



SEE YOU ON BROADWAY — South Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade steps off at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 15. Story, parade schedule, page 9. Above, a painting by South Boston's own Dan McCole captured the colors of an earlier Southie parade.



Is there a more fitting symbol of Boston Irish success? The house still stands in Jamaica Plain – a century after it began to take shape on St. Patrick's Day 1915. Page 5.



Irish beef has been approved once again for the American market. Look for it to be re-introduced to the United States, perhaps as soon as this spring. Page 3.



On the second Saturday of the month, Doyle's hosts the Jamaica Plain Ceilis where generations enjoy an evening of fun, dancing, and fellowship that enlivens the back room. Page 20.

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# Irish Heritage Month

March 2015 • Lawrence MA



*Preserving and Fostering our Heritage and Culture*

*Sona Feile Padraig ort.*

**T**he Reverend James T. O'Reilly OSA Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians has a full slate of activities scheduled to take place during Irish Heritage Month – March, 2015 in the City of Lawrence. Among the highlights of this year's activities is an exhibit on the Civil War, "Hometown Heroes" which will be on display at the Lawrence's Heritage Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence, MA. This exhibit will also feature several lectures by authors of books and historians, a film festival, among other events. All are welcome to attend these lectures and view the exhibit free of charge. A full listing of activities for the month is noted here.

## ***Sunday, March 1, 2015***

**22nd ANNUAL CLADDAGH PUB ROAD RACE** – 11 a.m. (rain or shine) # 2 of the Wild Rover Race Series - For more information [runthecladdagh.com](http://runthecladdagh.com)

## ***Monday March 2, 2015***

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

## ***Wednesday, March 4, 2015***

**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 (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

## ***Saturday, March 7, 2015***

**THE 144th 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 – Handicap Accessible

## ***Sunday, March 8, 2015***

**SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE** – 1:00 p.m. for more information please see their website [www.lawrencestpatparade.com](http://www.lawrencestpatparade.com), or email them at [information@lawrencestpatparade.com](mailto:information@lawrencestpatparade.com)

## ***Friday, March 13, 2015***

**46th 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 – Handicap Accessible

## ***Sunday, March 15, 2015***

**WHITE FUND LECTURE** – Dr. John "Sean" Condon, Ph.D. Associate Professor and Chair of the History

Department at Merrimack College and Author will speak on "Challenging Slavery during the American Revolution: Maryland, 1775-1800" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm Sponsored by Division 8 AOH & the Irish Foundation (FREE) - Handicap Accessible

## ***Sunday, March 22, 2015***

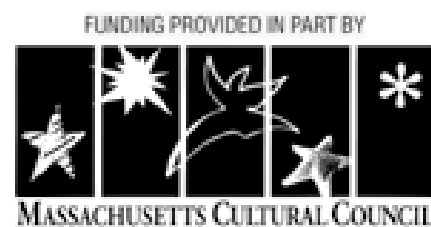
Native Lawrencian Robert Bateman now of New York, will speak on "**PATRIOT IRISH AMERICAN -- The Latter Years in the Life of Captain Timothy Deasy**" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence, MA @ 2 p.m. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH & the Irish Foundation (FREE) - Handicap Accessible

## ***Saturday, March 28, 2015***

**IRISH FILM FESTIVAL** at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA @ 10:00 a.m. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH For further information please call 978 794-1655. (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

## ***Sunday, March 29, 2015***

**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 @ 2 p.m. Presented by the Friends of the Lawrence Public Library & The Irish Foundation. (FREE) – Handicap Accessible



**IRISH HERITAGE MONTH IS SPONSORED BY THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS DIVISION 8 AND 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. FOR INFORMATION ON WEATHER RELATED POSSIBLE CANCELLATION OF ANY OF IRISH HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT THE AOH/LAOH CANCELLATION LINE @ 603-893-5802.**



# Where’s the Irish beef? On its way, they’re saying

By Ed Forry  
PUBLISHER

Where’s the beef? That’s the refrain from an old TV hamburger chain commercial that’s gone down in American folklore. But for connoisseurs of natural, grass-fed steaks and roasts from Ireland, that question is amplified: “Where’s the Irish Beef?”

For the last 15 years, as far as the American market is concerned, the answer has been: “Nowhere to be found.”

It has been that long – a full decade and a half – since the USDA banned the importation of Irish beef in the wake of the so-called “Mad Cow disease” epidemic that raged through parts of Europe in 1999-2000. But this past January, the food agency gave the all-clear to Irish beef, and so the product will soon be re-introduced to America, perhaps as soon as this spring.

And so it was that Ireland’s Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney TD, was joined by officials from the Irish Food Board (Bord Bía) and Irish meat industry officials on a whirlwind three-day visit to New York, Washington, DC, and Boston to launch a campaign hailing the return of Irish beef to the American market.

At a luncheon at Smith & Wollensky Steakhouse in the Back Bay, Coveney was ebullient about the campaign: “We’re here to tell a story about a product that we’re very proud of,” he said. “Accessing the US market for Irish beef is a big deal in Ireland. We are the largest beef exporter in Europe, and we are the largest net exporter in the western hemisphere despite the fact that we come from a very small country.

“We have been aspiring for quite some time to build a reputation as a county that produces the best beef in the world, and if you’re not in the biggest market in the world, and you have that aspiration, well, then, there’s something seriously wrong.”

Coveney was speaking to a luncheon gathering of some 40 local restaurant owners and food buyers, as S&W chefs prepared a sumptuous meal. Featuring a Bord Bía menu entitled “Irish Beef – the flavor shows where the best grass grows,” the guests were served a three-course meal featuring a 20-ounce Irish Beef Rib-eye Steak with whipped potatoes, duck-fat roasted root vegetables, a Wollensky Salad and the restaurant’s famous chocolate cake.



Ireland’s Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney TD, spoke during a luncheon at Smith & Wollensky Steakhouse in the Back Bay last month. *Photo by Ed Forry*

“For us this has been a big effort to work with the USDA to be the first European country to be back in the US market following the banning of European beef,” Coveney said. “Millions of Americans can trace their roots back to a time where their families came from small family farms that are still intact today. But instead of now relying on potato crops, we now have an almost complete reliance in terms of how we produce food on grass.

“And it’s grass that makes Irish beef different, it’s what makes Irish beef taste different; it’s about small family-sized farms with relatively small herds that don’t use any growth promoters or hormones; they simply rely on green grass that grows in abundance

in Ireland to produce top quality beef that tastes great and is absolutely natural. And we think that makes our beef quite different.”

“We think there’s a niche for natural beef that consumers are looking for in increasing numbers,” Coveney told the gathering. “We think there’s an opportunity, now at a time when the US herd is smaller than it has been since 1951. That is why I hope that in the not too distant future we’ll see Irish beef on the menu for people who want it.”

Although the product is not yet regularly available, it was understood by those at the gathering that Irish beef will soon be on the menu at both Smith & Wollensky restaurants in Boston.

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## Publisher's Notebook

# Recalling snowy days of yesteryear

By Ed Forry

The huge volume of snow that has paralyzed our town over the last five weeks brought back memories for me of long ago winters when I was young, back in those post-war years in the middle of the last century.

Somehow in my eyes as a child, these snow bluffs that have appeared everywhere in this February of 2015 seem not so different from the hills of snow we would traverse as children on our little dead-end street off Gallivan Blvd in the late 1940s. Of course, I was just three or four feet tall in those years, so it seemed that I was always looking up at snow piles all over the neighborhood. But in my memory, this year's weather seems not unlike the winters I grew up with.



It was a time when winter really was for kids. Mostly we young children were bundled up and sent outdoors at the first sight of the snowflakes, and soon we were having great fun, playing king of the mountain on the snow piles, or steering our Flexible Flyer sleds down any nearby decline. If memory serves, the slope on Vera

Street was barely usable for coasting, but a hop over the fence to Wilmington Ave. offered a fast-paced downhill glide that seemed it could last forever. And if you could make it four blocks down to Walsh Playground, those slopes from Clancy Road down to the ball field were our own Mount Olympus!

These were simpler times, though, with much less automobile traffic; at the first sign of winter, many people would remove the tires from their cars and wait out the season, leaving the vehicles on blocks in a nearby garage or backyard. And if your father was daring enough to keep the family auto on the road, it always required mounting a set of snow chains on the rear wheels, thus ensuring some measure of traction on the icy snow-covered streets. We didn't own a family car, and for most of the year my aunt would share her Oldsmobile with my father for Sunday afternoon jaunts. But from just before Christmas to sometime around Easter Sunday, the Olds 88 – Mass license plate 707000 – was safely stored in a rented garage down on Pleasant Hill Ave.

Back in those days, my father worked in Charlestown for the MTA (nee Boston Elevated, now the T), supervising what was known as the "Maintenance of the Way." Many times, when he would hear on the radio a forecast of snow the next day, John Forry would head in to work right after supper as he and other transit workers mobilized to be sure the trains, trolleys, and buses could run the next day.

The strategy then was to keep the trains running all night long, on the solid premise that empty trains running along the rails would prevent an icy build-up on the third rail and diminish the piles before the snow could mount up. He labored through the night, often staying for two or more days at work, with the singular purpose of keeping the transit system operational so people could get to work when the storm had passed.

It seemed so simple and straightforward then; my father, a 49-year member of the Boston Carmen's Union, Local 589 who retired in 1966, would never believe the tumult that has fallen on Boston during this crazy winter of 2015. For him, shutting down the public transportation system was just unheard of.

Today, 49 years later, I remember the example he and his steady stable of working men and women set. In another setting, they were called "The Greatest Generation." To borrow the words of New England's football coach, "they did their jobs."

## Commentary

# Partnership prepares for the road ahead

By Joe Leary  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

A dramatically successful 2014 has inspired the Boston- headquartered Irish American Partnership to rejuvenate and modernize its operation and prepare for substantial growth in the years ahead.

Although audited figures are not yet finalized, at this writing the non-profit charity estimates that 2014 brought in over \$1.1 million in revenue, with 85 percent going to its mission in Ireland. Donations were received from more than 30 states throughout the United States.

In 2014, cash grants to both the North and South of Ireland were sent to 94 primary schools, 11 universities, and 21 community organizations. In the last two years 170 primary schools, in 27 of Ireland's 32 counties, have received cash grants from the Partnership. The funds were used to rebuild school libraries or provide science teaching materials.

The university funds were mostly used to help pay for disadvantaged but well-qualified high school graduates to attend college, most of them the first collegians in their families. Dublin City University, University of Dublin, University of Limerick, University of Ulster, St. Patrick's, Mary Immaculate, and the Smurfit Business School all received funds.

Ten Partnership events were held in 2014, in Boston, Washington DC, and Chicago, including three successful golf tournaments, and the traditional Saint Patrick's Day celebrations. Two musical events featuring the extraordinary Affinity performers from Dublin were held in Boston and Chicago. The special Nollaig na mBan (Irish Women's Christmas) held its third annual breakfast on Jan. 6 this year in Washington DC.

In 2014, the Partnership moved its offices in downtown Boston to a somewhat larger, more modern, and efficient facility, making it far easier to accomplish its tasks. In 2013, the Partnership had one full-time and two part-time employees; in 2014, there were two full-time and one part-time employees; and there are plans to add a third full-time employee this year in 2015. A lot of work is being done and progress is being made by the work of very few.



Joe Leary

## Off the Bench

# Recalling life with my Uncle Gordon

By James W. Dolan  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

He was the oldest of three boys, one of ten children brought up on Wrentham Street in Dorchester. My mother Mary was the oldest, born in 1907. Their parents were Irish immigrants who met in Waterbury, Connecticut and later moved to Boston where their father, Bert Ward, got a job as a bus driver for the MTA.

In those days the husband worked and brought home a paycheck but almost everything else was left to the wife. Child rearing was considered woman's work. The oldest daughter was expected to help.

My mother looked after her sisters and brothers while she attended Dorchester High School and then worked for the telephone company. She married late (1937) but well; a handsome young doctor from Fields

Corner, Ralph Dolan. She always looked after her brothers and sisters and many nieces and nephews, but her favorite was her brother Gordon.

He was a tough kid with a reputation that earned him the nickname "Gator." During World War II, he joined the army and became a drill instructor, training recruits at Fort Lewis in Washington state. During a training exercise, a mine that was supposed to be a dud exploded, severely injuring his leg. After many months in the hospital, he was discharged and eventually received a disability pension.

Like many veterans after the war, he went to work for the Post Office. Like many Irishmen, Gordon took to drink. Unfortunately, with so much enthusiasm, he became an alcoholic and a brawler. Somehow my mother convinced him that she should manage his money for fear he would drink it away.

Occasionally he would show up at our house intoxicated, demanding money to take some of his pals, who were sometimes waiting outside in a cab, out for the night. When drunk, Gordon could be fierce, angrily demanding that she give him "his money."



James W. Dolan

The Board travelled to Dublin and Belfast to investigate and examine many of the schools and projects that the Partnership has been funding. The members paid for their own expenses. Visits were made to 23 sites and meetings were held to discuss the appropriateness of each grant and how the funds might be used more productively.

Last year, a new committee headed by Dublin businessman Liam Connellan with board members Niall Power Smith of Dublin and Sir Bruce Robinson, a new Board member from Northern Ireland, was installed in Ireland to advise on new grants and project selections.

Also last year, the Partnership created a small endowment fund with gifts from Irish Americans and Partnership Board members. The \$300,000 fund accepts general bequests and those directed to specific areas and projects in Ireland. This year, the Partnership will present the fund to Irish Americans throughout the United States and Ireland as a way of honoring their heritage for the many years ahead.

Last month, the Partnership received notice of a substantial bequest that will more than double the existing endowment fund, which is supervised by a special Board committee.

A new "state of the art" computer system is being installed in the Boston headquarters, an innovation that will assist staff in recording donations, analyzing results, and producing reports. The system will help research the existing 22,100 donor files to ensure that best business practices are being followed. The capital costs for the installation, though expensive, were fully paid for by the Board of Directors.

A major effort this year will involve promoting national public awareness of the Partnership's work in Ireland. The Board of Directors is convinced that fortifying Ireland's educational system will produce strong leadership in the years ahead. That Irish America will help such efforts has been proven by the Partnership's success. The more public awareness, the more successful results.

There is hardly an American of Irish heritage who does not know where in Ireland their ancestors emigrated from. Helping schools and project in those areas connects people to their heritage.

Wishing the Partnership success this Saint Patrick's Day is to help build a stronger Ireland.

She would calmly refuse and instead suggest he sit down and have something to eat.

He became increasingly angry and intimidating. Sitting at the kitchen table, I was alarmed, fearing he would lose control. But inevitably something unusual happened. He would give up and start to smile, knowing that he could never intimidate his big sister. She was as tough as he was and he knew it. She would than start to kid him, and before you knew it they were bantering with each other.

She would feed him and have him doing the dishes and he would be laughing. These encounters happened periodically as I was growing up. The love they had for each other simply overwhelmed the antagonism of the moment. No matter how drunk he was, his love and respect for the woman who had helped raise him prevailed.

Later in life, when his drinking was under control, he would marvel how she handled these confrontations. Her lion of a brother became a lamb, sheepishly drying dishes and joking with her. He never got his money but always had her love. Every time I visited your house, I wound up doing the dishes, he would later say with a smile.

The years passed and Gordon, who never married, had accumulated enough money to buy a home. His sister encouraged him to use the funds she was still holding to buy a place. She found a cottage on White Horse Beach in Plymouth, which he bought and winterized. He loved it and particularly enjoyed entertaining his numerous nieces and nephews at the beach. When he died, he left the place to them.

While raising her own family, my mother remained an important influence in the lives of her brothers and sisters and their children. She went out of her way to support and encourage them. She would have liked a job, but back then doctor's wives, in particular, were not expected to work. Instead, she invested all her considerable intelligence and energy in her extended family. She was a strict disciplinarian but the one you would go to if you needed advice or help.

Being the oldest child in a large Irish family was a burden that she carried with grace and good humor. Even today, many of her nieces and nephews remark on how important she was in their lives. "Gator" would have understood.



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## Point of View

# Happy 100th to the ‘house with the shamrock shutters’

## *On St. Patrick’s Day of 1915, a monument began to take shape in Jamaica Plain*



The city of Boston owns the “house that James Michael Curley” built on the Jamaicaaway in Jamaica Plain. Construction on the Curley mansion began on St. Patrick’s Day, 1915.  
*Image courtesy Jamaica Plain Gazette/Rebeca Oliviera*

BY PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

You’d be hard-pressed to find a more fitting but controversial symbol of Boston Irish success this or any St. Patrick’s Day. As a recent drive past the site affirmed, it still stands in Jamaica Plain – exactly one century since the grand structure first began to take shape on St. Patrick’s Day of 1915. Fittingly so, as the house’s owner was no less than “Himself,” James Michael Curley. In this scribe’s view, the house merits a look, so to speak, as the Boston Irish High Holy Holiday of 2015 looms a few weeks hence.

One hundred years ago, Mayor James Michael Curley decided to build a new house for his family. The home, however, was not just any dwelling. Rising on a verdant two-acre tract that offered a panoramic view of Frederick Law Olmsted’s “green necklace” along the Jamaicaaway, Curley’s mansion soon evoked collective questions among his political enemies, the press, and even some of his supporters.

Bostonians from the wards and Brahmin residences alike wondered: How and where was the city’s controversial mayor raising the sums for the choice parcel of land and the manse gracing it?

Naturally, construction on “the house that James Michael Curley built” commenced on St. Patrick’s Day 1915. In virtually every way, the mayor’s new neighborhood stood as a polar political and cultural opposite to his home turf, Ward 17 in lower Roxbury. Curley’s property, pastoral in setting, was flanked by stands of trees and by topiary gems similar to the shrubbery that many of the wards’ Irishmen had long pruned for Brahmins, but that few had ever owned themselves. In nearby Brookline, site of old Yankee estates and the rarefied golf course and bridle paths of The Country Club, lived the genteel set who viewed Curley as little more than a usurper.

From the moment that work crews begin setting the mansion’s foundation, questions continued to swirl about Curley. He had commissioned the renowned architect Joseph McGuinness to design a neo-Georgian estate similar to those Anglo-Irish structures that dotted Ireland, the mansion stretching and soaring over ten thousand square feet and featuring some twenty rooms. A tiled roof crowned the mayor’s new home, which was adorned with a



The Curley family outside of their home on the Jamaicaaway in 1930.  
*Photo by Leslie Jones/BPL Collection*

heated garage and surrounded by brick walkways. The landscaping was worthy of a country squire’s estate.

As magnificent as the home’s exterior was, visitors gaped at the trappings within the mansion’s walls. A costly crystal chandelier illuminated the long dining room, where burnished mahogany-paneled walls reflected not only the chandelier’s light and shadows, but also an aura of the owner’s power. The nearby first-floor hall sprawled sixty feet, and in virtually any direction that guests moved either downstairs or upstairs, they ran into carved mahogany doors, twenty-eight in number.

With five children, the mayor and his wife, Mae Herlihy Curley, had ordered McGuinness to incorporate five bathrooms in the home. They reveled in their home’s high ceilings, sat in front of fireplaces where flames cast their glow across imported Italian marble, and reached for fixtures plated with gold. Perhaps the grandest touches of the wards’ poor-boy-made-good were the front hall’s bronze chandelier – two stories high and once having graced the Austro-Hungarian embassy in Washington, D.C. – and the spiral staircase that wound up three stories.

What, many of his “old crowd” wondered, had happened to the man who had come from, and spoken for, the people of the old neighborhoods against the entrenched interests of Yankeeedom? Curley, with typical aplomb, probably thought that he answered such questions with the carved shamrocks that emblazoned the mansion’s thirty white shutters. The emblems were hardly enough to quiet his Boston Irish critics – especially foes already screeching the words “graft” and “corruption.”

In the rough-and-tumble ranks of Boston Irish politics, Curley was ever battling battled enemies sporting similar bloodlines from the “old sod” but assailing him with a venom equal to that of his legion of Yankee detractors. Curley would recall how John F. Fitzgerald, who also had won the mayor’s office, “joined my critics” over the Jamaicaaway mansion. “A few years ago,” chided Fitzgerald, “James M. Curley was working as a corporation inspector for \$3 a day. The year before he was elected mayor he paid nothing except a poll tax. Now he has a beautiful home on the Jamaicaaway, with furnishings from the home of Henry H. Rogers [a Standard Oil baron], who died worth \$100,000,000. He recently disposed of a fine summer residence at Hull, bought since he became mayor.”

Curley, contending that Fitzgerald was the proverbial “pot calling the kettle black,” retorted: “I might remark parenthetically that when John F. retired, he spent most of his time on his estate in Hull, and he owned another fine house in Concord. It did not occur to him, apparently, that I disposed of one residence so I could purchase another.”

That Curley was drawing from a murky source or sources of funds was evident, writes Jack Beatty, in his definitive Curley biography, “The Rascal King.” Beatty notes that in the 1950s, nearly four decades after the controversy over the Jamaicaaway mansion had erupted, John Henry Cutler, who ghostwrote the mayor’s memoir, “I’d Do It Again,” asked Curley, “Governor, did you pay for that house?” Cutler would recall: “He gave me a wink as if to say of course he didn’t pay.”

Today, after 100 St. Patrick’s Days, the Curley mansion still stands, “the house with the shamrock shutters.”



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# Book details Cullinane's success as a software pioneer

By BILL O'DONNELL  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

After reading software entrepreneur John Cullinane's fascinating book – "Smarter Than Their Machines: Oral Histories of Pioneers in Interactive Computing" – I did some research into John's career and his passion for jobs, peace, and prosperity in Ireland. We have been casual, stay-in-touch friends for some 25 years and I have been an admirer of John Cullinane and of the enormous success story he crafted with his creation of the Cullinane Corporation, later Cullinet, the software giant.

His career, as the headline notes, has been amazing. His software product company was the first to go public in 1977; the first listed on the New York Stock Exchange; and the first valued at more than a billion dollars. Cullinet was sold in 1989 and for its founder there were new frontiers where he could leave his mark. He stayed close to his high tech roots, software, but added a fresh dimension, a path that allowed him to give back, to share with others the signal success he had realized. And where better than Ireland!

Cullinane's parents, natives and Irish speakers of Waterford, Ireland, came here as immigrants. His roots, his DNA were unfailingly Irish. Once his company was sold, he moved, as he always has, quietly and efficiently, using his talents and successful life story that began in Arlington, MA as a Northeastern University co-op student working at Arthur Little Co, to leverage his success by turning to Ireland and giving back. Those were perilous days as the leaders of Northern Ireland worked to find peace following three fractious decades of the Troubles. A huge chunk of Ireland, the six counties of the North, were in dire need of jobs, a stable economy, and a peace process that would allow them to bind their wounds and move forward.

That's where and when John Cullinane and Part Two of his life began; he focused on creating opportunities that reflected his bonds with the old country and his business skills to Ireland's advantage.

He recalls: "My first involvement with Ireland was when I went there at the request of Barry Murphy, a leader in the Irish software industry, to meet with 41 Irish software entrepreneurs. I wasn't very optimistic that they would be very good, but they turned out to be outstanding. Then I met with three Irish university presidents

and, again, was very impressed.

"It was inevitable some of them would become software entrepreneurs; I was seeing the first wave, so I decided to help them in a variety of ways because entrepreneurship was something new in Ireland."

Cullinane's investments in the Irish Republic brought him to the attention of political leaders from a Belfast city council trade delegation and this swiftly resulted in he and Massachusetts Gov. Bill Weld joining a US trade mission to Northern Ireland under the auspices of Bill Clinton's Commerce secretary, Ron Brown. This visit to the North deepened Cullinane's desire to help the peace process by supporting economic development in hard-pressed Northern Ireland.

This was followed up by Cullinane's attending a White House dinner where he sat at Bill Clinton's table where they had a detailed discussion about the merits of a technology fund. This prompted Cullinane and his close associate, Frank Costello, the then chairman of Boston Ireland Ventures who had a wealth of experience in transatlantic economic development, to encourage decision-makers in Washington, London, and Dublin to recognize the technology fund's potential for boosting the North's high-tech sector.

There soon followed a series of meetings in the North involving Cullinane and Costello with business and civil leaders that focused on promoting business ties and job creation between Northern Ireland and the US. There were some 15 or 16 visits during that period and that helped to strengthen a close relationship between Northern political leaders and Cullinane and his fertile ideas file. Later, he became the pro bono Economic Development Committee advisor and in that position formed the Friends of Belfast.

Willie McCarter remembers: "I have good, strong memories of John Cullinane. He came before the International Fund for Ireland when I was chairman to urge funding through IFI for two vital programs, RADIUS and RADIANT, that had successfully engineered partnerships and would be a good fit for similar partnerships between Northern Ireland hi-tech companies, border counties of the Republic and US and Canadian companies. In typical John Cullinane fashion, this was a pioneering step which not only led to many hi-tech partnerships but also helped the whole hi-tech



On a recent visit to Belfast, John Cullinane is shown second from right with Irish News publisher Jim Fitzpatrick Sr. along with the paper's editor Noel Doran and Dr. Frank Costello.

scene in Ireland, north and south, to develop to the point where it is today."

But computer technology and software were not the sole areas where Cullinane turned his hand and heart when it came to Ireland. As the son of Irish speakers, he has a special regard for the Irish language. During visits to the North with Costello, John became a staunch supporter of teaching Irish in the schools. He took a sustained and personal interest in an Irish language high school in Belfast, Mean Scoil Feirste, and along with the IFI provided significant support for the school, and persuaded the NI Department of Education to fund and recognize the school, which has since grown from 90 students to about 700 today.

With all his many business trips to Ireland, Cullinane has managed to continue his leadership role in such Boston area institutions as the Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum and the Boston Public Library, where at both he has directed much-needed endowment campaigns

that allowed these two vital resources to move forward culturally and financially.

A closing note on the life of Arlington's John Cullinane offered by Adrian Bradley, CEO of a Belfast high tech company who has known him for many years:

"While John is indeed

a legend in the arena of computer software, it needs to be said that he has been an inspiring figure to many Irish entrepreneurs. ...His wise counsel has been invaluable to myself and Ireland, and a great source of common sense as well as being an inspiration."



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# South Boston Parade set to step off on Sunday, March 15

In a sure sign of spring despite this winter's whallop of snow, the South Boston St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day festivities will be a jam-packed Sunday, March 15, so long as mother nature cooperates.

As of this paper's publication, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, put on the South Boston Allied Veterans Council, will be held on Southie's snow-clogged streets on Sunday, March 15.

This is the first year an LGBT-affiliated ground has been allowed to march in the parade's 114 year history. As such, more groups and elected officials will march in the parade, including St. Patrick's Day breakfast host State Sen. Linda Dorcea Forny.

In December, the veteran's council voted 5-4 to allow LGBT veterans organization OutVETS to march in this year's parade.

"I just think any veteran, whether they are gay or straight, they served our country and served in military and put themselves in harm's way. They should be given opportunity to march in the parade," said Ed Flynn, son of former Boston mayor Raymond L. Flynn, was one of the five votes in favor of the LGBT veterans, in a previous interview in December.

The parade begins at 1 p.m. and winds through South Boston, beginning at the Broadway T Station. The parade route travels from West Broad-

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADES SCHEDULE

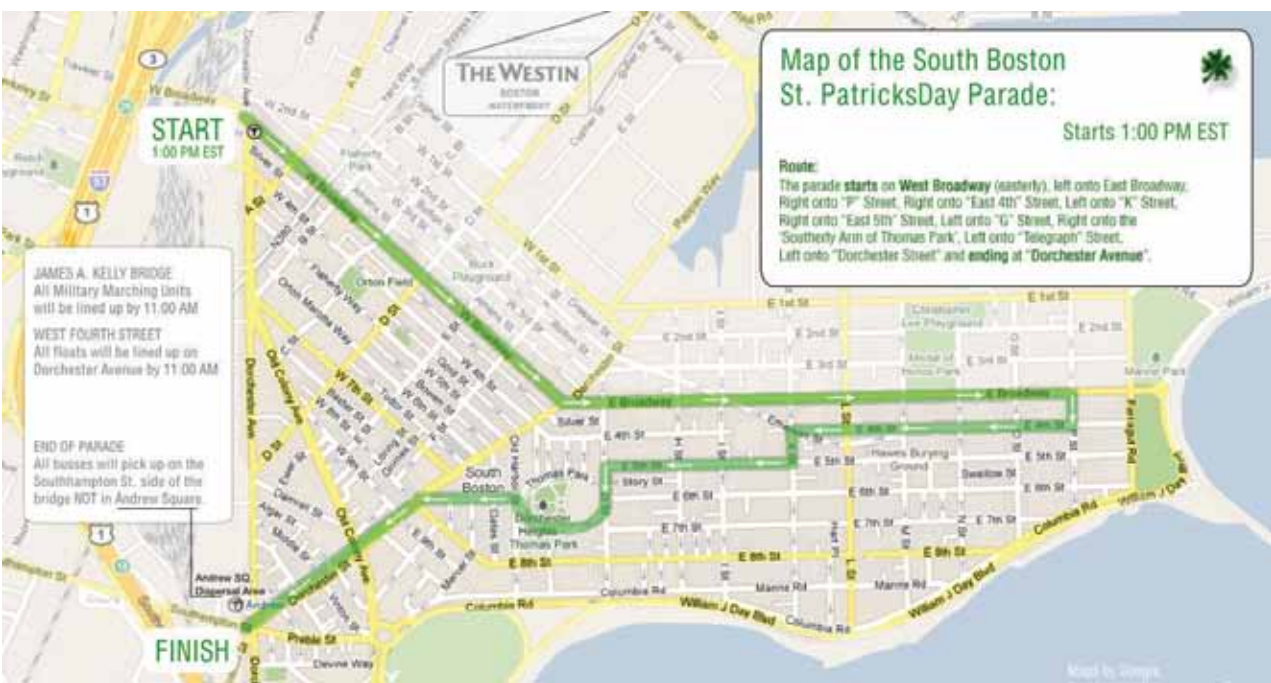
Boston's 2015 St Patrick's Day/ Evacuation Day parade has been scheduled for Sun., March 15. The annual event, organized by the Allied Veterans in South Boston, steps off at 1 pm at Broadway station, marching across the South Boston neighborhood.

In all there are nine parades, large and small planned this year across Massachusetts, one in New Hampshire, and one in Rhode Island. Here's the schedule, as reported on the Boston Irish Tourism Association website [irishmassachusetts.com](http://irishmassachusetts.com):

Cape Cod: Sat., March 7, 11 a.m. Lawrence: Sun., March 8, 1 p.m. Worcester: Sun., March 8, noon. Newport, RI: Sat., March 14, 11 a.m. Boston: Sun., March 15, 1 p.m. Scituate: Sun., March 15, 1 p.m. Abington: Sun., March 22, 1 p.m. Holyoke: Sun., March 22, noon. Manchester, NH: Sun., March 29, noon.

way to East Broadway, to East 4th Street, down 5th Street, around Thomas Park, down Telegraph Street and down Dorchester Street to Andrew Square.

Regardless of the weather, the annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast will go on as planned at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. The three-hour fete hosted for a second year by Dorcea Forny highlights Irish and Irish-American culture and is a must-attend event for the state's leading political figures. Beginning at 9 a.m., it will be broadcast in its entirety on NECN, New England Cable News. Jim Braude of "Broadside with Jim Braude" will return to conduct interviews and host the broadcast with analysis from NECN's Allison



King and news anchor Latoyia Edwards.

Breakfast attendees will likely include Governor Charlie Baker, Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh, US Senators Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren, Congressmen Stephen Lynch and Michael Capuano, Senate President Stanley Rosenberg, House Speaker Robert DeLeo, Treasurer Deborah Goldberg, Attorney General Maura Healy, State Auditor Suzanne Bump and Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tompkins, according to campaign

organizers. The South Boston elected delegation will all participate in the event, organizers added.



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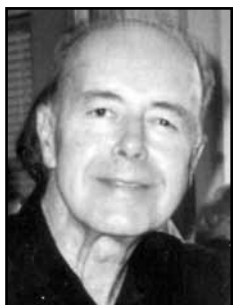


# Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

**Boston Historian Takes On Famine Myths** – Dr. Francis Costello has strong ties and a legion of friends in the Boston area, but he is spending his time these days away from a classroom in Belfast leading a cross-community project he co-founded to shatter some myths of the Irish Famine and correct the historical record.

Costello, who many will be familiar with from his years in Boston, was chief of staff for Congressman Joseph Kennedy and served as press secretary to Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn during his stateside years. He also was co-chairman of the nonprofit Boston Ireland Ventures that helped promote cultural and commercial ties between Boston and Ireland. Costello took on the Belfast Famine project as a labor of love because he is well into his book on the global impact of the great Irish Famine and the new study under his direction, “Sharing the Past,” is right in Costello’s wheelhouse.



Bill O'Donnell

During his time over the past fifteen years in Belfast where he lives with his wife, Anne O'Connor-Costello and their four sons, Dr. Costello has had a growing reputation as a history lecturer at University of Ulster, Queens University, and other university forums; he is also a business consultant and author.

As a historian, Costello is primarily concerned with setting the record straight, shattering some of the crusty myths and shibboleths and sharing the past with the people of the North. “What is rewarding about this project,” Costello says, “is that it is driven by the grassroots up. There are very harrowing stories about people’s ancestors and families from Larne and the Shankill and amidst the Famine’s disease and death that impacted Protestant and Catholic working class people alike, there was a kindness and a willingness to help one another.”

The “Sharing the Past” lecture series will travel across the Irish countryside collecting memories and stories of the 1845-1852 period, when one in five people in Belfast, for example, had been affected by some sort of contagion linked to the Famine. The project team has already visited close to a hundred venues, including workhouses from the Famine period, and has interacted with local citizens with stories handed down from the mid- nineteenth century.

Costello strongly believes that the Famine period that saw some 1.5 million deaths and a similar number who left Ireland never to return is “a story that must be told and ordinary people are helping to tell that story with poetry, original historical research, and music.”

**Irish Landmarks Promote St. Patrick’s Day** – It is ostensibly a tip of the cap to Ireland’s national Saint, but who would be surprised if the global landmarks celebration had a positive impact on Green Isle tourism. Now into its sixth year of green-lighting famous landmarks in the USA, Europe, and globally, the marketing campaign has added a couple of new landmarks to light up, including the Colosseum in Rome, the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, and the Sacre-Coeur Basilica on the Montmartre in Paris.

Other celebrated landmarks done up in Green for St. Patrick’s Day include Niagara Falls, Christ the Redeemer in Rio, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and the spectacular Burg Al Arab Hotel in Dubai. Still more sites resplendent in green are the town Hall of Munich and landmarks in Oslo, Lisbon, the Sky Tower in Auckland, and a castle in Disneyland, Paris.

In the US, green sites already include the John Hancock Center, the Navy Pier, the Wrigley Building, all in Chicago. In addition to the Diaspora millions of Irish have an international array of friends from countries across the world.

**Irish Banks Undergoing Scrutiny** – The Irish Dail has finally gotten around to taking a more comprehensive look at the activities and possible illegalities that pervaded Irish banks and other financial institutions that many allege were instrumental in Ireland’s fierce recession. The headlines here and in Ireland about the behavior of banks like the Anglo Irish Bank and its CEO, expatriate David Drumm and his wife seeking but not finding relief in Boston courts, has been a sad soap opera for the working people of Ireland. The Anglo Irish “lent” its officers huge bags of euros with no collateral demand as they laughed all the way out the door, with never a thought about repaying.

A major question on the lips of the punters who are today paying for the bad behavior and greed at the hands of a series of rogues and thieves abetted by poor and inept regulation (when there was any at all) who played and partied their way into Ireland’s worst financial disaster, is: “Where did

the money go?”

The Irish rate payers are in hock for something like \$75 billion and nobody to date has answered the question of where that enormous amount of money went, then disappeared, and has since been replaced by massive amounts of public money. Austerity (for rate payers) is the only answer to date, and a poor one. Is it any wonder why Irish citizens are in the streets protesting. Maybe the Dail banking inquiry can come up with the answer!

**Gratuitous Advice for Boston’s Mayor** – Marty, it has been a terrible winter, a baptism of unrelenting white stuff along with an MBTA that can hardly get its clients from point A to Point B, while the Olympic drumbeat goes on, and we are all tired of the search for scapegoats and folks we can toss under the bus, or indict, or investigate to buy some time.

The bridge to the old homeless shelter is history (Chapter 2 is on the way), the white stuff will be history certainly before July, and the gist of this Boston-born observer’s advice to a good Connemara man who has all the heft and heart needed to do the job is: Stop the whining and try to consign to history the late good mayor’s chronic ailment – a thin skin. It’s tough to shake but it never makes things easier. Never.

The Patriots won and so will Boston. Roll with the punches and put up with the naysayers for a few more weeks and behold, it will be spring in Boston with the Sox opener mere days away. You are going to be a great mayor!

**Gaels, Gates, Glad Hands, a Gala Super Bowl** – Two Irishmen, Richie Whelan from Dublin and Paul McEvoy from Tipperary, had themselves a grand old day in Phoenix on Sun., Feb. 1. They attended the Super Bowl, got in free, and until the final minute of the Patriots-Seahawks brawl, it was a day to remember. The two lads admitted they sneaked in past one ticket taker on a tip from an obliging security guard. Whelan discussed the entry strategy: “We just walked in behind these 20 first-aid workers, straight up to the front door, and hid in behind them.... We walked past another security guard that wasn’t paying attention. We could see the field, then the stadium, and the atmosphere was insane.”

The jolly interlopers from Ireland found two seats just four rows from the field that were unused during the second half. Tickets there were selling earlier in the day for \$25,000 a seat. Yes, true. The game didn’t end all that well for Whelan, who saw his beloved Seahawks beaten in the last minute by the Malcolm Butler interception. But what a day for two delightful chancers.

**Did You Know That** ... the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade issued more than 620,000 passports last year. May and June were the busiest months for applications, with the greatest number issued from London and Canberra. Other leaders in passports issued were New York, Sydney, San Francisco and Ottawa.

**Barbershop Quartet Fills the Gap** – On a recent US Airways flight to New Orleans there were a few delays and passengers were a bit out of sorts. A flight attendant knew that among the flyers was a barbershop quartet, Port City Sounds. To ease the grumbling, hostess Kari Mann asked the quartet to sing a few of their favorites. The remainder of the trip was a dream as the singers filled the several hours until the plane landed a group of contented passengers on the ground.

This short tale reminds me of a few flights on new Aer Lingus planes in the nineties when the electronics and the sound on several inaugural and early flights from Boston to Belfast were inoperative and were replaced by two young guitar-playing & singing minstrels who moved along the aisles entertaining passengers, especially toddlers and youngsters throughout the flight to Belfast. It was just like having our own buskers on board. An enduring memory for this traveler.

**Frustration in Ireland No Cause for Abuse** – In late January of this new year there was a troubling upbeat in protest demonstrations, much of it attributable to the government’s new water tax. Protest groups, which once confined dissent to public buildings, now gathered in front of government ministers’ homes, while other officials reported receiving “serious threats” that have rarely been seen or heard in Ireland.

However, those forms of angry protest and personal threats to Dail members were hardly the worst of the battering that politicians and public figures took. Irish television was overrun by scenes of President Michael D. Higgins being verbally abused, cursed, and the target of some of the most venomous, fury-driven language ever directed at a sitting Irish president. Higgins, or Michael D. as we remember him in Boston, is a 73-year-old former Labour Party president and longtime Dail minister

& member who has served honorably and has been an extremely active supporter of the Irish working class in his career and presidency. In Finglas in late January, Higgins was called, “traitor, sell-out and parasite” among other graceless epithets.

Protests are the voice of the people. They are as valid in the streets of Finglas as they are in front of the American White House. But abuse such as Higgins faced, having to be hurried into his car by garda to avoid being physically attacked, is beyond the pale. The Irish Times said the verbal attacks on President Higgins “mark a new low in political discourse.” I agree.

**Balancing the Scales, Remembering a Good Friend** – In this space last month I wrote a short item about the appointment of an old friend, former Deputy Consul General in Boston Brendan Rogers, who was named Ireland’s Ambassador to Thailand and Myanmar late last year.

In keeping the focus of that earlier report on the new ambassador, I intentionally left until now to write about the former Consul General in Boston, Patrick Curran, of Co. Waterford. He was Brendan’s longtime friend and colleague and my friend during their tenure here together. Brendan and Pat, my choice as the most popular and productive diplomatic team in my knowledge, spent long days and late evenings seeing to the welfare of Irish-born visitors and members of the emigrant community. They ran the Boston Marathon together, they worked with community groups and charities here and in Ireland, they bought over young boxers and runners from Limerick, and during their four plus years together in Boston, they proudly showed the Tricolor at great heights and to a warm and lingering embrace by the people of Boston.

Brendan reports that Pat, now happily retired after a long and distinguished career in the Irish Foreign Affairs Department, lives in Ring, Co. Waterford. During his diplomatic years, he was Head of Mission in Lesotho, Uganda, and Zambia and also served in the Secretariat in Belfast and as Head of Development in Pretoria, South Africa. At home in Ring, Pat is a member of the local historical museum and an active participant in community affairs.

**The Month to Recall Patrick & the Past** – March has always been a happy time going back to small parties we had to Celebrate the Day as newlyweds living in Brighton. Now, I make a few Irish coffees for neighbors and our guests walk home. Over the years on St. Patrick’s Day, some spent at nearby events, others on the road or traveling in distant places (never, by happenstance, in Ireland on March 17), I recall St. Patrick’s Day celebrations that are part of the memories that we pull out of the file around this time of the year.

One of my favorites was March 17, 1980 on State Street, Chicago, marching along that historic route with Congressman John Anderson, the Independent candidate for president and other staff from the campaign. The crowds were heavy and the noise of the multiple street rallies was like a tonic to us, even though we were sharing the crowd with other candidates. I remember that there were candidates and signs and fans as far as the eye could see, and on one corner I caught a glimpse of a campaigning Ted Kennedy, smiling and happy, looking to his upcoming scrap with Jimmy Carter.

In 1985, I was on stage in Southie to make an award to Mayor Flynn at Bill Bulger’s traditional St. Patrick’s Day breakfast. I was treated well, happily ensconced amidst the musicians but I continued to eye the side door as a possible escape route after a long, standing stint and aching feet. I hung in there and was glad I did. It was a different kind of fun to be so close to the jokes and barbs by some of the Bay State’s well-rehearsed politicians. And of course, I was right where the action was. Another good day in Southie.

It was just ten months after President Clinton’s 1995 White House conference on the Irish economy, when alongside Boston’s John Cullinane and Frank Costello I was back in the White House again for the 1996 St. Patrick’s Day gala. Filled with bold names and famous faces from television and Time magazine, etc., it was a wonderland of media big foot types and the Irish “Friends of Bill” from Boston to San Francisco and beyond. Great fun, and the fine music by local Irish musicians and the elite Marine Corps band made it a day to remember.

## RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Congratulations to Catherine Shannon, Professor Emerita of Westfield State College who has been named as the Eire Society’s 2015 Gold Medal recipient. Catherine reminds me that she is again involved with the Charitable Irish Society’s March 17th annual dinner. The featured speaker that evening will be award-winning historian and novelist Peter Quinn. Boston Mayor Marty Walsh will be on hand. The dinner will be at the Fairmont Copley

(Continued on page 13)



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Immigration Q&A

# My green card is in hand – now what

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in specific cases. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services and US Department of State regularly amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures.*



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## Business Leaders Breakfast on April 2

On Thurs., April 2, the Irish International Immigrant Center will hold its 6th annual Business Leaders Breakfast at the Boston Harbor Hotel, featuring guest speaker the Hon. Joseph P. Kennedy III. The breakfast is held to support the IIIC’s immigrant services. Please join us for an engaging discussion on immigration, the economy and other issues facing Massachusetts and the United States. The event will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 9 o’clock.

Congressman Kennedy represents the 4<sup>th</sup> District of Massachusetts and serves on the US House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee.

All proceeds support the legal, wellness and education programs of the IIIC for immigrants from 120 nations, as well as the life-changing learning exchange programs for young people from the island of Ire-



Rep. Joe Kennedy

land. Most importantly, your support will directly help young Irish graduates find one -year internships in the United States.

Tickets are \$250, and there are opportunities to sponsor the Breakfast. Please contact Mary Kerr for more information at [mkerr@iiicenter.org](mailto:mkerr@iiicenter.org) or at 617-695-1554.

**Upcoming Events**  
**Wed., March 4, 6 p.m.-8p.m.** – IIIC Trivia Night at the Burren at Davis Square, 247 Elm Street, Somerville. Test your knowledge against Boston’s premier quiz-master, Neil Hurley.

Prizes awarded but most of all, this is a chance to get together in a cozy pub to welcome the month of March. For more info, contact Paul Pelan at [ppelan@iiicenter.org](mailto:ppelan@iiicenter.org) or at 617-542-7654, Ext. 16.

**Thurs., March 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** – Open House at IIIC, 100 Franklin Street LL-1, Boston, 02110 (Enter at 201 Devonshire). Meet staff, students, volunteers and board members and hear about our plans for 2015. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by March 3 to Mary Kerr at [mkerr@iiicenter.org](mailto:mkerr@iiicenter.org) or 617-695-1554.

**Legal Clinics**  
**Tuesdays, March 3 and March 24** – The IIIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street.

**Mon., March 9** – The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton Center.

**Wed., March 25** – St. Marks Parish (Church

Basement) 1725 Dorchester Ave, Dorchester, MA 02124.

**Job Opportunity** – The IIIC is seeking an Irish Outreach Program Coordinator to connect with the Irish community, supporting Irish immigrants’ access to IIIC’s legal, wellness and career advancement services, and other support services. In addition, the coordinator will assist with the day-to-day operations of the J-1 Irish Work and Travel Program.

An understanding of the Irish immigrant community in the Greater Boston area preferred in that the work requires the building of relationships with employers as well as with pubs, restaurants, and health centers that serve the Irish community.

For a full job description and application submission instructions, see our website at [iiicenter.org](http://iiicenter.org) (Go to: Get Involved/ Career Opportunities)

## Matters Of Substance

### What is Addiction: Personal Fault? or Disease?

BY DANIELLE OWEN  
IIIC STAFF

Substance use problems and addiction have always generated controversy. There was a time when, if you were having a problem drinking too much, people would say you were morally wrong – to get drunk was a sin, that you were weak, selfish, hopeless, and should be ignored, or locked up.

Then abuse of drugs like heroin, cannabis, and cocaine (to name a few) led to a whole host of other physical, emotional, and legal problems. Then along came Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous and they said that if you follow our way of life, you can find hope and recovery.

There are many other books, theories, and beliefs about substance use problems and addiction. TV shows like Celebrity Rehab and Intervention as well as people sharing their stories on Oprah and Dr. Phil have increasingly brought the topic into our televisions and conversations. What do you believe about addiction? Are addicts weak? Is it their fault? Or are they ill, sick with a disease that is very difficult to recover from?

I frequently meet with families and friends of peo-

ple who are experiencing problems. They sometimes wonder if it is their fault. If they had been a better parent, husband, wife, sister, father, or mother, maybe this wouldn’t be happening. Others feel that it is the addicts fault and that they should be put away until they can act “like everyone else.” If I was diagnosed with diabetes, heart disease, or cancer, is it my fault? Is addiction very different?

Denial is our most human response to hearing that we are ill. If we have diabetes, we can say, “This extra cookie or dessert can’t really make my diabetes symptoms worse, can it?” The denial in addiction is very similar to any other illness’s denial. I hear addicts say, “I just didn’t see it was a problem.” Once they got help though, it was much easier to see and learn more about how to get better. It’s no one’s fault that we have diabetes, cancer, or an addiction to alcohol or drugs. No one caused it but we can do something about it. If we can let blaming go, recognize the disease that is affecting us, and take responsibility to make the slow steady progress to a better life, we will find recovery.

“I want my life to be better but I don’t know where to start!” Learn all you need to make a start towards recovery, for you and your family.

Please join us on the following Tuesday evenings – March 24 and 31, April 7 and 14 – for another of our Family Healing Workshop Series. Refreshments and resource-sharing will begin from 5:30 and the workshop starts promptly at 6 p.m. at the Laboure Center (275 West Broadway, South Boston, MA 02127). Childcare is available but you must RSVP to confirm. Please call Danielle at the IIIC (617-542-7654, Ext.14, or visit [dowen@iiicenter.org](mailto:dowen@iiicenter.org)) if you have any questions about this series or about recovery in families.

Change is always possible – We can help! (Partnership with Catholic Charities Recovering Connections, RFK Corps, and COASA) If you are affected by the drinking of someone close to you, Al-Anon may be able to help, even if you are in another 12-step program of recovery. Check out this link for more information: [ma-al-anon-alateen.org/](http://ma-al-anon-alateen.org/) or call 508-366-0556.



Danielle Bowles



IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER  
WELLNESS SERVICES

### FAMILY HEALING WORKSHOPS



**RECOVERING CONNECTIONS**  
Have you or your family been affected by another person's substance abuse? Do you have questions?

**WHAT:**  
4 week Workshop Series learning about Alcohol/Substance Abuse and its impact on you, your family, and our community.

**WHERE:**  
The Labour's Center  
275 West Broadway  
South Boston, MA 02127

**WHEN:**  
Tuesdays, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> & April 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Refreshments at 5:30PM  
Workshop 6PM - 7:30PM

**CONTACT:**  
Danielle Owen  
617-542-7654 ext. 14  
[dowen@iiicenter.org](mailto:dowen@iiicenter.org)

**Callie Armstrong**  
617-464-8549

**Highlights include:**

- Learn how Substance Use problems occur.
- Practical resources and paths to recovery.
- Guest speakers from our community.

All are welcome, including family members, persons in recovery & service providers. Childcare is available for attendees each night, but you must RSVP to avail of this.

WELLNESS SERVICES



# Judge puts hold on Obama moves on immigration

On Feb. 16, a US District Court judge in Texas issued an order that temporarily halted the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program and the expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that were included in President Obama's Executive Action of last November. The White House has appealed the order to the 5th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. The Irish International Immigrant Center and other immigrant organizations expect the order to be lifted, although until that happens, no one can apply for DAPA or the expanded DACA program.

Said the IIIC's managing attorney Jeannie Kain: "We encourage everyone to stay informed about Executive Action and continue to prepare for the application process so they are ready to apply as soon as the order is lifted."

Some details about these programs:

- Expanded DACA for anyone brought to the



**IIIC Managing Attorney Jeannie Kain spoke at a press conference on Feb. 18 that was held by the Keeping Families Together coalition and hosted by the IIIC. The coalition, along with the IIIC encourages, people to and continue to prepare for the application process.**

US before age 16, who has lived in the US since Jan. 1, 2010, and who meet certain other requirements related to education and lack of criminal history. This will also include employment authorization valid for 3 years and permission to travel under very limited circumstances.

DAPA would defer action for immigrants living in the US since Jan. 1, 2010 who are parents of US citizens and permanent residents – this

will include employment authorization valid for 3 years and permission to travel under very limited circumstances.

"We hope that the moms, dads, and young men and women from Ireland, and from around the world who are eligible for these new programs will not be discouraged by this delay. There have been many turns in the road on this journey, and this latest development is just a bump in the road. As a community, let's remain hopeful," said Ronnie Millar, the IIIC's executive director.



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**

Paid for by Lynch for Congress Committee. Brian Miller, Treasurer

## JP McManus buys Adare Manor Hotel for \$34 million

(Continued from page 1)

Plaza in Boston. Phone 617-330-1737 for tickets/info. ... With Greece fighting to avoid default on its recession bailout, Ireland, which has done a top job of paying down its debt, is steering clear of that imbroglio. ... Air Lingus continues to spread its wings with new direct flights from Dublin to Dulles Airport, Washington. ... Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein Leader and Co. Louth Dail member, is the latest to publicly urge the Irish government to push for the Narrow Waters bridge project linking the North with the Republic. ... The action continues at Stormont to formally create an opposition that could take opposing policy views to those espoused by the NI Executive.

The international art market flourishes with a record price of \$300 million for a Paul Gauguin painting of two Tahitian girls. ... Adare Manor Hotel and golf resort in Limerick has been purchased by Irish businessman JP McManus for \$34 million. Sellers were Americans Tom & Judy Kane. ... Canada and New Zealand are offering inducements of visas and new jobs to attract Irish residents to emigrate. ... This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of William Butler



**William Butler Yeats**

Yeats. A Nobel Prize winner in Literature, Yeats died in 1939. ... The New York Irish will be hosting likely presidential candidate Hillary Clinton at their St. Patrick's Day event. It's another sign that the former first lady and secretary of state is just an announcement away from a presidential

Candidacy. ... Line of the week via Bill Reynolds' ProJo column on David Letterman's remark to Bill Belichick "We invited Pete Carroll to be on the show. He passed." ... A good sign of Ireland's recovery is the 2114 tourist spending there of about \$4 billion and visitors of 7.3 million., both increases.

...  
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# High school students kick the tires at EMK Institute

By Lauren Dezenski  
Reporter Staff

The best museums give their visitors a take-away message, something that can stick with them long after they leave the building. At the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate – slated to open on the 31st of this month on Columbia Point in Dorchester – that message will be participation, according to Museum Director Billie R. DeWalt.

“We want people to say, ‘I am inspired here to go out and make sure that I am in contact with my representative or senator or mayor and I’m darn sure going to be voting on the next election day. In the meantime, maybe I can get involved in a civic organization.’ Because that’s what makes the system work,” explains DeWalt.

The EMK Institute, a vision of the late senator and the second Kennedy family institution to rise up on the peninsula, will officially open its doors next to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum on March 31.

In anticipation of the opening, EMK Institute’s officials have invited school groups to visit the 68,000-square-foot facility for a trial run of the museum’s educa-



The exterior of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, shown above in this rendering, will officially open after a ceremony slated for later in March. However, select student groups are getting opportunities to test-out the institute’s interactive tours in recent visits.

tional programming that will perhaps identify kinks in the system in return for a sneak peek at what’s inside.

Last Wednesday, two dozen high school students from UMass Boston’s Urban Scholars Program spent the morning role-playing a US Senate immersion session where they worked to pass comprehensive immigration reform, no small task, especially for the folks actually elected to do just that.

In a process that will be in effect when the institute opens to visitors, all the students were

given tablets to guide them through the exhibit space as well as explore specific policy issues and historical events. They also took “selfie” photos of themselves that accompanied them throughout the museum.

The students were then assigned a Senate district and guided through the process of understanding issues important to their constituents. They also learned how to strike deals and make compromises on both sides of the aisle in line with their issues before finishing with a debate and

final vote taken in the replica of the Senate chamber at the Capitol in Washington, the institute’s crown jewel. The Institute’s chamber, which is being kept under tight wraps as the opening approaches, is commanding at first look with its detailed sense of authenticity right down to the inkwell on the late senator’s wooden desk and the moldings along the walls. That authenticity extends to the replica of Ted Kennedy’s Senate office that is another signature feature of the museum.

“Kids get off the bus,

they’re all jabbering and the front foyer is loud and they are having a good time. Then once they walk through the doors, it almost takes the breath out of everybody,” DeWalt said. “They quiet down immediately because they feel like they’re in the presence of something that is really important and really special. And we try to reinforce that with the experience.”

DeWalt said that when he first walked into the chamber, “I got chills running up and down my spine. And I think that is the kind of reaction that just about everybody who walks in there gets.”

The wide halls around the chamber feature interactive multimedia projections that have been designed to allow visitors to use their tablets to explore specific topics that interest them. All the technology creates an active museum experience, DeWalt said. “It’s just a means of getting to the point where guests think ‘Okay, I have to think about getting a provision on a bill and what kind of provision would I like to introduce to make this bill pass?’ You have to participate.”

Following the pre-opening tours by student groups and array of elected officials, a select

group of friends, supporters, and neighbors from around Columbia Point will make a trial run through the institute on March 7.

When the institute officially opens, a temporary exhibit highlighting Sen. Kennedy’s career will be available to visitors.

The institute’s and the senator’s focus on participation, both in its mission and its programming, can create a lasting difference, DeWalt said. “Unless people are participating and actively engaged, the whole system is not going to work. There’s nothing more needed at this time, where you’ve got such cynicism in the country about the government, and especially about the House of Representatives and the Senate. We can only affect that a little bit, but I think what we can do is inspire those kids who come through here.”

Admission to the museum will cost \$14 for Massachusetts residents between 25 and 61, and \$12 for the state’s seniors, students, and veterans. Admission will be free to Massachusetts children between 6 and 17. Regular admission for out-of-state residents will be \$16.

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**Performances by:** From Donegal, **The Henry Girls** • From Cape Breton, **Coig**  
**Mick McAuley** • Music Director **Keith Murphy**  
Dancers **Sarah Jacobson** and **Sean Collins** and many more!

For all details on participants in the shows, up-to-date ticket information and more, please go to [wgbh.org/celtic](http://wgbh.org/celtic)





# Happy St. Patrick's Day



**Congressman**  
**Michael Capuano**  
7th Congressional District

# 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**



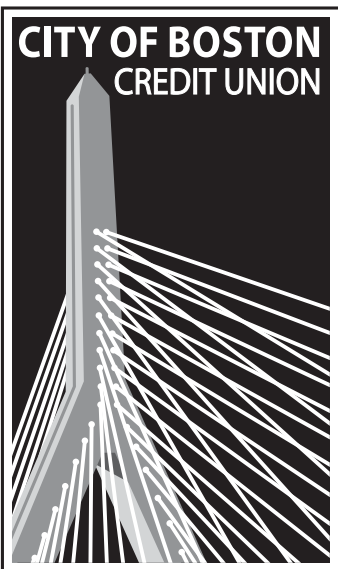
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you in whatever you do, and may his  
loving protection be a blessing to you  
always.

**City Councillor-at-Large**  
**STEVE MURPHY**



# ‘Adventurous’ is the driving spirit at ‘Celtic Sojourn’

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The annual “St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn” celebration hits the magic 10-year mark this year in characteristically adventurous fashion, with performances by Irish folk-roots trio The Henry Girls, hot Cape Breton quintet Còig, New England singer-guitarist (and the show’s music director) Keith Murphy, and a special appearance by vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Mick McAuley, a member of Irish super group Solas.

Also featured will be Irish dancer Sarah Jacobsen and members of the Harney Academy of Irish Dance.

“A St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn” will be at Harvard University’s Sanders Theater on March 14 (8 p.m.) and 15 (3 p.m.), following a March 13 show at the Zeiterion Theater in New Bedford.

Concert producer and host Brian O’Donovan, also the guiding spirit behind “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn,” is pleased that the St. Patrick’s Day production has established its own identity – one that has clearly resonated with audiences over 10 years.

“It’s great that people have been enthusiastic and supportive about what we’ve been doing,” he says. “Christmas Celtic Sojourn,” of course, has a unique purpose, celebrating a particular, very special time of the year and all its traditions. But ‘St. Patrick’s Celtic Sojourn’ allows us some flexibility and variability to be



The Henry Girls, a trio of sisters from Donegal who wowed the audience with their cameo appearance last year, will have a larger presence at this year’s “St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn.”

experimental, stretch things a little. So we’ve had a little of everything over the years, from John McCormack-style songs to a Scandinavian hardanger fiddle.

“St. Patrick’s Day is a largely American phenomenon, after all, so that gives the show a different kind of perspective to begin with. For me, ‘St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn’ is intended as a journey, constantly looking at where the Irish have travelled, how the Irish have influenced others – and in turn, been influenced by others.”

The Henry Girls – Donegal-born sisters Karen, Lorna and Joleen McLaughlin – are a perfect embodiment of that two-way influence in Irish music, says O’Donovan. Irish they may be, the trio has a firm grasp of Americana styles and grooves, joining gorgeous three-part vocal harmonies to an assortment of instruments that include fiddle, banjo, harp, ukulele, accordion, guitar, mandolin and piano; most of their material is original compositions, but they’ve also been known to throw in some beguiling covers, such

as Elvis Costello’s “Watching the Detectives” (familiar to those watchers of the “History Detectives” TV show).

For “St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn,” however, the Henry Girls will feature more of their traditional material, says O’Donovan, which went over well enough when they made a cameo in the finale of last year’s show. “They did just one song, and yet they sold more albums at the show than any of the other performers. In a way, you can think of them as somewhat similar to the Irish dance hall bands of yore, who

would play the trad stuff but also the form and content of the popular music of the day. In any case, we’re really happy to be giving them a bigger place in this year’s show.”

Còig (the Scottish Gaelic word for “five”) represents a case of something too good not to keep going. Colin Grant (fiddle), Darren McMullen (guitar, mandolin, banjo, bouzouki, whistles, vocals), Rachel Davis (fiddle, vocals), Chrissy Crowley (fiddle) and Jason Roach (piano), accomplished soloists all, originally banded together a few years ago to do a promotional tour for Cape Breton’s Celtic Colours International Festival – and when the tour was over, found they enjoyed the collaboration so much they decided to play as an ensemble whenever possible.

While Còig embodies the proud Cape Breton tradition, with plenty of marches, strathspeys and reels, their repertoire also gives nods to Irish and Scottish music – the song “Mary and the Soldier” (popularized by Paul Brady) and Dougie MacLean’s “She Loves Me,” for example. And don’t be surprised if there’s a flourish of French-Canadian in there, too.

“They are just a dynamic representation of Cape Breton, and it’s wonderful to see the tradition in the hands of outstanding young musicians,” says O’Donovan.

Mick McAuley is familiar to Solas fans, but at “St. Patrick’s

(Continued on page 12)



Students from the Harney Academy of Irish Dance in “A Little Bit Of Ireland” at Reagle Music Theatre, March 14 and 15.

Photo courtesy of Reagle Music Theatre / Herb Philpott Photo.

## Sharing ‘A Little Bit Of Ireland’ at Reagle in Waltham

BY R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It all began with a backstage “hello” more than a decade ago following a performance of Hal Prince’s acclaimed revival of “Showboat” when leading lady Sarah Pfisterer met Bob Eagle, Founder and Producing Artistic Director of Waltham’s Reagle Music Theatre. That brief greeting has led to an enduring personal and professional connection that lasts to this day.

A Metropolitan Opera semi-finalist with a master’s in Music from Northwestern University, Sarah has become a mainstay at Reagle in recent years, regularly appearing in summer musicals such as “Carousel,” “The Music Man,” “The Sound of Music” and “My Fair Lady.” She has also performed in the company’s annual Christmas production.

### 17th St. Patrick’s revue set for March 14 and 15

And later this month she will return to Waltham to sing in Reagle’s 17th annual St. Patrick’s Day revue, “A Little Bit Of Ireland,” on March 14 and 15.

The show is a dynamic celebration of Irish music, dance, and light-hearted comedy based on what Bob Eagle modestly calls “a little idea I had.” This year’s enthusiastic company of close to 70 singers, dancers, and musicians is scheduled to include everyone from Sarah and her husband Rick Hilsabeck (star of Broadway’s “Phantom of the Opera”) to the Celtic ensemble Comhaltas, Judith Ross and the Massachusetts Harp

Ensemble, students from the award-winning Harney Academy of Irish Dance, comedian Jerry Walker, a full chorus, a live orchestra, and more.

In addition to her work on Broadway and in the national tour of “Showboat,” Sarah also starred as Christine Daae in more than 1,000 performances of “Phantom,” which is where she and Rick first met. Rick’s extensive credits include performing as principal dancer and choreographer with Hubbard Street Dance Company in addition to appearing in “Ragtime,” “Billy Elliot: The Musical,” “Chitty, Chitty Bang Bang” and Hal Prince’s “Parade,” among others.

Originally from the Midwest, Sarah and Rick currently live with their two children in Connecticut where they co-founded the Wire Mill Academy, a theater school for young artists where they teach. Despite their extensive work schedules, they both say Reagle Music Theatre holds a very special place in their hearts.

Chatting by phone from home, Sarah said, “We still work in New York, we do concerts, we have the performing arts school down here, but we talk a lot about the fact that I think we have closer friends in the Boston area because of Reagle Music Theatre than we

do here. People are so wonderful up there. I can think of ten people right off the top of my head that I could call and say, ‘Gosh, I’m in this bind, would you mind X-Y-and-Z and they’d be there in a moment’s notice. ... Bob Eagle has just created a lovely, lovely thing there.”

This year’s show is still being fine tuned, but Sarah said, “As far as I know, I think I’ll be doing ‘Come Back to Erin.’ Rick will be doing ‘Danny Boy.’ We’ll do ‘Great Day For The Irish’ and some sing-alongs to get everybody going . . . And then I’ll probably do ‘Mother Ireland’ (with an arrangement) Judy Ross wrote a few years back for her harps.”

She added, with a laugh, “One of our dearest friends is Jerry Walker. I remember

(Continued on page 23)



# COME TO THE CEILI

## Doyle's in JP hosts the fun once a month

Doyle's Café is a Boston institution – and more to the point, a Boston *Irish* institution, as anyone who has seen its Irish and Irish-American memorabilia and décor can testify. So there aren't many more appropriate venues around for a good old-fashioned Irish ceili than the nearly 135-year-old Jamaica Plain establishment.

On the second Saturday of each month, Doyle's plays host to the Jamaica Plain Ceilis, which brings together generations for an evening of fun and fellowship that enlivens the back room with set and ceili dancing. The series, which runs September through May, is now into its second year.

The organizers for the JP Ceilis are Jackie O'Riley, a Stoughton native who is an Irish dance performer and teacher, and Los Angeles transplant Joey Abarta, a widely recognized master of the uilleann pipes. They were inspired by a one-off event a few years ago at Doyle's organized by friends seeking in particular to interest a younger crowd in ceili dancing. The space seemed to work fine, and the turnout was good, but as O'Riley explains, at the time no one was ready to spearhead the next step: making it a regular event.

"Finally, after about a year, Joey and I decided that we could do this as a team," says O'Riley, who often calls the dances at the ceilis but happily defers to special guests. "We've been very fortunate to have a team of volunteers to help us, as well as the cooperation from Doyle's, to make it all work."

Another valuable component of the series is the Jamaica Plain Ceili Train, a band with a shifting line-up, organized by Abarta, which provides the music, and a good part of the energy, for the event. "There's nothing like dancing to live music," says O'Riley. "Joey and the musicians he invites are so great, and they give everything such a lift."

The ceilis are preceded by about a 40-minute crash course in the basics of set and ceili dancing. "We're extremely



**Above: Joey Abarta (far right) recruits outstanding musicians like (L-R) Paddy League, Chris "Junior" Stevens and Danny Noveck to be part Of the Jamaica Plain Ceili Train, which provides music for the monthly ceili at Doyle's Café. At right: Jaclyn O'Riley calls the dances at the JP Ceilis.**  
*Photos by Sean Smith*

welcoming to beginners," says O'Riley, who adds that she and her co-organizers make a point of referring newcomers to other set dancing events in the Boston area.

Once the evening gets going in earnest, there are usually on average about 70 people participating. And it's then that an important element – one that goes beyond the immediacy of the event – kicks in, she says.

"One of our major goals with the ceilis is to have mixed ages and experiences. The core set dance community in Boston is aging, and they have a lot of wisdom to pass along, so we

want to make sure they get together with the younger, less seasoned folks. The older dancers are very understanding and helpful; even though someone is calling the dance, they really look out for those people who aren't used to doing it."

This dynamic is a big part of what makes the ceili series so appealing for O'Riley and many of those who take part. "In this day and age, when life just seems to be so busy for many of us, having these monthly dances is a chance for communion, for getting together and enjoying one another's company," she explains. "The ceilis aren't a competition, just a way to recognize joy and celebrate life. I know it certainly makes me feel happy and healthy."

The evening's program includes a little break for people to catch their breath, and to inject some variety – perhaps a song from a willing singer, or a few flourishes by step dancers who are present. It all depends who shows up, notes O'Riley, and sometimes anything can happen: On one occasion, a group of Greek students came by, joined in on the set dance "Shoe the Donkey," and eventually wound up demonstrating a Greek dance.

There also are moments of true grace, O'Riley says, such as when a particular dance is running along smoothly and she allows herself to relax a little and observe the tableau in front of her. "I look across the floor, and I see the older dancers who have loved doing this for years; I see young kids who are there with their families, having a good time getting caught up in the moment; I see my musician friends, many of whom almost never get a chance to dance; I see people who are new to the dancing, and they're getting the hang of it. And my heart just swells."

The next Jamaica Plain Ceili at Doyle's will be March 14, at 7 p.m. (instruction begins at 6:15). For information, see the Facebook group at facebook.com/thejamaicaplinceilis or e-mail O'Riley at orileyirishdance@gmail.com.

– SEAN SMITH



## 'Adventurous' is the driving spirit at 'Celtic Sojourn'

(Continued from page 19)

Day Celtic Sojourn," he'll be highlighting his "pure drop" persona.

"He's an all-around performer, brilliant as a musician on several instruments and as a singer," O'Donovan says of McAuley, who recently appeared in "The Last Ship," a musical created by the pop singer Sting. "But as a straight-forward traditional player, he's just the best. We'll be looking forward to some good old-fashioned accordion from Mick in the show."

All well and good to have such talent on one's roster, but how much better when you also have a top-drawer director and arranger to

maximize it to the best possible effect. That's what "St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn" has in Keith Murphy, says O'Donovan – and, oh yes, he happens to be a gifted guitarist-pianist-mandolinist and singer himself. Murphy is a leading figure in the New England folk music scene, exploring facets of the many traditions that have graced the region, including that of his native Newfoundland. He and his wife Becky Tracy were two-thirds of the groundbreaking New England music trio Nightingale, and he's also known for his stints with Childsplay, Hanneke Cassel, and others. "This is Keith's third



**"St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn" producer and host Brian O'Donovan says he sees the show as "a journey, constantly looking at where the Irish have travelled, how the Irish have influenced others – and in turn, been influenced by others."**

year as our music director, and he's been just a great fit," says O'Donovan. "Keith understands what we try to do, and does a wonderful job in knitting everything together. And what a bonus it is to have him as a performer, too."

One of the more enjoyable things about putting on a show that lasts as long as "A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn," notes O'Donovan, is the opportunity to witness young performers come of age and begin to take leadership roles in the traditional music and dance community. So it is with Sarah Jacobsen, who having appeared in both the Christmas and St. Patrick's Day ver-

sions of "Celtic Sojourn," this year will add dance director to her duties.

"Sarah has stepped up to the additional responsibilities with gusto, putting together the choreography for this year's show in addition to preparing for her own performance. This is what you love to see, and we see it a lot in the Boston area: the tradition being passed on to a new generation that embraces it and keeps it going."

For ticket information and other details about "A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn," see [wgbb.org/celtic](http://wgbb.org/celtic).



CD Reviews

By Sean Smith  
**Bernadette Morris, “All the Ways You Wander”** • County Tyrone native Bernadette Morris defied that familiar axiom: She quit her day job – as a TV producer – to become a full-time musician. Actually, in Morris’s case, it wasn’t that much of a stretch, since she grew up in a musical family, started singing and playing fiddle as a young child, and perhaps most importantly, through her work in TV – especially as an Irish language programming producer – she got to know Donal Lunny, Paul Brady, the Black Family and other notables in Irish music who served as inspiration, example and counsel.

Judging from “All the Ways You Wander,” Morris knew what she was doing with her career change, and that includes tapping Beoga’s Sean Óg Graham as producer and co-arranger (he also contributes guitar, bouzouki and keyboard) for this album. There’s a likeable flow to its 11 tracks, an appealing blend of traditional and contemporary songs and styles – and selection of familiar and somewhat more obscure material – plus, of course, Morris’s pleasantly



reedy voice, which has drawn comparisons to Cara Dillon and Cathy Jordan.

“Brocagh Braes,” “A Roving on a Winter’s Night” (the latter based on an American version recorded by Doc Watson’s cousin, Dolly Greer), “Molly na gGuach Ní Chuilleanáin” and “Johnny Lovely Johnny” (as popularized by Dolores Keane and John Faulkner) set the bar high, Morris’ vocals sailing along to the able accompaniment of Niall McCrickard’s guitar, Ciaran Harris’ whistles, Rohan Young’s bodhran and Ruairi Cunnane’s bouzouki. Elsewhere, Graham gives the bleakly epic “Lord Donegal” a punchy, upbeat guitar backing underscored by Young’s bodhran, as Morris builds the dramatic tension; by contrast,

“Once I Loved” is full of tender regret and release, Morris adding a melancholy fiddle to great effect.

Morris does as well with the two contemporary songs: the title track, John Spillane’s paeon to steadfastness and patience; and – as a sort of emotional counterpoint – Barry Kerr’s “The Leaving Song,” which has a Nanci Griffith quality to it, enhanced by Richard Nelson’s dobro.

Morris even breaks out the fiddle for a heady trio of jigs, given a boost by Hanna’s whistle and concertina and an infectious groove from Graham’s guitar.

A very promising debut here, one that turns the aforementioned axiom on its head. Bernadette, don’t go back to your day job.

**Caladh Nua, “Honest to Goodness”** • It’s the third album for this quintet, whose geographical roots are centered on the neighboring counties of Carlow, Waterford, and Kilkenny. Caladh Nua is Lisa Butler (vocals, fiddle), Derek Morrissey (accordion), Paddy Tutty (fiddle, bodhran, viola) and Eoin O’Meachair (banjo, whistle); the guitarist/bouzouki player here, Colm



O’Caoimh, has since gone on to join Frankie Gavin and De Dannan and been replaced by Caoimhin O Fearghail, who in addition to guitar plays a pretty mean flute – as he demonstrates on two of the tracks on “Honest to Goodness.”

The band boasts quite a versatile sound, both in terms of their instrumentation as well as their style and choice of arrangements – lending some old-fashioned swing to a trio of barn dances on the one hand, and on the other fashioning a classic post-Bothy Band treatment of a pair of reels (“Tie the Ribbon/Queen of May”); or following a traditional song in Gaelic (“Seoladh Na nGamhna”) a few tracks later with a quirky but endearing, and catchy, contemporary love song by Cork’s Ger Wolfe, “The Crackling Radio.”

O’Meachair’s banjo in particular plays a valuable role in defining the band’s adaptabil-

ity, supplying the bright ceilidh band hues for the barn dances and a trio of flings (“Casey’s Favourite/Mary Brennan’s Favourite/Casey’s Pig”), for instance, or undergirding the melody in fast-paced modal or minor tunes in the “Brid Harper’s/Blossom of Ballisland/Princess Florence’s Jig” and “One Horned Buck/Yellow Tinker/Touching Cloth” sets. Similarly, the now-departed O’Caoimh is equally adept at furnishing nifty jazz chords and bouncy rhythm for the first part of “One Horned Buck” or an intense drive to the “Tie the Ribbon” set; his use of an alternating time signature on the arpeggios he plays in “Seoladh Na nGamhna” make a compelling backdrop for Butler’s voice – which, incidentally, deserves applause of its own, especially for a captivating rendition of “Lough Erne’s Shore.”

Incidentally, “caladh nua” (coll-ah noo-ah) is Gaelic for “new haven”; Connecticut references notwithstanding, the name suggests a place of sanctuary and repose – an idyllic picture indeed, and one befitting Caladh Nua.

Charitable Irish dinner features author Peter Quinn

The Charitable Irish Society of Boston, the first and oldest Irish organization in the Americas, will host its 278th St. Patrick’s Day Dinner at the Fairmont Copley Plaza on March 17.

The renowned New York author Peter Quinn will be the keynote speaker for the evening and Mayor Martin

J. Walsh will respond to the traditional Toast to the City of Boston while state Rep. Christopher Walsh of Framingham will respond to the traditional Toast to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Society will confer a Life Achievement Award upon Quinn for his outstanding contributions as a novelist,

historian, and journalist. His 1994 novel, “The Banished Children of Eve,” is a riveting portrayal of the challenges that faced Irish immigrants in New York City from the era of the Great Irish Famine through to the Civil War. This work was given an American Book Award in 1995 and led to Quinn’s working with Martin

Scorcese on the film “Gangs of New York”.

Quinn’s “Looking for Jimmy: In Search of Irish America” is an insightful personal memoir and commentary on how poor Irish immigrants to New York eventually acquired the skills, education, and political influence to become crucial players in New York city and state

politics and society.

Tickets for the dinner, which will be preceded by a cocktail hour at 6 p.m. are \$175 per person and can be ordered by contacting the Society by March 13 by phone at 617-330-1737, by email at [charitableirishsociety@gmail.com](mailto:charitableirishsociety@gmail.com), or through the Society’s website at [charitableirishsociety.org](http://charitableirishsociety.org).



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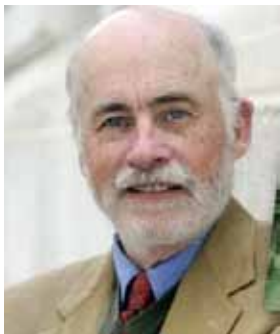
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Response to “The Day We Celebrate”  
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Author, *Banished Children of Eve*,  
*Dry Bones*



Response to the toast  
“To the City of Boston”  
The Honorable Martin J. Walsh  
Mayor, City of Boston



Response to the toast  
“To the Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts”  
State Rep. Chris Walsh



# Catherine O'Neill to stage her second play, 'The Fence'

**BY ELIZA DEWEY**  
**SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER**  
Beginning on March 6, Dorchester playwright Catherine O'Neill will invite audiences to the Boston Center for the Arts see her most personal work yet. In "The Fence," O'Neill recounts how her father built a chain-link fence for her brother as an act of love – only for the son to ask to tear it down because of its ugliness and negative reactions from neighbors. The ensuing drama unearths what she describes as "a world full of hate and secrets" that highlights "the heart of

ageism, socioeconomic growth, and acceptance among first-generation Bostonians."  
By using her family as her inspiration, O'Neill gave herself a chance to reflect on the journey they took from Ireland to Boston. She is the youngest of seven children and the only one born in the United States.  
"My parents and my 6 brothers emigrated to this country," she says. "I never considered how brave that was, for a long, long time."  
"The play is about that, too – the shoulders that we all stand on as



Catherine O'Neill will stage her second play in Boston next month.

Americans."  
In an interview with the Reporter, O'Neill declines to reveal much more of the plot, but she explains that she heavily dramatizes everything following the catalyzing

incident of the fence. She says with a laugh that her brother Timothy, the son in the episode, is fine with the character based on him because he understands it's "really not him."  
It was not always a given that O'Neill would become a playwright. Her resume recounts a path that is equal parts impressive and fluid. She has worked in politics (for Mayor Menino and in the campaigns of US Sen. Elizabeth Warren and state Sen. Linda Dorcea Forry); in education (Milton High School and Emer-

son College); and in real estate (first for Corcoran Jennison and now as a consultant). Those various endeavors, however, have largely been a means to an end: the fulfillment of her love for writing.  
"Because I got into writing so late, I have a mortgage," she says. "I have financial obligations that perhaps a 23-year-old writer wouldn't have." Over time, she says, she has found a way to balance practical needs with her passion. She works 40 hours a week – which she calls a "part time endeavor" – and uses her weekends and nights to be creative.

The beginning of her journey to full-fledged writer was bumpy. While she always loved to write, she initially did it privately because she didn't think she was good enough. The gender norms of that time did not help, either: "When I grew up," she says, "women were not encouraged to be artists. They were encouraged to be school teachers, nurses, or to work for the phone company."  
O'Neill gained her first fan after she wrote a short story for a class she was taking at Suffolk University, where she had returned as an adult to complete an unfinished bachelor's degree program. Her English professor had pulled her aside to give her feedback and she thought, "Finally somebody is going to tell me that I am not a great writer, so I can stop this thought in my brain." She says she secretly wanted to be "let off the hook" from her obsession. Instead, the professor told her it was the best short story she had ever read.  
While not fully convinced, O'Neill began to pursue writing more seriously. She sent an article about "being a woman in the '90s" to Ms. Magazine at the height of the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill confrontation after his nomination to the US Supreme Court. And during a stint of unemployment, she sent a piece to the Boston Globe entitled "Jobless and Humiliated" and was thrilled to see it published in the op-ed section alongside Globe columnist David Nyhan and Washington Post writer David Broder. Later, while working in the Menino administration, she began a talk show, The Dorchester Connection. And soon after, she began writing a column for the Dorchester Reporter.

Now, with a master of fine arts in creative writing degree, the experience of a year-long graduate course in

(Continued on page 22)

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# Sharing ‘A Little Bit Of Ireland’ at Reagle in Waltham

(Continued from page 19)

the first year I did the Reagle Irish show, I (was backstage and) thought ‘Well I’m going to watch Jerry do his thing.’ I was laughing so hard I was losing my voice. And the audience just screams, which, of course, makes you laugh even harder.”

Sarah and Rick believe the popularity and longevity of “A Little Bit of Ireland” lie in the fact that audiences count on it as an annual family tradition that delivers a great night out. Said Sarah: “It does change a bit from year to year – sometimes we’ll add a new song, or Judy will write something new. Liam Harney will put some new dances in. But what a collection, what a talented group. I am always blown away. I stand in the wings and watch with my jaw on the floor because they’re all so talented. Rick and I are honored to be among them.”

They are also very proud of their school. “Education in the



**Broadway star Sarah Pfisterer and “Phantom of the Opera” star Rick Hilsabeck are featured in “A Little Bit Of Ireland” at Reagle Music Theatre, March 14 and 15.**

*Courtesy of Reagle Music Theatre / Herb Philpott Photo.*

arts in our area (was lacking),” said Sarah. School budgets – always the first thing to be cut. We felt there was a real need. So along with a partner of ours, Mary Jo Duffy, a



good Irish girl, we founded Wire Mill Academy. We’re in our fourth year and it’s going really well. We sit at the

crossroad of four towns so we have a unique situation where kids from all four towns get to know each other. That normally wouldn’t happen. But involvement in the theater and the arts really kind of brings people together. It’s been a really wonderful, completely different experience in the arts for us. When you’re teaching, you really take yourself out of the equation. And that has been so rewarding.”

Both Rick and Sarah come from families of educators. “We love teaching and desperately want these kids (kindergarten through college) to have the same kind of experiences we had,” Rick said. “Sarah and I were very fortunate growing up to have good teachers – good, solid, dependable people, inspirational people.”

Rick noted that the reality of financial uncertainty today sometimes limits what

theatrical producers are able to do to ensure a fully staged production. However, he said, Bob Eagle “has maintained a wonderful tradition of keeping live music, a live orchestra and never skimping, never giving in to play things to a recording or hiring just five musicians.”

At the end of “A Little Bit Of Ireland,” Rick said, he and Sarah feel it’s important for them to acknowledge to the audience the gratitude and pleasure performers experience when singing with a live orchestra. “It’s something we hope never dwindles.”

*R. J. Donovan is Editor and Publisher of [onstageboston.com](http://onstageboston.com).*

...

Reagle Music Theatre’s “A Little Bit Of Ireland,” March 14 & 15, Robinson Theater, 617 Lexington St., Waltham. Tickets: [reaglemusictheatre.com](http://reaglemusictheatre.com) or 781-891-5600.

## Irish Film Festival set for March 19-22 in Davis Square

Ireland’s feature films, documentaries, and filmmakers will be honored at the annual Irish Film Festival Boston from March 19th to the 22d at the Somerville Theater in Davis Square.

In 1999, the non-profit Boston Irish Film Festival Productions was formed to celebrate and promote global Irish cinema. The festival, the largest event of its kind outside Ireland, provides exhibition, distribution, and educational opportunities for filmmakers in addition to recognizing achievements in the

categories of Best Film, Best Documentary, Best Short Fiction/Animation, and Director’s Choice; also included is the annual Excellence Award, honoring those filmmakers whose work reflects the best of Ireland and the Irish.

For information on this year’s program and other details, see [irish-filmfestival.com](http://irish-filmfestival.com); updates also are available on Facebook [[facebook.com/IrishFilmFestival](https://www.facebook.com/IrishFilmFestival)] and Twitter [[@IrishFilmFest](https://twitter.com/IrishFilmFest), with the hashtag #irish-filmfest15].

## O’Neill’s second act: ‘The Fence’ on stage

(Continued from page 22)

screenwriting, and five professionally produced plays under her belt, O’Neill seems to have made it. She says she is driven by characters who are close to her heart.

“All of my work is inhabited by strong women over forty,” she says in highlighting the scarcity of such roles today. She also portrays what she calls “regular, normal, neighborhood people” to emphasize that “theatre is for everybody,” not just the wealthy. To that end, she is already at work on another project entitled “My Son’s Mother,” which she hopes to show some day at the Strand Theatre. She wrote it with two local actresses in mind. “They’re from our neighborhoods,” she says, by which she means one is from Jamaica Plain and one is from Dorchester.

O’Neill’s democratized approach to art brought up another topic for discussion in the interview: the changing face of Boston as rents steadily rise. When asked about the changes, she takes note of the challenges

and the promises at hand: While “young people have been priced out” – two of her nieces included – she thinks that the mayor and the governor understand “that in order to be the place we should be, we have to keep our young people here.” To that end, she says, “they’re making affordable housing, they’re creating a cultural mecca. So I think that it’s all going in the right direction. And I have great hope.”

That hope, however, is mixed with some sharp criticism of the current situation for artists. “I know what they pay the actors and the directors – it’s disgusting,” she says. “That’s probably why I denied myself for so long. Hopefully the next generation won’t have to choose.”

Having stopped denying herself her passion, O’Neill is now where she needs to be. “Of all of the spaces I’ve ever been in in my life, this is the most comfortable,” she says, “there is no greater fulfillment I’ve ever had in my life than when I write.”

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## A SAMPLING OF MARCH CONCERTS

As usual, the Greater Boston area offers an Irish/Celtic smorgasboard of music and dance during the month of St. Patrick's Day. Here's a look at some of the highlights:

- Distinguished Irish sextet **Dervish**, fresh off its 25th anniversary celebration last year, will present two shows on March 22 as part of The Burren "Backroom" series: a "brunch-time" concert at 1:30 p.m., and a late-afternoon appearance at 4:30 p.m. Led by dynamic singer Cathy Jordan, Dervish also features the talents of Brian McDonagh (mandolin, mandola), Michael Holmes (bouzouki), Tom Morrow (fiddle, viola), Liam Kelly (flute, whistles) and Shane Mitchell (accordion). Their most recent album, "Thrush in the Storm," met with wide critical and public acclaim. For tickets and other information, see [burren.com/Backroom-Series.html](http://burren.com/Backroom-Series.html).

- Much-loved Irish singer-songwriter **Robbie O'Connell** takes the stage at Hingham's Coffeehouse Off the Square on March 21 at 8 p.m. (the show begins with an open mic). Many of O'Connell's songs, such as "Hard to Say Good-bye," "Keg of Brandy," "Islander's Lament" and "The Man from Connemara," have become part of countless other sing-

ers' repertoires, as well as audience favorites. But O'Connell also has a firm, and entertaining, grasp of the Irish song tradition. Admission to the show is \$15; go to [oldshipchurch.org/coffeehouse-off-the-square.html](http://oldshipchurch.org/coffeehouse-off-the-square.html) for more information.

- Celtic folk-rockers **Burning Bridget Cleary** will perform in Harvard Square's Club Passim at 3 p.m. on March 8. The band – named for the 19th-century woman immortalized in legends as the last witch burned in Ireland – is distinctive for its high-energy, engaging stage presence driven by the twin fiddles of Rose Baldino and Amy Beshara, and further enlivened by Baldino's charismatic lead vocals, with harmonies from guitarist Lou Baldino, and the percussion of Peter Trezzi. Burning Bridget Cleary was a nominee for "Top Traditional Group in a Pub, Festival, or Concert" in the Irish Music Association's 2013 Irish Music Awards.

On March 11 at 8 p.m., Passim will present a "roots-and-branches" type of evening, with Irish traditional music played by Boston area uilleann piper **Joey Abarta** and a performance of Appalachian roots music by **Anna** (fiddle, banjo, guitar, harmony



**Dervish will be at The Burren on March 22 for two shows.**

vocals) and **Elizabeth LaPrelle** (vocals). In addition to their musical abilities, all three performers have been lauded for their scholarly devotion to tradition.

March 19 will see a special CD release concert at Passim for Boston-area native **Molly Pinto Madigan**, a singer-songwriter whose compositions are strongly rooted in the themes, motifs, and form of the folk ballad traditions of America, Ireland, England, and elsewhere, which she sings in a voice that's been praised as "pure and sweet." Also performing will be **The Whiskey Boys**, a fun-loving Boston-based quintet (David Delaney, Michael Warren, Mark Whitaker, Jon Polit and Jeff Butcher) that plays modern bluegrass/Americana-style music with flourishes of Celtic and traditional folk.

For information on ticket prices and other details, see [passim.org](http://passim.org).

- Cape Breton legends **The Barra MacNeils**

help mark the 75th anniversary year of Medford's Chevalier Theater on March 7. [You can read more about the event in this Boston Irish Reporter article from last month at <http://bit.ly/16kNQso>]. A new addition to the show will be appearances by local stepdancers from Jackie O'Riley Irish Dance. You can buy tickets online at [brownpapertickets.com/event/1085185](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/1085185); tickets also available at Medford Electronics, 25 Salem St., Medford or by calling 800-838-3006.

- **Boston College Irish Dance** will present its annual performance on March 14 at BC's Robsham Theater at 7 p.m. This year's show, "Radiance," will once again feature the student dance troupe's traditional and contemporary dance pieces; there also will be guest appearances by the Dance Organization of Boston College and a *cappella* group the Acoustics. Tickets are \$10 plus service fee, and

go on sale March 10. For information, see [bc.edu/theater](http://bc.edu/theater).

- The Irish Cultural Centre of New England (ICCNE) in Canton will host a dinner and concert on March 7 with **Kate Chadbourne**, who will present a program of songs and stories to celebrate the coming of spring. Tickets for the event, which begins at 6 p.m., are \$35.

The ICCNE will hold its annual St. Patrick's Festival from March 13-15 and on March 17, with concerts, dancing, and other activities. For details on this and the Kate Chadbourne concert, see [irishculture.org](http://irishculture.org).

- The Canadian American Club in Watertown, meanwhile, has its own St. Patrick's celebration from March 13th to the 17th. Information on performers, events, tickets and other details is available at [canadianamericanclub.com](http://canadianamericanclub.com) or via e-mail at [canadianamericanclub@gmail.com](mailto:canadianamericanclub@gmail.com).

- Berklee College of

Music's Red Room at Café 939 will be the setting for a different kind of Irish sound when it hosts 20-year-old Dublin singer-songwriter **Orla Gartland** on March 12 at 8 p.m. Gartland started out playing traditional Irish music as a five-year-old, but at age 12 began playing guitar and immersing herself in pop music; since then, she has cultivated a catchy, quirky style built around guitar-driven catchy melodies and her compelling vocals. For tickets and other information, see [cafe939.com](http://cafe939.com).

- A little farther afield from Greater Boston will be a show by Celtic music duo **Dan Ringrose and Jeanne Freeman** on March 5 in Ireland's Great Hunger Museum – home to the world's largest collection of visual art, artifacts, and printed materials relating to the Irish Famine – at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Ct.

– SEAN SMITH

## We Banjo 3 will be in tune at Johnny D's on March 12

One of the more highly anticipated music events this month will be the March 12 Boston-area debut at Johnny D's in Somerville of We Banjo 3, a quartet consisting of two pairs of brothers – Enda and Fergal Scahill, and Martin and David Howley – that fashions an exhilarating blend of Irish with bluegrass/old-timey sounds, with banjo as the focal point and catalyst.

The band's collective and individual instrumental abilities are equally matched by its vocal prowess, led by guitarist David Howley. The Boston Irish Reporter's Sean Smith caught up with Howley recently, a few days after We Banjo 3 released its new single, "The Fox," with guest star Sharon Shannon (the accompanying video can be viewed at the band's website, [webanjo3.com](http://webanjo3.com)).

Q. Have you guys been to Boston before?

A. This is our first time to play in Boston and we are incredibly excited. There's a lot of Irish heritage scattered around the US, but Boston holds a particularly strong connection.

Q. OK, let's get this straight: Your band



**Two pairs of brothers make up We Banjo 3: (L-R) David and Martin Howley, and Enda and Fergal Scahill.**

name is "We Banjo 3," but there are four of you, and only two of you actually play the banjo?

A. We like to be mysterious. When we started the band, there were only three of us, and we all played banjo. We quickly realized we needed a real instrument in the band, so we asked Fergal to join us on fiddle and I switched from banjo to guitar. It's hard to carry a third banjo across the US for 10 weeks for two sets a night thus we became the four-piece

band called We Banjo 3 that only has two banjos.

Q. Over the years, there have been numerous crossovers/mash-ups of Irish and American music. How did you guys hit upon your particular take, and which bands/musicians did you take your cues from?

A. When we started the band, we made a pact to always have fun with what we do. There's a huge connection between Irish music and bluegrass: Bill Monroe, father of bluegrass, said

"there would be no bluegrass only for the Irish."

Q. David, did you start off in Irish traditional music and become seduced by bluegrass/old-timey/Americana? Or did you always have a diversity of musical interests? Whom do you consider your big influences, as a musician and a singer?

A. Mandolin was my first instrument, and I quickly graduated to the banjo thereafter. I loved the sound of the banjo even from an early

age. I grew up listening to my father singing and playing guitar every morning and evening. He gave my brother and me a real love for music. We listened to everything from Paul Brady to Garth Brooks, and The Beatles to The Chieftains. I learned to sing to impress girls, but quickly I fell in love with singing in its own right. Traveling and touring has allowed me to see new places and meet new people in the last few years, and that's been the biggest source of new music inspiration.

Q. Your most recent CD, "Gather the Good," impressed a heck of a lot of people, in America as well as Ireland. What was the band's mindset in recording the album?

A. Well, as the name of the CD implies, it is all about gathering the good things together in life and being grateful. We'd had a huge year of touring behind us, meeting new musicians and fans, seeing a host of wonderful new places. This informed and inspired our creativity no end, and much of what's on "Gather the Good" is material that we started playing on the road and performed exten-

sively. The album was an organic extension of touring and the fun that surrounds that.

Q. Is there a new WB3 album in the works?

A. Yes, we are the middle of recording a new live album as we speak. We are really excited about it. Fans have been requesting a live album for a long time. It's four brothers on stage having fun, and that magic and energy is what we are trying to capture and record.

Q. Here's a very serious and important question: We all know how the banjo is the butt of many jokes – as many as, or even perhaps more than, accordions, bodhrans, and bagpipes. What is it about the instrument that seems to provoke such scorn?

A. Jealousy! Banjovi and banjo-evangelists! The fact is, everyone secretly loves the banjo. The world is filled with closet banjo players, and we are simply endeavoring to make the banjo a weapon of mass seduction.

For information about We Banjo 3's March 12 show at Johnny D's, see [johnnyds.com](http://johnnyds.com).



## Traveling People

# Make no mistake – this is the month to honor the Saint



Mulranny Park Hotel, in Mulranny, Co. Mayo, recently opened for the 2015 season and is celebrating its 10th birthday this year with many offers and specials. *Photo by Judy Enright*

## By JUDY ENRIGHT SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It's March and, as our readers know, March is all about Patrick – Saint Patrick, that is – and you'd have a hard time finding anyplace in Ireland – or here, for that matter – who doesn't celebrate the saintly man this month.

Dublin marks St. Patrick's Day for nearly a week with a parade, 5K road race, walking tours, street theatre, a floating cinema on Grand Canal Dock, a beer and whiskey festival, boat races, all kinds of indoor and outdoor musical events and much more. For details, visit [stpattricksfestival.ie](http://stpattricksfestival.ie) online. The Dublin festival began in 1996 as a one-day event but was obviously a big hit because the event was expanded and this year it will run from March 14th to the 17th.

Cork City will be holding its annual St. Patrick's festival on the same four days. Events include a parade, music, street entertainers and more. See [corkstpattricksfestival.ie](http://corkstpattricksfestival.ie).

But it isn't just major cities that celebrate the holiday or the saint. Almost every nook and cranny on the island has some sort of commemorative event. On Achill Island in Co. Mayo, for instance, there's a long-standing tradition of pipe band parades marching through some of the small villages. Visitors join islanders at the parades and then celebrate afterwards in hotels and pubs around Achill.

When we first visited

Ireland nearly 40 years ago, St. Patrick's Day was a celebration with a very different tone. The day was primarily religious and the greens you saw were live shamrocks attached to jackets and coats. Today, the greens in some of the celebrations are classic buildings that have been flooded with green light – quite different from the “old days.”

## NORTHERN IRELAND

If you can manage a trip to Northern Ireland while you're visiting, a best bet is the St. Patrick Centre in Downpatrick, Co. Down. It's a good take at any time of year and not just in March. There are coach tours from Dublin if you don't care to drive.

The Centre claims to be the only museum in the world dedicated entirely to the story of St. Patrick and we found it very enjoyable, informative, and a fun place to stop. There is currently an exhibit in the art gallery at the Centre called “In the Footsteps of Saint Patrick.” The gallery features work by different artists throughout the year. There's a great gift shop at the Centre, too. For more information, visit [stpattrickcentre.com](http://stpattrickcentre.com).

The Belfast Spring Festival is on tap (March 10-17), and, in Armagh City Center, there's a St. Patrick's Festival planned for March 12-17. More information

is available from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board at [discovernorthernireland.com](http://discovernorthernireland.com).

Be sure to visit the Titanic Experience in Belfast when you're in that area. It's fascinating and very well done.

## MULRANNY PARK HOTEL

There was a time in Ireland – and also in the US – when travelers relied on railroads and booked extended stays in resort hotels. Destinations were chosen for their beauty as well as activities and attractions available in the area.

One such location was Mulranny, Co. Mayo, and in 1894, the Great Western Railway built a station there and three years later opened the Great Western Hotel overlooking magnificent Clew Bay. There were all kinds of amenities, including a causeway that was built down to the beach. The hotel enjoyed many prosperous years and greeted many famous visitors but as roads improved and car travel became more popular, the big resort hotels in Ireland lost popularity. The same happened here with some of the large hotels in New Hampshire and other areas.

The Great Western Hotel changed hands and finally closed in 1990, looming over Mulranny Village as a sad relic of an era of grandeur. But, happily, in March 2005, the hotel reopened as The Mulranny Park Hotel after extensive refurbishing, rebuilding, and renovation and is now

celebrating its 10th anniversary with all kinds of specials, events, discounts and promotions.

Five years after the hotel reopened as The Mulranny Park, the old railway line that ran behind the hotel was reclaimed and revitalized as a mostly off-road walking and cycling trail called the Great Western Greenway. Planning involved several years of discussions and plans and the result is a great tribute to the many landowners who agreed to have the Greenway pass over their property.

The Great Western Greenway links Westport to Achill Island and is no doubt popular well beyond the wildest dreams of the planners. Many businesses – such as bike rental companies – have started up along the route, while other businesses such as restaurants, pubs and the Mulranny Park (the only hotel on the Greenway) have flourished thanks to the many walkers and cyclists. It's been a huge win-win for the entire area.

## SPECIALS

Starting March 16, the Mulranny Park Hotel is offering 10 special promotions a week for 10 weeks including rooms, dinners, discount card and Gourmet Greenway gift basket giveaways. Be sure to visit the hotel's website – [mulrannyparkhotel.ie](http://mulrannyparkhotel.ie) – for more information.

We can attest to the excellence of food at the Park – we've eaten there many times and particularly enjoy Sunday

brunch. It's a wonderful hotel and a lovely place to spend time and admire stunning views across Clew Bay to the distant mountains.

Congratulations to the Park for being such a positive influence on the town of Mulranny and for adding so much to the entire area.

## MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Internet hotspots? But, of course! This is 2015 in Ireland, after all! We recently learned that Dooley Car Rentals has Wi-Fi USB broadband modems you can rent for direct “in car” connection via 3G to the Internet through your car's cigarette lighter or an electric socket in your hotel or other accommodation. It's also a Wi-Fi Hotspot so other users on Smart phones, iPod, and Android phones can log on. And the modem can handle up to five users/devices at the same time including those logging on through iPads and other tablets and pads. Even laptops can connect.

The product is offered in conjunction with O2, a provider of mobile phones and mobile broadband.

Email [info@dooleycarrentals.com](mailto:info@dooleycarrentals.com) for more details or visit the company's website: [dooley-carrentals.com](http://dooley-carrentals.com)

## QUAY COTTAGE

We were delighted to read that Aine Maguire, a Mayo-born chef with a decade of experience in Dublin, has taken over the Quay Cottage in Westport, Co. Mayo. We have enjoyed dinners at the Quay Cottage in

Westport, Co. Mayo, in years past.

Aine plans to reopen the cottage as a 50-seat restaurant with a special focus on seafood and hopes to grow the restaurant's herbs in a kitchen garden. Be sure to stop in as you travel the Wild Atlantic Way.

## EVENTS

There's a lot going on in Ireland this month beyond St. Patrick commemorations.

- March 4-8, Belfast, Northern Ireland, celebrates country music with Andy Fairweather Low and the Low Riders and Foy Vance topping the bill. For details visit [belfastnashville.com](http://belfastnashville.com)

- March 12-15, the Dingle International Film Festival will be held in Co. Kerry. See [dinglefilmfestival.com](http://dinglefilmfestival.com) for more.

- March 18-22, The Silk Road Film Festival will be held in Dublin and focuses on Asian, Arab, Persian, Middle Eastern, and European films. See [silkroadfilmfestival.com](http://silkroadfilmfestival.com) for more.

- March 18-22, Mountains to the Sea, a literary festival, will be held at Dun Laoghaire's seaside library. See [mountaintosea.ie](http://mountaintosea.ie) for more.

- March 19-29, The Jameson Dublin Film Festival will take over and create a movie mecca in the capital city. See [jdff.com](http://jdff.com) for details.

Enjoy Ireland whenever you visit and be sure to visit Tourism Ireland's website, [discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com) or [ireland.com](http://ireland.com), for information on activities, accommodations, and more.



# Pilgrims and tourists flock to St. Patrick’s mountain

By HELEN O’NEILL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WESTPORT — Shrouded in mist, the sacred mountain rises above the countryside, majestic, mysterious and a little foreboding. Here, on this rocky west coast promontory overlooking the Atlantic, St. Patrick is said to have fasted for 40 days and nights as he wrestled with demons and banished snakes from Ireland.

Every March 17, the world throws a lavish celebration for the fifth-century preacher who tramped around Ireland converting its people and spinning endless miracles along the way. Revelers around the globe slurp green beer, host parades and wear silly hats.

But those who truly want to honor the patron saint come to Croagh Patrick, a remote, rugged mountain in County Mayo, which draws over a million pilgrims and tourists each year.

Elders and children, believers and hikers, tourists and locals. They come with walking sticks and hiking boots, guide books and rosary beads. They come for the sweeping views of Clew Bay, for the fresh air and camaraderie, for a day of fun — and penance.

Trekking to the summit in the saint’s footsteps, some climb in their bare feet, pausing at three “stations” along the way to recite a series of prayers. There is a small oratory on the summit where Mass is celebrated on certain feast days and on the last Sunday in July — “Reek Sunday” — traditionally the holiest day to climb, when up to 30,000 visi-

tors flock to the slopes. “I do it for the graces it gives me all year,” said Patrick Breen, 51, of Athlone, as he began his descent last July, his bare feet bruised and swollen after several hours on the mountain. “It’s a gift, a beautiful gift.”

All around, thick *Irish* brogues mingled with languages and accents from around the world. A family of four from Colorado huffed up the final leg, the father celebrating his 55th birthday, his teenage daughter dreaming of the spa that awaited when they got back to their hotel. They passed a trio of 20-something Gypsies from County Cavan, hiking barefoot in honor of two toddlers from their community who had drowned in a lake earlier in the summer. A German tourist with a backpack helped his mother scale the rocks. A young Englishwoman wiggled her pink toenails and boasted about climbing barefoot just to prove to her boyfriend that “fancy toes” could do it. An older Polish couple picnicked at the summit with ham sandwiches and flasks of hot tea.

Although the mountain is just 2,500 feet high, even seasoned hikers are surprised by its steepness and difficulty. Over the years, climbers have eroded the original trail, so what remains is rocky, unforgiving and often slippery terrain. The last leg, before the summit, is a formidable cliff of rolling rocks and shale known as “the scree.” Casualties are common and every year local rescue squads airlift numerous injured climbers from the slopes.

But that doesn’t de-

ter pilgrims who have been flocking to the site since ancient times. Long before Patrick, the Celts celebrated the harvest festival of Lughnasa here, beginning in early August. The sacred mountain was considered especially important for women who would sleep on the summit during Lughnasa to encourage fertility.

Today St. Patrick is big business in the area with dozens of Patrician statues, holy wells and shrines. Westport, a pretty port town about 6 miles (10 kilometers) from the mountain, is filled with stores selling Patrick memorabilia

and the wooden staffs that are ubiquitous on the mountain. (Westport was also home to 16th century pirate queen, Grace O’Malley, who vies with Patrick for local attention and lore.)

Twelve miles (19 kilometers) from Westport is Ballintubber Abbey, where Patrick founded a church and baptized his earliest converts. The present abbey has been in daily use as a church for nearly 800 years. Ballintubber also marks the beginning of an ancient pilgrimage route (now called Tochar Phadraig) that winds for 22 miles (35 kilometers) over hills and fields, end-



**Croagh Patrick** ing at Croagh Patrick. Along the way, pilgrims pass a round tower, a holy well and a raised stone carved with Neolithic circles called St. Patrick’s Chair. But it is the mountain that remains the big draw for pilgrims and tourists alike. At almost any time of the day, any time of the year, it is possible to make out a steady stream of climbers in the distance, inching their way toward the summit, hunched over their wooden crooks, little specks of humanity disappearing into the mist.

## Save the Date


The Irish Cultural Centre of New England  
is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year.  
We hope you will join us for the Anniversary Gala  
at the Irish Cultural Centre, Canton  
Dinner, dancing, entertainment, cultural performances and much more.  
Be part of something special — mark your calendars now!

05

30

15

## Happy St. Patrick’s Day



State Representative  
Kevin G. Honan  
*Allston-Brighton*



## Wishing you a happy St. Patrick’s Day.

EDMARKEY.COM







# THE IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

Supporting Education in Ireland, North and South

Cordially invites you to attend our annual

## ST. PATRICK’S DAY BREAKFAST CELEBRATION

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015  
8:00 A.M.

THE BOSTON HARBOR HOTEL  
WHARF ROOM  
70 ROWES WHARF, BOSTON

### SPEAKERS

**TÁNAISTE JOAN BURTON TD**  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF IRELAND

**AVILA KILMURRAY**  
FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

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OR EMAIL [THERESE@IRISHAP.ORG](mailto:THERESE@IRISHAP.ORG)

### About the Irish American Partnership

The Irish American Partnership works to empower the next generation of Irish leaders by supporting educational initiatives through direct grants to primary schools, science teacher training, university access scholarships, and employment learning programs. The Partnership provides forums for visiting leaders from Ireland to speak in the U.S., connecting Irish-Americans with their heritage and promoting economic development through tourism, trade, and mutual exchange.

### The following schools have received grants from the Irish American Partnership in support of their work in science and literacy:

**ANTRIM**  
Avoniel Primary School, Belfast  
Colaiste Feirste, Belfast  
Glengormley Integrated Primary School, Belfast  
Malone Integrated School, Belfast  
Scoil an Droichid, Belfast  
St. Louise’s, Belfast  
St. Mary’s Christian Brothers School, Belfast  
Tullycarnet Primary School, Belfast  
**ARMAGH**  
St. Mary’s Primary School, Mullaghbawn  
**CAVAN**  
St. Mary’s National School, Crosserlough  
**CLARE**  
Ballycar National School, Newmarket-on-Fergus  
Barefield National School, Barefield  
Fanore National School (St. Patrick’s), Fanore, Craggagh  
Kilshanny National School, Kilshanny  
Scoil Naisiunta Cluain Muinge, Newmarket-on-Fergus  
Scoil Naisiunta Eoin Baiste, Ballyvaughan  
S.N Na Maighdine Mhuire, Newmarket-on-Fergus  
St. Mochulla’s National School, Tulla  
Stonehall National School, Newmarket-on-Fergus  
**CORK**  
Balytdaniel National School, Newtwopothouse  
Banteer National School, Banteer  
Barryroe National School, Lisleavane, Bandon  
Coachford National School, Coachford  
Convent School of Mercy, Kanturk  
Cullen National School, Lislehane, Cullen, Mallow  
Darrara National School, Cruary, Clonakilty  
Derryclough National School, Dinagh, Dunmanway  
Gaelscoil Dr. M U Shuilleabhain, Skibbereen  
Glantane National School, Glantane, Mallow  
Inchigeelagh National School, Inchigeelagh  
Kilcrohane National School, Bantry  
Killavuleen National School, Killavulleen, Mallow  
Kilmanger National School, Kilmagner  
Kilmeen National School, Clonakilty  
Knockaclarig National School, Rockchapel, Mallow  
Midleton Educatioe Together, Midleton  
Millstreet Convent National School, Millstreet  
North Monastery Christian Brothers Secondary School, North Monastery Road  
North Presentation Primary School, Gerald Griffin Street  
Our Lady of Mercy National School, Bantry  
Ovens National School, Ovens  
PALS Afterschool, Ballinglann, Glanmire  
Scoil Bhride, Midleton

**CORK Cont.**  
Scoil Chaitigheirn, Eyeries, Bantry  
Scoil Cholmcille Christian Brothers School, Blarney Street  
Scoil Mhuire Fatima, North Monastery Road  
Scoil Mhuire Lourdes, Carrigaline  
Scoil Mhuire, Ballincollig  
Scoil Naisiunta Chnoc na Grai, Knockagree, Mallow  
Scoil Naomh Fionan, Rennies, Nohocal, Belgooly  
St. Enda’s National School, Kilnadure  
St. John the Baptist National School, Middleton  
St. John’s Girls National School, Carrigaline  
St. Vincent’s Convent National School, St.Mary’s Road  
Summercove National School, Kinsale  
**DONEGAL**  
Gaelscoil Bhun Chrannacha, Bhun Chrannacha  
Robertson National School, Ballintra  
Scoil Eoin Baiste, Umlagh, Letterkenney  
Scoil Iosagain, St. Mary’s Road, Buncrana  
St. Mura’s National School, St. Mary’s Road, Buncrana  
St. Oran’s National School, Cockhill, Buncrana  
St. Patrick’s National School, Drumfries, Buncrana

**DOWN**  
Drumlins Integrated Primary School, Ballynahinch  
Portadown Integrated Primary School, Portadown  
**FERMANAGH**  
St. Nailes’ Primary School

**GALWAY**  
Brierhill National School, Ballybrit  
Coldwood National School, Craughwell  
Corrandulla National School, Corrandulla  
Eglish National School, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe  
Inishbofin National School, Inishbofin  
Scoil Bhrige agus Bhreandain Naofa, Corrandulla  
Scoil Eanna, Bullaun, Loughrea  
Scoil Iosaif Naofa, Oranmore  
Scoil na Maighdine Muire Gan Smal, Camus, Connemara  
Scoil Naisiunta Ard Carna, Carna, Connemara  
Scoil Naisiunta Briocain, An Gort Mor, Rosmuc,  
Scoil Naisiunta Caomhain, Inis Oirthir, Arainn  
Scoil Naisiunta Eoin Pol II, Inis Mor, Arainn  
Scoil Naisiunta Inis Meadhoin, Inis Meadhoin, Arainn  
Scoil Naisiunta Mhuir, Turlach beag, Rosmuc  
Scoil Naisiunta Ronain, Arainn  
St. Oliver Plunkett National School, Keilkerrin, Ballinsloe

**KERRY**  
Ballincrossig National School, Ballyduff  
Ballyduff Central National School, Ballyduff  
Ballymacelligott 1 National School, Ballymacelligott  
Castlegregory Mixed National School, Castlegregory

**KERRY Cont.**  
Clogher National School, Ballymacelligott  
Curaheen Mixed National School, Glenbeigh  
Drumclough National School, Finuge, Lixnaw  
Firies National School, Firies  
Killury National School, Causeway  
Lisselton National School, Lisselton, Listowel  
Moyderwell Mercy Primary School, Moyderwell, Tralee  
Nagle Rice National School, Milltown  
S.N. An Ghleanna, The Glen, Ballinskelligs  
Scoil Iosagain, Ballybunion  
Scoil Mhuire, Brosna, Tralee  
Scoil Naisiunta Gleann Beithe, Glenbeigh  
St. Clare’s National School, Kenmare  
**KILKENNY**  
Craignamanagh Boys National School, Craignamanagh  
Seanan Boys National School, Kilmacow  
SN Naomh Padraig, Strangmills NS, Kilmacow  
St. Joseph’s Girls National School, Kilmacow

**LEITRIM**  
Annaduff National School, Aughamore, Carrick-on-Shannon,  
Carrigallen National School, Carrigallen  
Drumeela National School, Carrigallen  
Faimita National School, Cluana, Carrick-on-Shannon  
S. N. Naomh Padraig, Tearmon Spencer Harbor,  
Carrick-on-Shannon  
St. Patrick’s National School, Drumshanbo

**LIMERICK**  
Ballylanders National School, Ballylanders  
Gaelscoil an Raithin, Dooradoyle Road, Limerick  
Glenbrohane National School, Glenbrohane, Kilmallock  
Glenroe National School, Glenroe, Kilmallock  
John F. Kennedy Memorial School, Ennis Road  
Knockadea National School, Knockadea, Ballylanders  
Monagea National School, Newcastlewest  
O’Healy & O’Rourke Girls School, Kilmallock  
Scoil Christ Ri B, Caherdavin  
St. John’s Convent, Cathedral Place  
St. Nessan’s Community College, Moylish Park, Moylish  
**LONGFORD**  
St. Mel’s College, Longford

**LOUTH**  
Faughert National School, Dundalk  
**MAYO**  
Ballintubber National School, Claremorris  
Ballyvary National School, Ballyvary, Castlebar  
Belcarra National School, Belcarra, Castlebar  
Breaffy National School, Castlebar,

**MAYO Cont.**  
Breaffy National School, Breaffy, Castlebar  
Carrakennedy National School, Liscarney, Westport  
Clogernagh National School, Islandeady, Castlebar  
Cornanool National School, Islandeady, Castlebar  
Crimlin National School, Castlebar  
Culleens National School (St. Joseph’s), Meelick, Swinford  
Culmore National School, Swinford  
Currane National School, Currane, Achill Sound  
Errew National School, Castlebar  
Glenisland National School, Islandeady, Castlebar  
Holy Family National School, Newport  
Killasser National School (St. Joseph’s), Swinford  
Knock National School, Claremorris  
Knockrooskey National School, Knockrooskey  
Leitir National School Islandeady, Castlebar  
Manulla National School, Balla, Castlebar  
Parke National School, Castlebar  
Roxboro National School, Ballinrobe  
Scoil Mhuire, Ballyheane  
St. Attracta’s National School, Charlestown  
St. Brendan’s National School, Kilmeena, Westport  
St. Columba’s National School, Cogaula, Islandeady, Westport  
St. John’s National School, Lugboy, Claremorris  
St. Joseph’s National School, Derrywash, Castlebar

**MONAGHAN**  
St. Joseph’s Boys National School, Carrickmacross  
St. Michael’s National School, Rackwallace, Castleshane  
**ROSCOMMON**  
Ballangare National School, Castlere  
Fairymount National School, Castlere  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel National School, Rooskey, Carrick-on-Shannon  
S. N. Mhuire Lourdes, Loch Glinne, Castlere  
S.N. Lios a Cuill M, Castlere  
Tibohine National School, Castlere  
**SLIGO**  
Killaville National School, Ballymote  
Scoil Naisiunta Cul Fada, Ballymote  
Scoil Croi Naofa, Bunninadden, Ballymote  
St. Joseph’s National School, Culleens  
Stokane, National School, Enniscrone  
**TIPPERARY**  
St. Columkill’s Primary School, Carrickmore  
St. Patrick’s, Carrickmore  
**TYRONE**  
Burncourt National School, Burncourt  
**WATERFORD**  
Whitechurch National School, Cappagh, Dungarvan



# Cape Cod is brimming with Irish spirit, especially this month

**“We don’t wear Ireland on our sleeves at the Land Ho; it’s kept within our hearts.”**

**BY GREG O'BRIEN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**

Forget the snakes, when St. Patrick comes to Cape Cod on March 17, the locals hope he'll chase the remnants of the snow. And they will hoist a pint to that! The Cape is brimming with the Irish. It's been said that the Sagamore Bridge, over the Cape Cod Canal, is the lost bridge of Dublin.

So sláinte! To your good health during the Saint's month on Cape Cod where there is plenty to choose from—an eclectic range of Irish pubs, restaurants, culture, and accommodations.

For Irish music and fare, among the best are: Liam Maguire's Irish Pub and restaurant in Falmouth; O'Shea's Olde Inne in West Dennis; The Pub at the Cape Cod Claddagh Inn in West Harwich; the legendary Cape Cod's Irish Pub in West Harwich; Mahoney's Atlantic Bar & Grill in Orleans; and the Land Ho in Orleans and Harwich.

At Liam Maguire's, 273 Main Street, Falmouth, 508-548-0285 (liammaguire.com), one can find live entertainment and a menu of freshly prepared Irish favorites and creative contemporary cuisine, a large draft beer selection and an extensive wine list. Live entertainment features the likes of Danny Quinn and Liam himself. Raised in Castle Derg, County Tyrone, Maguire has traveled throughout Europe, Canada and the US as a professional entertainer. His rich baritone voice captivates and draws a crowd into a song.

While in Falmouth, stay overnight up the street at the historic Palmer House Inn, 81 Palmer Avenue, 508-548-1230, (palmerhouseinn.com) where owner Bill O'Connell serves a piping hot Irish breakfast, and will be offering tips on how to make genuine Irish soda bread.

Further up Cape, you'll come across O'Shea's Old Inne, 348 Main Street, West Dennis, 508-398-8887 (osheasoldinne.com) with down-home Irish entertainment and food from fish 'n chips, to shepherd's pie and Irish Stew, washed down with great draft beers and fine wines. Proprietor Joseph O'Shea has attracted an impressive lineup of Irish talent over the years: Dave Hickey, Cats & Dogs, Sean Brennan, Beth Terrio, Patsy Whelan, Terry Brennan and others. “We always enjoy a bit of the blarney,” says O'Shea. “Celtic musicians are welcome to join the session. Bring your fiddles, guitars, boxes, whistles and dancing feet for a mighty time at O'Shea's Sunday Session!”

As for the Irish sustenance, “It's real food for real people,” O'Shea says. “The cheapest trip to Ireland!”

The Pub at the Cape Cod Claddagh Inn, 77 Main Street, West Harwich, 508-432-9628 (capecodcladdaghinn.com) is also worth a stop. It's part of the Claddagh Inn, which combines a homey bed 'n breakfast ambiance with an intimate

Irish pub atmosphere. The home-cooked food is excellent here.

Save the date for later in the spring, worth a mention here: while not open St. Patrick's Day, just about everyone in these parts has heard of Cape Cod's Irish Pub, 126 Main Street, West Harwich, 508-432-8808 (capecodirishpub.com). The pub, overlooking Herring River and the bucolic Herring Marsh, offers live music, dancing, food and an extensive line of beers and wines to wet the whistle. Live music features Brendan O'Reilly, Mark Hennessey, Joshua Tree, the Slackers, Casterbridge Union, 57 Heavy and others.

For premier Irish excellence on March 17, stay, eat, and drink at the Cape Cod Irish Village on Route 28 in South Yarmouth, 508-771-0100 (capecodirishvillage.com). Established in 1976 by Noel Henry and family, the Village offers comfortable guest rooms, a restaurant, along with the Irish Pub, featuring traditional Irish entertainment. On St. Patrick's Day, listen to Fintan Stanley. Born in County Louth, Stanley is considered a master of the five row button accordion.

On the Outer Cape, stop off St. Paddy's Day at Mahoney's Atlantic Bar & Grill in Orleans or the Land Ho, which also has a tavern in Harwich. Mahoney's is a classic mahogany tavern with ancient tin ceilings, a range of food from fish to stews, plenty of codswallop, and Irish music to boot.

For among the best corned beef and cabbage and local Irish color, head to the Land Ho just down the street (also a Land Ho on Route 28 in Harwich) where proprietor John Francis Murphy wears the weathered face of County Cork. The canvas at the Ho is a mottled palette that includes a reviving mix fishermen, tradesmen, bank presidents, physicians, stockbrokers, artists, writers, politicians and Hollywood celebrities, all of whom check their personas at the door, and all will be wearing the colors on St. Paddy's day.

The Land Ho is a catch basin for folks who share a common Irish thread—an abiding attachment to a slender, mystical land that is larger in soul than any of them, and has humbled individuals from Henry David Thoreau to John F. Kennedy. For a glimpse of Ireland and the soul of Outer Cape Cod, come to the Ho to celebrate Gaelic roots, a place where the late Tip O'Neill often hung his hat.

“We don't wear Ireland on our sleeves at the Land Ho; it's kept within our hearts,” says Murphy.



Liam Maguire's pub on Main Street in Falmouth is a popular spot for live entertainment. The proprietor—Co. Tyrone native Liam Maguire—is one of the acts to catch. Above, the scene during St. Patrick's Day in 2014.  
Image courtesy Liam Maguire's

## Co. Roscommon Assoc. of Boston

### Annual Saint Patrick's Banquet

Saturday, March 14, 2015

5-10 pm



at The Boston Irish Social Club

119 Park Street - West Roxbury, MA

Music by Margaret Dalton and Erins Melody

Traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage Catered Dinner

Guest of Honor - Bill Brett

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BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The Cape Cod Irish Village in South Yarmouth hosted a Ceili Weekend on January 23-26, 2015. The weekend package included: two nights lodging with third night free, two full breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday morning, choice of menu dinner Friday, and a banquet dinner Saturday evening.

The Northeast Ceili Band performed on Friday and Saturday evenings with dance workshops for all levels.

Pictured are: 1.-Mike Ippolito, Sherri Junior and David Lavine, all Warwick RI; 2.-Jennifer Shaughnessy, Brockton; 3.-Jessie and Melissa Edwards, Warwick RI; 4.-Bill Laliberte, Providence RI and Erin Edwards, East Greenwich RI; 5.-Pat Black, Bourne, Ted, McKenna, Kristen, Teddy Black, East Falmouth; 6.-Kennedy Black, East Falmouth, Bill Black, Bourne (her grandfather & leader, Northeast Ceili Band); 7.-Brad & Donna Thomas, Warwick RI; 8.-Judy Armstrong, Merrimac, Nora Bucko, Reading; 9.- Debbie Sherman, Robert & Linda Silva, all Warwick RI 10.- Deidre Eltzroth, Josh Edwards, East Greenwich RI.





The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Tá sé an-fhuar anns i Bhostain sa ghemhreadh – “It’s very cold in Boston in the winter.” Let’s review some of the very earliest things that we had in this course concerning the weather and “intensifiers”.

First, we will have to review the forms of **bí** in its three **tenses**, the **present**, the **definite past**, and the **future**. There are other tenses but they are less frequently used than these three.

These three are complimented by the **Continuous Tenses – Past, Present and Future**. These are formed by using the verb **bí/tá**, the **subject**, followed by **ag** and the **Verbal Noun** such as **ith** “eat” and **ithe** “eating” – **Tá mé ag ithe**, **Bhí mé ag ithe** or **Táim ag ithe**, and **Beidh mé ag ithe** - English equivalents of “I was eating”, “I am eating” and “I will be eating”.

Although the **verbal noun** from **ith** is **ithe**, don’t think that all **verbal nouns** are made by simply adding **-e**. Not so, many are the same as their verb (**meas**, **meas** – “think” and **ól**, **ól** “drink”) while others are formed very differently (**oibriú**, **oibrigh**), You must learn each as you go and I will tell you each as we go.

Recall that the verb **bí/tá** has four forms in each of the three tenses: a **positive**, a **negative**, a **question** and a **negative question**.

Tense	Positive	Negative	Question	Negative Question
Present:	<b>Tá</b>	<b>Níl</b>	<b>An bhfuil?</b>	<b>Nach bhfuil?</b>
Past:	<b>Bhí</b>	<b>Ní raibh</b>	<b>An raibh?</b>	<b>Nach raibh?</b>
Future:	<b>Beidh</b>	<b>Ní bheidh</b>	<b>An mbeidh?</b>	<b>Nach mbeidh?</b>

Here are words that some of you learned early on but we have a few new readers now. These are in reference to the weather, an aimsir.

<b>fuar</b>	“cold”	<b>te</b>	“warm”
<b>fluich</b>	“wet”	<b>tirim</b>	“dry”
<b>geal</b>	“bright”	<b>dorcha</b>	“dark”

These can be made “stronger” or “more intense” by prefixing the particle **an-** as in **fuar** “cold” but **an-fhuar** “very cold”. Note that the hyphen is required and that words beginning with *f-* are **lenited** (“aspirated”).

The **n** in **an** is typically not pronounced in spoken Irish but it is required to write it.

This rule, prefixing **an-** also is used to make the following words “stronger”:

<b>mor</b>	“big”/mohr/	<b>an-mhor</b> /uh vohr/	“very big”
<b>beag</b>	“small”/beyk/	<b>an-bheag</b> /uh veyk/	“very small”
<b>sean</b>	“old”	<b>an-sean</b> /uh shan/	“very old”
<b>óg</b>	“young” /ohk/	<b>an-óg</b> /uh ohk/	“very young”
<b>maith</b>	“well,good” /mah/	<b>an-mhaith</b> /uh vah/	“very well”
<b>tinn</b>	“sick”	<b>an-tinn</b> /uh cheen/	“very sick”

Notice that prefixing **an-** to these words **lenites** those that begin with the lips – **m**, **b** and **f**.

Now, here are some more words that you should know by now – but beginners may not.

<b>maith</b>	“well”	<b>tinn</b>	“sick”
<b>breá</b>	“fine”	<b>dona</b>	“bad”
<b>deas</b>	“nice”	<b>bocht</b>	“poor” (quality)
<b>álainn</b>	“beautiful”	<b>iontach</b>	“wonderful”

These words are made “stronger” or more “intense” by prefixing the particle **go** (no hyphen required). Again, the best translation in English is “very”. **Tá mé go maith**, **buíochas le Dia**. /TAH mey goh MAH, BEE-uhk-uhs ley JEE-uh/ “I am very well, thanks (to God)”.

<b>go maith</b>	“very well/good”	<b>go brea</b>	“very fine”
<b>go deas</b>	“very nice”	<b>go dona</b>	“very bad”
<b>go tinn</b>	“very sick”	<b>go bocht</b>	“very poor” (quality)
<b>go hálainn</b>	“very beautiful”	<b>go hiontach</b>	“very wonderful”

Notice that words beginning with a vowel insert an **h** to keep go from running on to the word just as we say “a pen” but “an apple”.

See if you can put these sentences and phrases into Irish. 1.) “The day is very fine.” 2.) “That man is young but my father is very old.” 3.) “Isn’t she beautiful?” 4.) I am well, thank you.” 5.) “Wasn’t your daughter very sick?” 6.) “Won’t you-all be eating at a quarter to nine?” 7.) “Who is there?” 8.) “The afternoon was very fine.” 9.) “Yes. It was very beautiful.” 10.) “The policeman is very big.”

Answers: 1.) **Tá an lá go brea**. 2.) **Tá an duine seo óg ach tá m’athair an-sean**. 3.) **Nach bhfuil sí álainn?** 4.) **Tá mé go mhaith, buíochas le Dia**. 5.) **Nach raibh d’iníon an-tinn?** 6.) **Nach mbeidh sibh ag ithe ceathrú chun a naoi?** 7.) **Cé atá ann?** 8.) **Bhí an tranóna go deas**. 9.) **Bhí. Bhí sé go hálainn**. 10.) **Tá an garda an-mhor**.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MARCH 2015

1 Sunday Mossie Coughlin and the Boston Irish

8 Sunday Andy Healy

13 Friday PUB NIGHT with Kelly’s Men, direct from Ireland. Free Admission.

14 Saturday Co. Roscommon Association’s Annual St. Patrick’s Dinner at the Irish Social Club. 5pm until 10pm. Tickets only \$40. Tables can be reserved. NO TICKETS will be sold at the door. Call Lord Mayor Richie Gormley at 617-327-7777 for more information.

15 Sunday Silver Spears

17 Tuesday ST. PATRICK’S DAY! Music by Noel Henry’s Irish Show Band. Admission: \$20.

22 Sunday Andy Healy

26 Thursday Members Meeting 7:30pm. Denis Curtin

29 Sunday

5 Sunday Fintan Stanley

10 Friday Lucy’s Love Bus. More info next month

12 Sunday Noel Henry Irish Show Band

APRIL 2015

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