig ort.

The Men and Woman of the Reverend James T. O'Reilly Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Irish Foundation of Lawrence have joined forces to present a series of cultural programs for Irish Heritage Month in the City of Lawrence and other venues throughout the Merrimack Valley. These events are the largest celebration of its kind north or Boston. All are welcome. You don't have to be Irish or a Hibernian to come and enjoy these events. They include special exhibits, lectures and presentations, concerts and other musical events, food, children's programs and for the sports minded a Four Mile Road Race. And last but not least the Lawrence St Patrick's Day Parade.

Saturday, March 1, 2014

IRISH FLAG RAISING Across from City Hall –Common St. @11 a.m.

Sunday, March 2, 2014

OPENING RECEPTION and EXHIBIT - "The Rev James T. O'Reilly OSA and his Influence on Lawrence, Massachusetts" Michael Quinlan of the Boston Irish Tourism Association, will speak on his new book, "Irish Boston: A Lively Look at Boston's Colorful Irish Past," at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA. 2 – 4 p.m. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH & the Irish Foundation. (FREE) – Handicap Accessible.

Sunday, March 2, 2014

21st ANNUAL CLADDAGH PUB ROAD RACE – 11 a.m. (rain or shine) # 2 of the Wild Rover Race Series - For more information runthecladdagh.com.

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY - South Lawrence Branch, 135 Parker Street, Lawrence, MA: Open House 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Showcase of Irish Books, CD's and DVD's – All Month (Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.) Sponsored by Division 8 & the Irish Foundation.

Saturday, March 8, 2014

THE 143rd ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BANQUET AND DANCE at the Lawrence Firefighters Association Reliefs' In, One Market Street, South Lawrence, MA. Traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner with dancing to the Jolly Tinkers from 6 p.m. – 11 p.m. – Awarding of the Richard Cardinal Cushing and Irishman & Irishwoman of the Year Awards. For more information please contact Robert Gauthier at 978 686-2786. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH.

Sunday, March 9, 2014

WHITE FUND LECTURE - Teddie Gallagher, Communications Director for Province of St. Thomas of Villanova at Villanova, PA will speak on "The Life and Times of the Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA" at the Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St Lawrence, MA at 2 p.m. Sponsored by Division 8 & the Irish Foundation. (FREE) – Handicap Accessible.

Friday, March 14, 2014

45th ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON at the Lawrence Firefighters Association Reliefs' In, One Market Street, South Lawrence, MA. Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner with entertainment by the Silver Spears Irish Show Band at NOON. Awarding of the Honorable John E. Fenton Citizenship Award. For more information please contact Jack Lahey at 603-898-7766. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH.

Saturday, March 15, 2014

SAINT PATRICKS DAY PARADE 1:00 pm For more information please contact the parade committee @ 978-423-8871 or e-mail: lawrencestpatparade2014@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 15, 2014

OPEN HOUSE – Music all day long at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal St, Lawrence, MA. For further information call 978-688-8337.

Sunday, March 16, 2014

OPEN HOUSE – At the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal St, Lawrence, MA. For further information call 978-688-8337.

Monday, March 17, 2014

OPEN HOUSE – Music all day long at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal St, Lawrence, MA. For further information call 978-688-8337.

Sunday, March 23, 2004

Professor Christine Kinealy, Author, Professor and Director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University Hamden CT will speak on her new book "Charity And The Great Hunger in Ireland, The Kindness of Strangers" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence, MA, at 2 p.m. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH & the Irish Foundation. (FREE) - Handicap Accessible.

Saturday, March 29, 2014

IRISH FILM FESTIVAL at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA, 10 a.m. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH. For further information please call 978 794-1655. (FREE) – Handicap Accessible.

Sunday, March 30, 2014

IRELAND IN SONG - CELTIC MELODIES FOR VOICE AND PIANO – performed by Terri and George Kelley at the Lawrence Public Library, Sargent Auditorium, 51 Lawrence St., Lawrence, MA at 2 p.m. Presented by the Friends of the Lawrence Public Library & The Irish Foundation. (FREE)

IRISH HERITAGE MONTH IS SPONSORED BY THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS DIVISION 8, DIVISION 8 LAOH AND THE IRISH FOUNDATION OF LAWRENCE

Irish Heritage Month is supported in part by a grant from the Lawrence Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Cancellation of Events For information on cancellation of AOH & LAOH & Irish Foundation events, please contact the AOH/ LAOH Cancellation Line @ 603-893-5802.

For information on AOH Membership please write to: Division 8 AOH Organizer, PO Box 1407, Lawrence, MA 01842 or e-mail our organizer @ mark.alaimo@gmail.com.

Hub’s O’Brien leads delegation to Limerick, Belfast

**By BILL FORRY
EDITOR**

Boston’s own Drew O’Brien – a longtime aide to Secretary of State John Kerry - is forging new bonds between the US government, the Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland through his role as a State Department representative focused on diaspora communities around the world. O’Brien recently returned from his second visit to the Republic and Belfast in the last year. Both trips were focused on encouraging US investors to consider new opportunities across the pond.

Last year, O’Brien was named Special Representative in the State Department’s Office of the Global Partnership Initiative. In late January, he led a delegation of US investors, entrepreneurs, philanthro-

pists, and representatives from academia and civil society to Limerick and Belfast, as part of a new public-private State Department initiative dubbed a POD— short for Partnership Opportunity Delegations (PODs). The trip focused on partnership opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in particular. The delegation included representatives from Boston College and Worcester Polytechnic Institute, along with venture capitalists and other business interests.

“The idea of the POD is not to go on a single issue, but rather go to a place with multiple interests and try to put like-minded people together,” explained O’Brien. “My directive to the group was to have an open mind. You’ll be completely surprised by

the good and the bad of [Belfast]. But by the end of the two days you will fall in love with the place. And that’s exactly what happened.”

While in Limerick on Jan. 27-28, O’Brien and the delegation attended the Irish Technology Leadership Group’s Silicon Valley Global Technology Forum, where he delivered remarks. In Belfast on Jan. 28-29, the delegation was hosted by Minister Steven Farry, a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly who leads the Department for Employment and Learning.

“We realized we were completely on same page: How do we take what we’re doing in Boston and Cambridge and San Jose and Austin, Texas, and other entrepreneurial pockets and import-export that and bring people over. We do this all over the world,”



Special Rep. Drew O’Brien, right, toured Belfast Metropolitan College with members of a delegation of US investors last month.

Photo: Michael Cooper Photography

O’Brien said.

One key member of the delegation, O’Brien said, was Mary Kane, CEO of the Washington, D.C.-based Sister Cities International, which seeks to pair cities with logical links. Currently, Belfast is linked with Nashville.

O’Brien thinks another such pairing with Belfast “might be coming to a city near you.”

Stay tuned.



May luck be our companion
May friends stand by our side
May history remind us all
Of Ireland's faith and pride
May God bless us with happiness
May love and faith abide.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

CONGRESSMAN & MRS.
STEPHEN F. LYNCH

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Irish nanny charged in baby death seeks bail

**By DENISE LAVOIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS**

A lawyer for an Irish nanny charged with murder in the death in Cambridge of a one-year-old girl is arguing in court that medical reports indicating that the child suffered bone fractures when she was not in the nanny’s care should result in her being released on bail while awaiting trial.

But a prosecutor said the older injuries don’t affect the prosecution’s allegation that Rehma Sabir suffered severe head injuries during a time when the nanny, Aisling Brady McCarthy,

was watching her.

“There is no question that the injury was sustained within the seven hours where the defendant was the sole caretaker,” Assistant District Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald said.

McCarthy is now being held without bail. Judge S. Jane Haggerty did not immediately rule on the defense request that bail be set at \$5000.

Her lawyer, Melinda Thompson, said that if she is released, she would be willing to be monitored by an electronic bracelet and to sign documents promising to stay in the United States to face trial.

But Fitzgerald said US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have informed him that if McCarthy is released from jail, they are required to deport her immediately. That’s because she came to the US about 12 years ago under a visa waiver program that entitled her to stay 90 days. Under that program, people who stay longer than allowed waive their right to appeal and must be deported immediately.

“She will be deported without any assurance that she will return to face these charges,” Fitzgerald

said.

Haggerty did not indicate when she would rule on the bail request but scheduled another status conference for later in the month.

Thompson argued that two medical experts for prosecutors concluded that vertebral fractures the baby had were probably about three to four weeks old at the time of her death. The baby was traveling outside the country with her family during that time period, so the injuries could not have been inflicted by McCarthy, she said.

Thompson said if the grand jury that indicted McCarthy had those reports, it could have changed the course of the investigation into the baby’s death.

“Maybe other people would have been interviewed,” she said. “It calls into question the commonwealth’s entire case.”

McCarthy, 35, had been the baby’s nanny for about six months at the time she died.

The trial is scheduled to begin April 7, but Thompson complained that prosecutors have been slow in turning over evidence and said the defense may seek a delay.

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John L. Sullivan will be focus of talk at central BPL

The Boston Public Library will host lectures and author talks at the Central Library in Copley Square and branch locations through the month of March, highlighting the works of writers and experts in a variety of genres.

In one of the talks, on Thurs., March 6, at 6 p.m. in Rabb Lecture Hall at the Central Library, Christopher Klein will detail the life of one of America’s first Irish-American sports heroes as told in in “Strong Boy: The Life and times of John L. Sullivan, America’s First Sports Hero.

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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Let us review (or “revise” in Anglo-Irish) **Adverbs** for “late-starters” and for those who follow this column as a reminder. **Adverbs**, as you remember from school days, are those words and phrases that describe **verbs** in terms of “manner” – how something happens; “place” – where something takes place; and “time” – when it happens.

Adverbs of “manner” can be one at a time or several at a time. They are often marked on English by the suffix “-ly” as in “slowly”. If there are more than one **Adverbs** of manner they must be joined by “and” in English and in Irish with **agus** or its abbreviation, ‘**s**’: “slowly and carefully.”

Many adverbs of “place” and “time” are phrases in English. This is not always true in Irish. Here are English examples of each.

Manner: “He walked ***slowly***.”
Place: “He walked slowly ***into the room***.”
Time: “He walked slowly into the room ***at eight o’clock***.”

You can have multiple adverbs:
“He walked ***slowly*** and ***carefully into the room last night at eight o’clock***.”

Word order in English is normally “manner”, “place” and “time” with few exceptions. It is awkward and sounds contrived to native speakers of English if we “front” adverbs of “place” and manner” unless it is poetical or used as a literary device. However, for emphasis, we can “front” adverbs of “time”.

“At eight o’clock he walked slowly and carefully into the room.”

Irish, being a process centered language has the **verb** always at the beginning of a sentence. In general Irish sentences with **adverbs** follow the same pattern as English.

Léigh Liam leabhar os ard	le Nóra sa chistin in the kitchen	aréir. last night
----------------------------------	--	--------------------------

Verb+Subject+Object+Indirect Object+Adv Manner + Adv Place + Adv Time

Sentences using **verbal nouns** – indicating that the action is/was/will be actually in progress at the time of reference – use the same format:

Tá Liam ag léamh leabhar	le Nóra os ard ...
---------------------------------	---------------------------

Verb Bi+Subject+Verbal Noun + Direct Object + Indirect Obj. + Adverbs ...

If there are two **adverbs** of “manner” they can be joined as explained above with “and” **agus**/AH-guhs/. There can be more than one **adverb** of “Place” and “Time”. **Adverbs** of “place” are often in the forms of prepositional phrases – **sa chistin** “in the kitchen”, **ar an brother** “on the road.”

An example from English might be something like this ...

Adv. Place	Adv. Place	Adv. Time
“... <u>in the middle</u> of the road	<u>at eight o’clock</u>	
Adv. Time	Adv. Time	
<u>in the morning</u>	<u>yesterday.</u> ”	

Here are some simple **adverbs** of “place” and “time”. You know most of these already. They will almost always be the last word(s) in an Irish sentence.

Place:	anseo ansin	/UHN-shaw/ /UHN-shin/	“here” “there”
Time:	amárach anocht anois anuraidh aréir go minic inné inniu	/UH-marahk/ /UH-nahkt/ /UH-nish/ /Uh-noor-ee/ /UH-reyr/ /goh MIN-ik/ /IN-eh/ /IN-noo/	“tomorrow” “tonight” “now” “last year” “last night” “often” “yesterday” “today”
Other:	arís freisin	/UH-rish/ /FREY-shin/	“again” “also”, “too”

Some of these words may be combined in phrases. Notice that the phrase best translated in to English as “from time to time” is literally “now and again” – **anois is arís** /UH-nish iss UH-rish /.

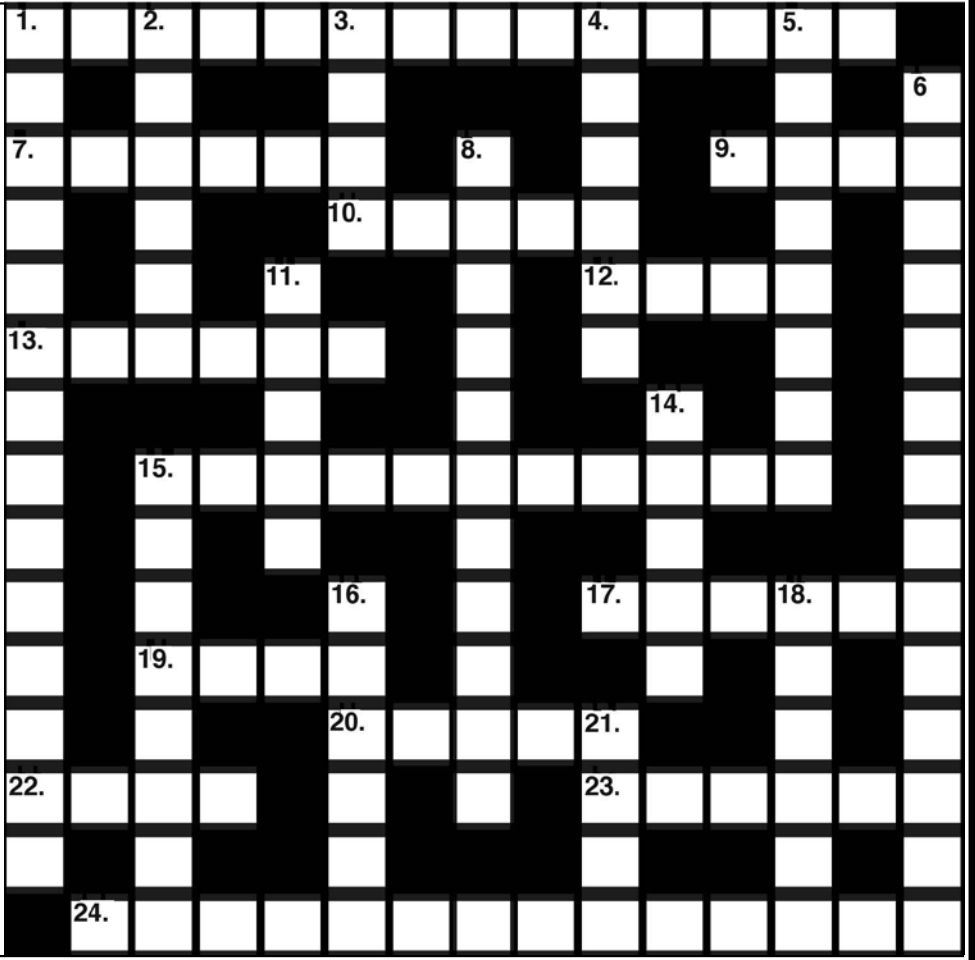
Here are some sentences to put in to Irish – as well as some practice on both regular and irregular verbs – and don’t forget to eclipse some nouns after “the” when in a prepositional phase.

1.) “We saw Bill at the shop last night” 2.) “Nora goes to Dublin often.” 3.) “Will she go tomorrow?” 4.) “No. She went yesterday.” 5.) “Didn’t Patrick make this table last year?” 6.) “The man came to the door again.” 7.) “Did you see Eamon today?” 8.) “Yes. And I saw Bill, too.” 9.) “The woman ate in the hotel often.” 10.) “Were you born there?” 11.) “Did you get that new coat today?” 12.) “No. I bought it last year.” 13.) “She was dancing last night.” 14. “Is he eating breakfast in the kitchen now?”

Answers: 1.) **Chonaicemar Liam ag an siopa aréir.** 2.) **Téann Nora go Baile Átha Cliath go minic.** 3.) **An dheachaidh sí amarach?** 4.) **Ní. Chuaigh sí inné.** 5.) **Nach dhearna Pádraig an mbord seo anuraidh?** 6.) **Tháinig an bhfear go an doras arís.** 7.) **An fhaca tú Éamann inniu?** 8.) **Chonaic. Agus chonaic mé Liam freisin.** 9.) **D’ith an bean sa óstán go minic.** 10.) **An rug tú ansin?** 11.) **An fhuair tú an gcóta nua inniu?** 12.) **Ní fhuair. Cheanaigh mise sé anuraidh.** 13.) **Bhí sí ag damhsa aréir.** 14.) **An bhfuil sé ag ithe bricfeasta sa chistin anois?**

CELTIC CROSS WORDS

The Irish crosswords are a service of an Ireland-based website which provides Irish Family Coats of Arms by email. You are invited to visit www.bigwood.com/heraldry



IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

- ACROSS**
1. Iran non-art shop over in Clare’s gateway to Ireland, which has its ups and downs. (7,7)
7. Are set in order at this rising time of the year in Ireland. (6)
9. Hit hard when good person goes to the United Nations. (4)
10. “The whole worl’s in a — o’ chassis.” Seán O’Casey. (5)
12. “Too — for a statesman, too proud for a wit.” Goldsmith (of Edmund Burke) (4)
13. His run up leads to a sudden incursion (in Co. Dublin, near to Lusk?). (6)
15. Huge land log chopped up in Wicklow holy site where Saint Kevin built a hermitage. (11)
17. Desert rat gets rib and leg broken. (6)
19. Nore in turmoil over Nevada city of speedy uns- plicing. (4)
20. Tiler in retreat having fired again. (5)
22. Dublin ullage has invalid content. (4)
23. We’re disturbed about six, to pass comment on the book. (6)
24. Selling, ask Bill about Kerry Irish speaking seaside village near Waterville. (14)

- DOWN**
1. Lined stack risk. (anag.) In Strangford Lough, County Down, where there is a Norman castle ruin. (8,6)
2. “Gladstone tried to guess the — — — to the Irish Question, but whenever he got warm, the Irish secretly changed the Question.” W.C. Sellar (6)
3. Rowing boat propellers seen in Sligo arsenal. (4)
4. It was not long ago that the centre was rebuilt. (6)
5. Cut back spending, but dig a hole again. (8)
6. We lack monk’s nod up in the Tipperary mountains above the Abbey of Mount Melleray. (14)
8. Rails a plank. (anag.) Kerry estate and hotel on the shore of the Kenmare River near Sneem. (11)
11. Panes get smashed by quivering tree. (4)
14. Naturists seen in the shifting dunes? (5)
15. Irregular soldier could lure Gail over. (8)
16. First notes taken in Gweedore mishap. (2,2,2)
18. Little to wear on the Pacific atoll of big bangs. (6)

21. “I shall be like that — —, I shall die at the top.” Swift. (4)

(Puzzle solution on page 31)

Irish Sayings

Blind should be the eyes in the abode of another. A man with loud talk makes truth itself seem folly. The lake is not encumbered by the swan; nor the steed by the bridle; nor the sheep by the wool; nor the man by the soul that is in him. If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will take you there. When the apple is ripe it will fall. Give your love to your wife and your secret to your mother. In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king. Many an Irish property was increased by the lace of a daughter’s petticoat. The best way to keep loyalty in a man’s heart is to keep money in his purse. A narrow neck keeps the bottle from being emptied in one swig. Show the fattened calf but not the thing that fattened him. Marry a woman from the mountain, and you’ll marry the mountain. It’s better to solve the problem than to improve the law. The thing that is closest to the heart is closest to the mouth. Don’t bring your troubles to the person who hasn’t got sympathy for your case. A scholar’s ink lasts longer than a martyr’s blood. Take gifts with a sigh; most men give to be paid. A country without a language is a country without a soul. The person that isn’t strong, has to be clever. Youth sheds many a skin. The steed (horse) does not retain its speed forever.

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Limerick is Ireland’s inaugural City of Culture

LIMERICK – The historic city of Limerick is Ireland’s inaugural City of Culture for 2014, and with over 200 performances and exhibitions lined up it looks set to put on quite a show.

International, national, and local acts will present a varied program of cultural expression, including street events, visual art, music, Secret Limerick, food, fashion and craft, children’s events, architecture and sport.

The year of cultural celebration kicked off in January with a performance of “Riverdance,” composed by Limerick-born Bill Whelan. It is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

Another highlight of the year will take place in March (13–22) when the city hosts the Irish premiere of the sell-out London show, “Fuerza Bruta.” This dance-circus-theatre fusion features astonishing visual effects, including the image of a man bursting full throttle

through a series of moving walls, and a watery world suspended just above the audience’s heads. The all-standing show promises to deliver sensory overload and is billed as a theatrical experience of edgy non-stop entertainment.

In June, Ireland’s most famous flautist, Sir James Galway, will perform with the RTE National Symphony Orchestra, just one of a number of heavyweights from the world of music who will perform in Limerick during the year.

On a different musical note, Cranberries musician Noel Hogan will participate in “Pigtown Fling,” which will tour the city in a music bus throughout 2014 to encourage and support local musicians to create original work (“Pigtown” is one of Limerick’s nicknames, referring to the city’s thriving bacon curing industry.)

While 2014 is sure to be Limerick’s year in the cultural spotlight, there are many reasons to visit

the city at any time.

One of these is the imposing medieval King John’s Castle, which sits in the heart of Limerick City and has recently undergone a multi-million euro makeover. The

800-year-old castle now boasts a new visitor experience that presents the dramatic history and archaeology of the site in an exciting, modern and multi-sensory way.

Another must-see visi-

tor attraction is the Frank McCourt Museum, which celebrates the work of this Pulitzer Prize winner. McCourt spent much of his

youth in Limerick, an experience that inspired his famous autobiographical novel, “Angela’s Ashes.”

LEGAL NOTICE

THE HIGH COURT Record No: 2013/515S

Between/
and EBS LIMITED, Plaintiff
AMANDA DUNNE, Defendant

TAKE NOTICE THAT proceedings have been issued against the above-named defendant in the High Court of the Republic of Ireland seeking judgment in the sum of £311,295.91.

Within thirty-five (35) days of this notice, an Appearance to answer this claim must be entered with the Central Office of the High Court, Four Courts, Inns Quay, Dublin 7 in the Republic of Ireland. Failure to do so will mean that judgment may be given against the Defendants in their absence without further notice.

This Notice is published pursuant to Order of the Court dated the 10th day of June 2013.

Further details can be acquired by contacting the solicitors on record for the plaintiff:

Patrick J. Farrell & Company Solicitors
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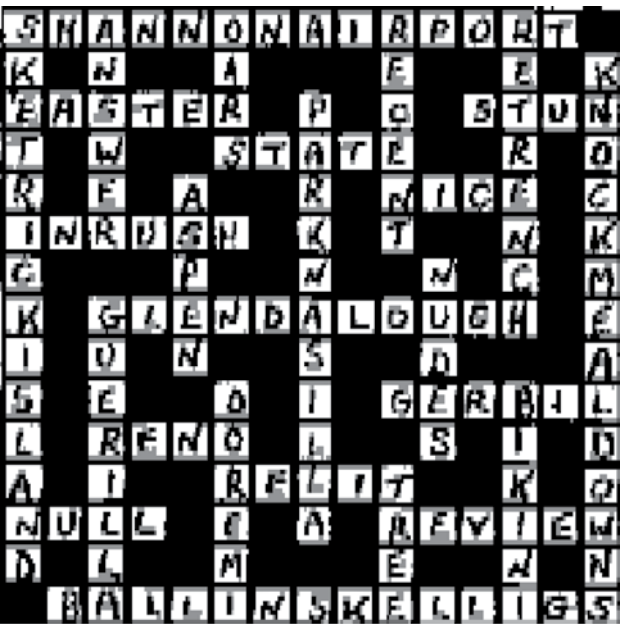
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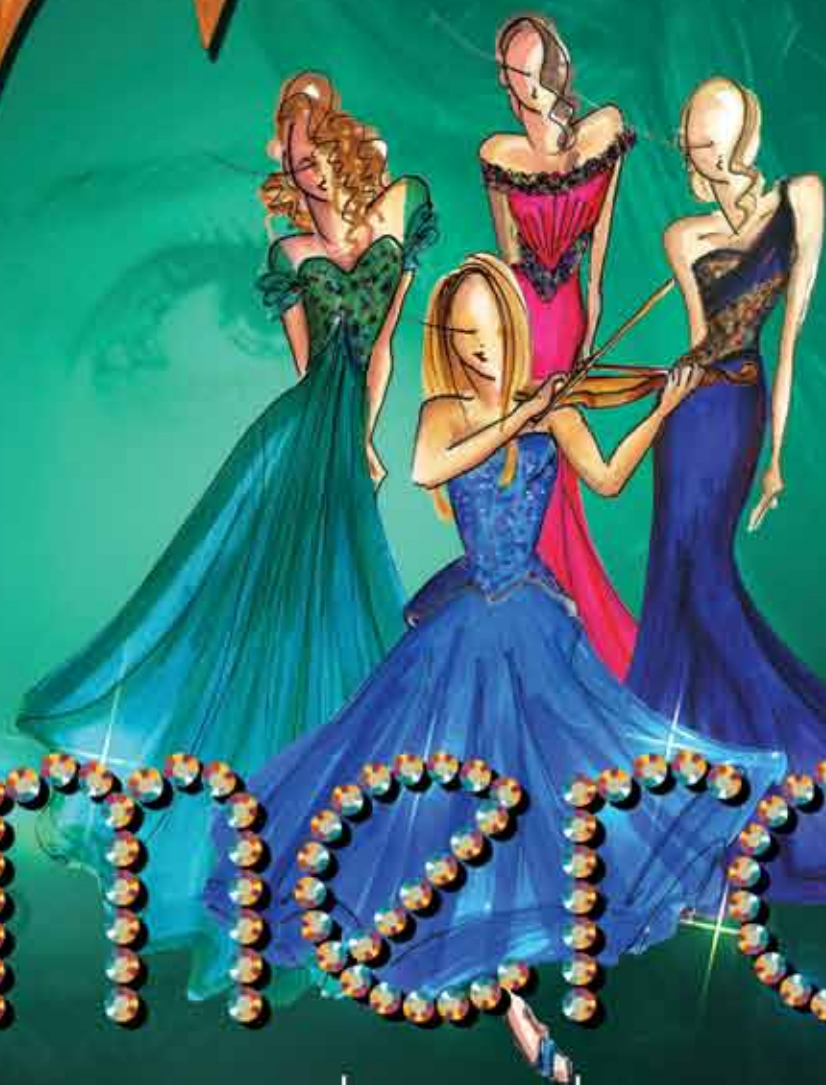
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