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THE SEISÚN



Painting by Vincent Crotty

A RISING TIDE OF REBELLION

In March 1916, Boston's Irish were divided over the move toward armed revolt in Dublin

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

Third in a four-part series.

In Boston and other Irish-American centers in March 1916, few knew how close to armed rebellion the Irish Republican Brotherhood and an array of other Irish men and women in Ireland stood. Nationalists, socialists, workers, intellectuals, and proponents of women's rights – all had their own agendas, and all were willing to fight for a free Ireland.

The turmoil in Ireland had some in Boston's Irish wards hoping that John Redmond and other "cooler heads" still pushing for the limited sovereignty of an Irish Home Rule bill might prevail. Still, every attempt to pass Home Rule since Charles Stewart Parnell's efforts decades earlier had failed in Parliament. The eruption of World War I and the intransigent opposition of Northern Irish Orangemen to Home Rule had convinced other Boston Irish that insurrection against the Crown and Parliament was the only route to a free Ireland.

In Boston, debates over the situation in Ireland filled parlors, dinner tables, pubs, church events, subway cars, construction sites, the State

House, and everywhere else the local Irish gathered. Many members of the A.O.H. (Ancient Order of Hibernians) and especially *Clan-na-Gael* urged insurrection against Britain. More conservative organizations such as the United Irish League of America and the Charitable Irish Society – the oldest Irish group in America – cautioned that bloodshed would lead only to disaster for Ireland, as it had in 1798 – "the Year of the French"; 1803, Robert Emmet's Revolt; 1848, the ill-fated Young Ireland movement; and the Fenian uprising of 1866.

The movers and shakers of Boston Irish politics in 1916 scrutinized the events in the "old sod," but even "Himself" – James Michael Curley – who railed against Britain's centuries-old grip on Ireland, stopped short of advocating open revolt. He likened the British to his other favorite target, Boston's Brahmins, suggesting that the rising clout of the Boston Irish in the face of entrenched Yankee prejudice offered a blueprint of sorts for Irish freedom. Conversely, Cardinal William O'Connell had little affinity for the "radicals" preaching rebellion in Ireland or their supporters in Boston.



Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington (widow of Francis Skeffington, a pacifist who was executed by the British Army during the Rising) arrived in Boston with her son Owen several months after the Rising. She spoke at Faneuil Hall before an overflowing crowd.

Photo courtesy Irish America

In 1914, David I. Walsh had scored a momentous first by winning election as Massachusetts's first Catholic governor, and while he supported the concept of a Free Ireland, he would later warn his fellow Irish across the Commonwealth that they must "remember to be Americans first."

Since the guns of August 1914 had plunged Europe into a world

(Continued on page 17)

Parade, breakfast set for March 20

By JENNIFER SMITH
REPORTER STAFF

The South Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade will likely march along its normal route on March 20th, organizers said, returning to the longer trek after snow clogged the city and shortened the parade last year.

According to the website of the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council, which puts on the parade, the route will work east from West Broadway near Broadway Station deep into Southie. After moving along East Broadway, it will turn south on P Street and reverse course, heading past Thomas Park and on down Dorchester Street to end near Andrew Station.

Tim Duross, the parade organizer, said that the council was still waiting on city approval of the route. "This year, you'll have a nice day like we usually do," he guessed. And with about 1.8 million people descending on the city for the third largest parade in the country, "you can't squeeze that amount of people on one road," Duross said.

Last year, weather issues prompted the city to cut the march to about one-half of its traditional length, keeping the revelry along Broadway. (A spokesperson for Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh told the *Reporter* on Feb. 29 that the route had not yet been finalized).

Duross said the longer route would make it easier for participants and spectators to get to and from the parade via mass transit. It also ensures that the procession will go past some significant Evacuation Day markers like Dorchester Heights.

(Continued on page 16)

Who was St. Patrick? Page 35

Celebrate!

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O'Connell Street in ruins after the Rising.

1916 in 2016

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wed., March 16, 7 pm
Gasson 100:

Colm Tóibín, "The Knowledge & the Power: Writing and Violence"

Fri., March 18 –
Sun. March 20

Devlin 101:

An International Commemoration Conference: "Easter 1916: A Terrible Beauty is Born" including presenters Colm Tóibín, Alvin Jackson, Emily Bloom, Roisín Higgins, and Keith Jeffrey.

Mon., March 28,
6:30-9 pm

Gasson 100:

An Easter Monday Commemorative Concert featuring, among others, Charlie Lennon, Regina Delaney, Seamus Connolly, The Murphy Beds, the Boston College Chorale & the Boston College Chamber Music Society.

Tues., April 5, 3-5:15 pm
Burns Library

O'Brien Fine Print Room:

The Irish Arts & Crafts, panel discussion and campus

walk. Panel members include: Diana Larsen (McMullen Museum), Maureen Meister (Tufts), Virginia Raguin (Holy Cross), Milda Richardson (Northeastern) and Patricia DeLeeuw (BC).

Sat., April 9,
9:30 am - 4 pm

Connolly House:

"James Joyce & the Easter Rising"; a one-day conference including speakers: Joe Nugent (BC), Clair Wills (Princeton U.), Joe Valente (U. Buffalo), Mike Cronin (BCI), and Richard Kearney (BC).

Tues., April 12,
3-5:15 pm

Devlin 101:

The Illustration & Stained Glass of Harry Clarke; an informal tour of the Harry Clarke materials followed with a lecture by Kelly Sullivan (NYU).

Thurs., April 21, 5 pm
Connolly House:

Dr. Ronan Fanning will speak on "Eamon deValera, A Will to Power" followed by a launch of that book.

For further information on these and other Irish Studies events go to: www.bc.edu/centers/irish/studies/calendar.html

Greenhills Bakery marking 25 years with monthly donations

By Bill Forry
Editor

Greenhills Irish Bakery in Dorchester’s Adams Village is marking a quarter-century in business this year by donating \$1,000 per month to local charities. They started with a hometown favorite: The Martin Richard Foundation, named in memory of the eight-year-old Dorchester boy who was killed in the 2013 Boston Marathon attack.

Greenhills’ owners Dermot and Cindy Quinn presented a check on Feb. 25 to Bill and Denise Richard and members of the foundation’s Youth Board of Directors, including Martin’s siblings, Henry and Jane. The board is now working on a project to make Easter baskets for homeless kids in the neighborhood.

The Quinns opened their Dorchester store in 1993, but their business began in 1990 when Dermot started making brown breads in his South Boston apartment using his grandmother’s secret recipe from County Offaly.

Cindy, his Massachusetts-born girlfriend, was impressed. “I had never had anything like it,” said Cindy, who met Dermot at a downtown Boston pub. “Then I tried making it and it came out a little better and that got under his skin,” she laughed. “How could this Yankee make better brown bread than I can,” he asked.”

Dermot started selling his signature breads to a South Boston butcher a half-dozen at a time in 1990. He realized he had a truly viable product when he unloaded hundreds of breads — at \$10 per loaf—during an Irish festival in the Catskills in ‘91.

They rented a kitchen in Southie for a while and built up a book of more than 40 Boston-area stores and restaurants that bought breads weekly— including their current neighbor, Gerard’s Adams Corner.

The couple opened their own Adams Corner store in July 1993— in a space next to the Eire Pub. The pub’s owner, Tom Stenson, gave them a sweetheart deal. “Tom was the man who gave us a break,” recalled Dermot. “He gave me the first six months for an unbelievable discount, almost for nothing.” (They later moved across Adams Street adjacent to Gerard’s business.)

In August 1993, the couple took a two-week hiatus to get married and enjoy a honeymoon. Today, they have four children, some of whom have worked part-time at the business, including their daughter Aoife, who is now making cupcakes of her own in California. Their son Jack, a student at BC High, has plans to make the business a franchise someday.



Members of the Youth Board of Directors of the Martin Richard Foundation gratefully acknowledge a \$1,000 check donated to the foundation by Dermot and Cindy Quinn of Greenhills Irish Bakery. The Youth Board’s next project will be producing Easter baskets for homeless kids in Dorchester. Front row, from left: Jane Richard and Peter Datish. Middle: Annie Jackson, Denise Richard, Ava O’Brien, Liley Damatin, Jack Burke, Cindy Quinn. Back: Dermot Quinn, Henry Richard, Bill Richard.

“So it snowballed into a business from one bread,” explains Dermot. “When we started, we put our head down and kept working. We still haven’t lifted up our head. It’s just been the foot to the pedal ever since.”

These days, Greenhills is known as a full-service café, featuring an array of Irish bread and scones, cookies, cakes and pastries, sausage rolls, beef stew and a full boiled dinner every Thursday (and every day during the week of St. Patrick’s feast.) The couple’s brand is known all over the Irish diaspora and beyond. But they are particularly grateful to the neighborhood crowd

that turns up as early as 5 a.m. every day for coffee, tea, and breakfast.

“The neighborhood has been so generous to us down through the years and one hand washes the other,” said Dermot. “We like to give back to the neighborhood what they have given us. It’s a thank you to our patrons, because it’s not easy to stay in business for 25 years. It’s an appreciation to the neighborhood.”

Greenhills Irish Bakery is located at 780 Adams St. in Dorchester.

Mayor Walsh, Cardinal O’Malley will travel to Knock Shrine in July

By Jennifer Smith
Reporter Staff

Mayor Martin Walsh will journey to the Knock Shrine in Ireland this July with Cardinal Sean O’Malley, a return to his roots and site of great personal significance, the mayor’s office told the Reporter on Wednesday.

“I am delighted to be joining Cardinal O’Malley as part of the pilgrimage from Boston to Knock Shrine for the rededication ceremony of Our Lady’s Basilica, a shrine which has personal meaning for not only myself but Irish people everywhere,” Walsh said in a statement. “This visit will highlight the strong economic and

cultural ties that Boston shares with the West of Ireland. I look forward to participating in this historic event and to continuing to work to strengthen our connections with Knock and all of Ireland.”

Walsh traveled to the Emerald Isle in 2014, his first international trip as mayor of Boston, for 10 days across the country of his family’s origin.

“I was born in St. Margaret’s Hospital,” Walsh said at the time. “My home is Dorchester, Massachusetts. But I am also from Rosmuc and Carna in Connemara.”

John Walsh and Mary O’Malley were born and

raised in in the southern parts of Connemara, in Galway, where their son is a beloved figure and emblematic of the deep ties between Ireland and Boston.

The Shrine at Knock is always a priority when Walsh is in Ireland, though he does not always have the chance to pass through County Mayo. He visited the Marian shrine as a child with his parents while he battled cancer, and he credits the site for a large part of his recovery and his faith.

Knock is believed to have healing powers, originating from an apparition said to have occurred on Aug. 27, 1879.

Legend tells of the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. John the Evangelist, and the Lamb of God appearing before the local population in “ordinary and extraordinary circumstances.”

According to the Knock Shrine website, a chartered pilgrimage will land at Ireland West Airport Knock on July 14, the first from Boston to the Knock site and operated by Aer Lingus.

Cardinal O’Malley will lead the pilgrimage, the highlight of which will be a rededication ceremony for the Basilica at Knock on its 40th anniversary, Sat. July 16, according to the Shrine website.



Mayor Walsh visited a pub in Galway in September 2014.

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Good health, good luck, and happiness
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Go mbeannai Dia duit
(May God Bless You)

Mayor Martin J. Walsh

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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Green is very much in for St. Patrick's Day

By Ed Forry

The stunning success of the Galway/Dublin Irish Hurling match at Fenway Park has left its imprint on the old ballyard at the Fens.

There was a definite tint of Irish green there last November as almost 30,000 spectators watched the hurlers on a rainy Sunday afternoon just hours after the stadium was packed for a Saturday night match football game between Boston College and the "Fighting Irish" squad from Notre Dame.

And while the park's characteristic décor has been described as "Fenway Green," and its iconic left field wall is known as the "Green Monster," the news comes this St Patrick's Day that Fenway will join other landmark sites around the world to be illuminated in Irish green for St. Patrick's Day.

It's all part of "Global Greening," Tourism Ireland's world-wide marketing campaign which will see some of the world's most famous attractions and sites going green to mark traditional March 17 celebrations. And this year, also for the first time, IrishNetwork/Boston president Sean Moynihan says, some 500 IN/Boston members will celebrate the season on Friday night, March 18 party, at Fenway's EMC Club.

In announcing the Fenway greening, Ireland's tourism minister, Paschal Donohoe, said: "St Patrick's Day presents a unique and wonderful opportunity to promote Ireland worldwide. From a tourism perspective, it comes at a perfect time when many people are starting to plan their annual holidays.

"The Global Greening initiative is an excellent way to position Ireland in people's minds and to get them thinking about paying us a visit. People everywhere – even those with no obvious connection to Ireland – demonstrate a strong affinity with St Patrick's Day, with parades and celebrations taking place in countries right across the world."

Fenway will join Rome's Colosseum, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and Sacré-Cœur Basilica in Paris in going green on the saint's day. New 'greenings' this year include New York's World Trade Center, Paris's Place de la Concorde Big Wheel, and City Hall in Tel Aviv.

"Spanning Great Britain, mainland Europe, North, and Australia, as well as developing markets such as China, India and South Africa, the Global Greening is seen from Nelson's Pillar in London to the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, with new sites being added each year," Minister Donohoe said. "I want to congratulate Tourism Ireland for their excellent work in securing such an impressive and widespread list of landmarks going green and I look forward to seeing the new additions lighting up for the first time."

Niall Gibbons, CEO of Tourism Ireland, said: "This is the seventh year of Tourism Ireland's Global Greening program and each year I am delighted to see even more well-known attractions and landmark sites wishing to get involved and join our St. Patrick's celebrations.

"The success of our Global Greening initiative is due in no small part to the great work that has been carried out across the world by Irish people down the generations and, in particular, to the great support we've received from the Irish embassy network and the diaspora. The eagerness of cities and countries everywhere to take part underlines the strength of the deep connection that people all over the world feel to Ireland. More than 70 million people around the world claim links to the island of Ireland and St. Patrick's Day is a truly unique opportunity to reconnect them with their heritage.

All of which means "there will be saturation coverage of the island of Ireland across the airwaves, in newspapers and digital media – and that's an invaluable boost at this time of year for our overall tourism marketing drive in 2016."

Irish American Partnership supports Irish push to enhance science education

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Over the past 10 years Boston's Irish American Partnership has sent more than \$800,000 to support Ireland's emphasis on science education for its young people who, 30 to 50 years from now, will be guiding the country's future.



Joe Leary

its leading teaching colleges, St. Patrick's in Dublin and Mary Immaculate in Limerick, the Partnership has seen its support have an impact on some 500 primary schools and their teaching staffs.

In searching for the most efficient way to enhance primary school science learning, the Partnership began working with one of the oldest philanthropic organizations in Ireland, the famed Royal Dublin Society (RDS).

The RDS aims to help Ireland thrive economically and culturally by acting as a catalyst to help coming generations fulfill their potential, and to be a philanthropic society supported by commercial activities and strategic partnerships.

The RDS initiated a program of Primary School Science Fairs beginning three years ago in Dublin and this year in Limerick. The fairs have been set up to encourage and facilitate long-term interest, understanding, knowledge, and skill sets in science-related subjects in primary school children. The program includes the teachers and the families of the students.

The Irish American Partnership and its donors have been supportive since the program began and this January they took a major funding role in initiating the RDS Primary School Science Fair in Limerick. Over the past three years the Partnership has sent over \$78,000 to support the fairs.

This year alone the fairs in Dublin and Limerick connected with 180 schools in 27 counties in the North and South, 5,000 students, 270 teachers, and 28,000 visitors as they were being held. Approximately 13,000

A strong educational system that produces first class scientists, serious thinkers, and aggressive businessmen and women will help to insure Ireland's place in our competitive changing world.

The Partnership's nationwide base of donors is providing ongoing funding for science teaching research, teacher training, and science-teaching materials.

Working with Ireland's Department of Education and

parents travelled to Dublin and Limerick to be with their children.

Minister of Education Jan Sullivan, who attended the fairs, was highly complementary.

In order to participate, each school submits a proposal that describes the projects the students (aged 7-12) will be working on. Both locations were oversubscribed. Students were expected to "gain experience, practice scientific skills, including questioning, observing, predicting, investigating, experimenting, estimating, measuring, analyzing, interpreting data recording, and communicating."

Quotes from teachers were entirely favorable:

"We now work much better in class and noticed the quieter students are now more eager and confident in speaking out," said a 4th class teacher at St. Conaires NS, Tullyarraga, Co. Clare.

"Greater confidence and self-esteem as a whole. Great sense of pride in their achievement and a desire to get more involved in science in a fun and practical way," added a 5th class teacher at Brierhill NS, Brierhill, Co. Galway.

"I would like to thank you sincerely for giving us the opportunity. On the bus on the way home the students were full of chat about how they never knew science could be so fun and interesting. One student described her experience as the best day of her life. It is fantastic to see primary school children being given the opportunity to do something so unique, educational yet fun at the same time," said a 5th class teacher from Coosan NS, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

The RDS staff responsible for all of this are very professional, extremely hard working, and a pleasure to work with. Their plans are well ordered, careful, and exciting at the same time. They would like to expand the Limerick fair to 120 schools, create a new fair to make a total of three in 2017, and prepare to eventually manage four primary school fairs, one in each of Ireland's four provinces by 2020. These ambitious goals would then serve 12,000 students and 780 teachers each year.

With respect to the fairs, RDS Chief Executive Michael Duffy issued the following statement: "The value of The Irish American Partnership to the RDS Primary Science Fair has been very important. We have been building and developing the Fair for a number of years, extending its reach and measuring its success. It was ready for expansion and the IAP assistance was of great importance to making that happen. We are also delighted to be working with an organization that shares our core aim of helping the next generation realize its potential."

Mayor Walsh reflects on the Rising

Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Massachusetts Congressman Richard Neal spoke at a Boston College forum – "Reflections on the 100th Anniversary of Ireland's 1916 Easter Rising" – on Feb. 22 in Gasson Hall on the BC campus. They were welcomed by the Rev. Oliver P. Rafferty, a Jesuit priest and director of B.C.'s Irish Studies Program. Following are excerpts from Walsh's remarks:

"I'm sure there are some in the room more qualified to explain the historical importance of the Rising. In any case, I want to focus my reflections on what the Rising means to me and my family on a personal level. All of us in the global Irish Diaspora take pride in Ireland's history. That pride can take many different forms, just as in Ireland there are many different ways of being Irish.

"But one common theme is self-determination. That's what the Rising was about. Even before the people got behind those rebel leaders, it had run throughout Irish history; it was there in the role of the trade union movement; and it was there in the plight of the tenant farmers.

The desire for self-determination, the ability to control your own destiny. It's also what so many immigrants are looking for, and have always looked for, when they come to America.

"My father came to Boston from Ireland nearly 60 years ago, in 1956. My mother came in 1959. Both came from the Connemara region of Galway. They kept strong ties with home, and they believed in preserving and passing on their culture to their children. ... And so I was raised with a keen sense of Irish history and a strong pride in Irish independence. Ireland's long struggle for self-determination was not something we left behind, but a value we brought with us, that gave life to our journey. The Easter Rising was one of the historical touchstones for that pride. We felt it in the connections that many of the leaders had to the United States, and the support they got from, as they said, Ireland's "exiled children in America."

"As someone who followed my father into the union, I also feel pride in the role of the labor movement and leaders like James Connolly. Connolly spent several years before the Rising as a labor organizer in the United States, including some time spent living not far from here, in Mission Hill.

"We should also remember his daughter Nora Connolly, one of the many remarkable women of the Rising. She came to Boston weeks after her father's execution to raise support for Irish independence. She gave a memorable speech at Faneuil Hall, on a stage I am privileged to share myself from time to time.



Mayor Walsh at BC on February 22.

Lee Pellegrini photo

"Perhaps most personally, I take pride in the fact that Patrick Pearse developed his ideas about human freedom in my mother's home village of Rosmuc. He was a leader of the Rising, and one of its great writers and poets. He was the one who read out the Proclamation of the Irish Republic on the steps of the General Post Office on that fateful Easter Monday. ... "I've spent many summers myself in Rosmuc. I can testify to the way the land there inspires you, the people inspire you, and the culture inspires you. ... I can say also, in a deep sense, that these values and this history are what led me into public service and are the reason I'm standing here today as mayor.

"I want Boston to be a place where anyone can make their own destiny. I want Boston to be a community that supports self-determination and freedom for people all over the world. It's a universal human need.

"So it's important as we remember the Easter Rising, as we take pride in this history, that we understand what Connolly and Pearse and their comrades did; that all people want and deserve self-determination, and "the world unfree shall never be at peace." This desire is driving people all over the world today to strike for freedom, whether at home or on our shores. And this history should drive us to support them and welcome them as brothers and sisters."



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Point of View

‘THE NAME KNOWN TO ALL FRIENDS OF IRISH FREEDOM’

The day when De Valera hailed a New Bedford sea captain

By PETER F. STEVENS

In mid-February 1920, people had gathered around a simple gravestone in a New Bedford cemetery where a tall, thin, bespectacled man bent down to lay a wreath in front of the marker. Etched on the face of the stone was the name of “George S. Anthony,” once captain of the whaling bark Catalpa.

Eamon de Valera placed the wreath, straightened and peered somberly, almost reverentially, at that name on the memorial. The famed Irish rebel, after his daring escape from Britain’s infamous Lincoln Prison, had come to plead his homeland’s cause to America in 1919 and 1920. A living symbol of the brutal Easter Rising of 1916, he brought his case to such Irish-American bastions as New York City and raised money to arm and support Michael Collins and the other rebels fighting the British in Ireland. Despite his grueling fund-raising schedule, de Valera had insisted upon a stop at New Bedford to pay his respects to Captain Anthony and to meet the seaman’s widow and family.

Anthony, who had passed away in 1913, held a special spot in the hearts and minds of Ireland’s rebels, for in 1875-76, he had risked everything to lead the daring mission to rescue six Fenian prisoners from their nightmarish confinement in Fremantle Gaol, in Western Australia. Even though he had no blood ties to Ireland, Anthony had embraced



This photograph was recently found by Jim Ryan, the great-grandson of Captain George S. Anthony, the Catalpa’s master. It shows Eamon de Valera standing at the gravesite of Captain Anthony in New Bedford with the deceased’s granddaughter, Phoebe Huggins, at his side.

the rescue plot of John Devoy, John Boyle O’Reilly, and others because, in Anthony’s words, “it was the right thing to do.” The hair-raising expedition not only succeeded against seemingly impossible odds in large measure because of Anthony’s nerve, resourcefulness, and stunning navigational skills, but it also went on to serve as a major-fundraising source for the very revolutionary movement that had led to the Easter rising.

Recently, James Ryan, the great grandson of Captain Anthony, provided me a photo showing de Valera at the shipmaster’s grave, the future president of the Republic of Ireland flanking the headstone with Anthony’s granddaughter, Phoebe Huggins. The image resonates today with special

impact in 2016 – the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising. A reporter captured the solemnity and the poignancy of that wintry New Bedford scene: “Standing bareheaded at the grave mantled in a white covering and with the snow softly falling upon the crowd which came to do honor to Captain Anthony...,” de Valera addressed the gathering.

“I am glad to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of Captain Anthony,” he said. He then went on to praise Anthony’s role in the Catalpa rescue, linking Anthony’s help in Ireland’s fight for freedom a generation earlier as an inspiration for present-day Americans – not just Irish Americans – to remember the “martyrs” of the 1916 Rising and aid the men and

women currently struggling for a sovereign Ireland.

Before visiting the grave with New Bedford’s A.O.H., Friends of Irish Freedom, and various local dignitaries and clergy, de Valera had met with Anthony’s widow at their home on Mapleview Terrace. Too ill to attend the graveside ceremony, Mrs. Anthony presented the Irishman with a copy of Anthony’s own as-told-to account of the rescue (“The Catalpa Expedition,” by Zephaniah Pease). An onlooker noted that de Valera “handled [the book] with a certain reverence” and “that he gazed curiously and closely at the autograph on the first page, written in the shaky [handwriting] of age... the name known to all friends of Irish freedom – Captain George Smith Anthony.”

At the bottom of the page, de Valera signed his name. To Mrs. Anthony and the others, he said, “Having been a prisoner myself, I can appreciate what that expedition meant then and now.... We are only carrying on in our generation what they set out to further in theirs – the cause of Irish Freedom.”

De Valera also met with two other major figures of the Catalpa Expedition. In New Bedford, he met with the elderly Henry Hathaway, the former whaler who had befriended John Boyle O’Reilly when the Irishman escaped Australia aboard the whaler Gazelle, and had helped O’Reilly, John Devoy, James Breslin, and their fellow plotters find both a captain and a ship – Anthony and the Catalpa.

The other man whom de Valera insisted upon meeting was James Wilson, the only surviving member of the six Fenian soldiers Anthony had plucked from Fremantle. Wilson, who lived in Central Falls, Rhode Island, had penned the heart-wrenching plea from Fremantle Gaol for help from his fellow Fenians, a missive known as the “Voice from the Tomb.” That voice and Captain Anthony’s selfless courage had inspired men and women in Ireland’s struggle for freedom from 1875 and beyond. For Eamon de Valera, Michael Collins, and numerous other Irish, the legacy of the man beneath the New Bedford gravestone still pealed.

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Bryan McGuirk, MD
Internal Medicine



Jan Rothschild, MD, FACS
Breast Surgeon



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All of us at Carney Hospital wish you and your family a very happy and healthy St. Patrick’s Day.



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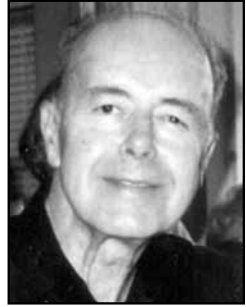
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Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

The Popes And Their Special Friends – The news that broke recently about **Pope John Paul II's** close relationship with a Polish-born American philosopher, **Anna-Teresa Tymieniecka**, revealed a rarely seen private side to Karol Wojtyla, who died in 2005. The newly released letters exchanged between the pontiff and the married woman provide a closer look at the 30-year tie that existed between the two.

Their friendship began in 1973 when Mrs. Tymieniecka contacted the future pope, then the cardinal-archbishop of Krakow, regarding a book on philosophy that Wojtyla had written. On an invitation from the prelate, the lady in question traveled to Poland from the United States to discuss the book. From that first meeting, their relationship grew intense and deeply personal. The cardinal invited his new friend and constant letter-writer to join him in country walks and skiing holidays, and later, following his election as pope, she visited him often in the Vatican.



Bill O'Donnell

In the latter years of his 27-year papacy, St. John Paul II endured serious health problems that were no doubt exacerbated by an attempted assassination in May 1981 that impacted his mobility and endurance for the remainder of his life.

From 1973 to St. John Paul II's death in 2005, Teresa Tymieniecka provided a lifeline for him beyond the Vatican that is evident in the expansive collection of private letters between the two. And nowhere in any of the books and other writings by or about Pope John Paul II is there ever a suggestion that he broke his vow of celibacy.

The story of St. John Paul and Anna-Teresa Tymieniecka is a tale of two people who met and were friends for over three decades until his death. One has to think about the comfort, the support, and the solace that the pope derived from that relationship in the painful, wearying days of his papacy.

The story of that deeply personal friendship is neither the first nor the only account we have of a special relationship between a pope and a woman. In a similar, but also vastly different scenario, there is the story of a Bavarian-born nun, **Sister Pascalina**, brilliant and beautiful, and **Eugenio Pacelli**, later to be better known as Pope Pius XII. In 1918, at age 23, Sister Pascalina was assigned as Pacelli's aide and housekeeper when he was the Vatican's nuncio, or envoy, to the German empire. In time, she became a trusted adviser who ran not only his household but also his office and his official schedule. She was the first woman to witness a papal election, she was at the pope's side throughout the Second World War, and she lived as a resident in the papal quarters from 1939 until the pope's death in 1958. She was called La Popessa, not always a compliment as uttered by envious papal aides who resented her influence with Pius. She was, by every measure and terms of service, an extraordinary woman.

It is an amazing, true story as the author-priest **Andrew Greeley** attested to in recommending this "powerful and moving love story, no less interesting because the two lovers were always chaste celibates: one a pope, the other his confidante, adviser and friend." In a remarkable book ("La Popessa," written by the Boston author **Paul I. Murphy**) Pascalina emerges, in Greeley's words, as "one of the great women of the twentieth century."

Cameron Supports UK Stay in EU; Voting in June – The battle lines –stay or leave – have been drawn. The referendum on the so-called Brexit, the question on whether Great Britain remains in or exits the European Union, is set for June 23. The subtext of the debate was set by British Prime Minister **David Cameron** when he spoke out in favor of continued membership in the EU following a two-day summit in Brussels.

In Ireland, the Northern government, led by DUP leader and Stormont First Minister **Arlene Foster**, announced that her party's intention is to campaign for an exit. Northern Ireland Secretary **Theresa Villiers** also joined those advocating a leave-taking. The other three parties in the Stormont Executive – Sinn Féin, the SDLP, and the Alliance Party all support the UK remaining as members of the EU. The Ulster Unionists have not yet announced their position.

Grace Notes And Other Good Things – A young mother in Edinburgh returned to her car after spending an unexpected overnight in hospital with her sick son only to find two penalty parking notices on her windshield. Tired and upset, the woman reached for the tickets and discovered under them two pound notes worth \$35 to cover the penalty costs. The notes were accompanied by a message: "Pay it, then forget it happened." The young mother, touched by the random act of kindness, opted to pay it forward by doubling it and using the cash to start a fundraiser for the hospital that treated her son. Donations to her appeal for the hospital have already exceeded \$2,300. The mother, **Mairi Holden**, has generated a thank you on her Facebook page, saying "Would love to find who did this. I am still in a lovely state of shock. I'd love to be able to thank them."

Ryanair Boss Joins Elite Club – **Michael O'Leary**, founder of the airline Ryanair, has had a

stretch of good luck since he decided to pull in his bad guy horns and start treating his customers with some civility. His airline has enjoyed stunning passenger numbers in recent months, and on a personal basis, this has meant that O'Leary is the newest member of the Irish billionaires club. I've never tried Ryanair and find trips to Ireland on Aer Lingus comfortable and affordable, especially in the shoulder months. But maybe I will try for one of those truly cheap fares.

NOTABLE QUOTE

"Democrats need to insist that while much work remains to be done, the United States is in far better shape economically than most other countries in the world. The nation is better off for the reforms in health care, financial regulation, and environmental protection enacted during Obama's term and should be proud of its energetic, entrepreneurial and diverse citizenry."

"If Clinton, Sanders and their party don't provide a forceful response to the wildly inaccurate and ridiculously bleak characterization of Obama's presidency that the Republications are offering, nobody will. And if this parody is allowed to stand as reality, the Democrats will lose."

– **E.J. Dionne**, Washington Post columnist

Bumps In The Road For Liverpool FC – **John Henry**, owner of the Boston Globe and the Boston Red Sox, and with his Fenway Sports Group also owns the Liverpool Football Club. That's usually good news but not recently as the spirited and competitive Liverpool team has announced a ticket price increase. Fans there, especially when it comes to their football team, are a loud and generally supportive group, but last month anti-ticket increase groups were threatening to protest by walking out of Anfield's arena.

There is no late news on the planned walkout, but Henry's management has mounted some rebuttal to the protesters. Liverpool chief executive **Ian Ayre** reminded his unhappy fans that "we have great owners – that 100 million pounds came interest free and they don't take a penny out of this football club."

Scott Brown, Remember Him and The Jacket? – Briefly a Bay State US Senator and more recently an also-ran in the Granite State senate race, **Scott Brown** is still a popular choice at Fox News headquarters where he joins other idle Fox contributors. Fox TV hosts are touting Brown as a possible **Donald Trump** VP if and when the New York realtor wins the GOP nomination. In a recent pat on the Brown back, Trump used one of his patented empty throw-away lines, saying, "He's central casting! A great guy and a beautiful wife and a great family. So important." Well, the Donald would know.

Brown, in case you missed the coverage, formally endorsed the Trump effort, calling him "a change agent." Fox anchors and desk-minders there have been very kind to Brown, with a plethora of praise from his pals at the mic, including **Trish Regan**, **Charles Payne**, **Maria Bartiromo**, **Martha MacCallum**, and the irrepressible **Neil Cavuto**. All have found time for Scott.

Where Is Eddie Cronin When We Need Him? – A recent item in the *Belfast Telegraph* caught my eye and instantly reminded me of **Ed Cronin**, a super stand-up friend since the second grade at St. Clement on the Somerville-Medford line. Ed spent some time for the army in Germany, came home to Medford, took the exam for the T, then drove a bus with kindness, civility, and no accidents for 30 plus years. He went to heaven a short while ago and Bernice and the Ball Square crowd miss him.

Full of froth and fun, Ed talked to anybody or everybody who didn't look angry. He was the guy who visited with pals to see a friend in the Soldiers Home in Chelsea. As soon as the door opened, Ed would loudly announce that "We are here for the will" and laugh uproariously.

Anyway, getting back to Ed and that Belfast story. The *Telegraph* piece related the sorry tale of a pregnant woman who had just gotten on the 7A near Belfast's Great Northern Mall stop when the driver suddenly headed in the opposite direction of her destination. She asked about it and was told that the driver's shift had ended. In so many words, this pregnant lass had to hoof it home. That's it.

The weather was freezing, the hills in that area were steep and unyielding, it was now dark, and it took the women 25 minutes to get up the cold, dark hills. And she had her bus ticket in her pocket. Her husband is probably still murderous!

I thought of Ed, who would sometimes talk about his days with the T. He would have cut off a limb before ever allowing that pregnant woman to get over the hills on her own. Ed was famous for knowing your house if it was near the bus route and dropping you at your front door. What were a few hundred yards between Ed and the T when a woman was dragging after getting the groceries at the First National and wrestling them home for dinner.

Crackdown in Ireland on Border Fuel Laundering, etc. – The cross-border illegal activities by alleged former paramilitaries have provided a continuing source of criminal revenue in recent years, but there are signs that law enforcement on both sides have intensified monitoring and shutdowns. The illicit laundering, smuggling, drug trafficking, and pollution along the Armagh-Louth border have led to constant battles between criminals (many reputed to be former IRA colleagues) and newly reinvigorated

law enforcement teams.

Currently, illegal laundered diesel accounts for eight percent of market share and costs the Northern Ireland economy \$75 million a year. Authorities also believe that the illegal sale of laundered diesel provides funding for organized crime such as drugs and human trafficking.

A solid signal that there has been substantial headway in the crackdown is that between April and December last year, 12 illegal sites were shut down, according to Ulster Television News.

The crackdown has improved as a result of the increased cooperation between police on both sides of the border, but there still remains an ongoing problem that will take time and continued cooperation to resolve.

Suffolk University Doesn't Need Regan PR Firm – As a Suffolk alum with fond feelings for the Beacon Hill institution, I have been wondering why the school and its board ever got together with **George Regan** and his communication company. Why pay Regan almost \$300,000 a year to tell the public about Suffolk when about one of every three politicians and lawyers in Boston (and some journalists) got their higher education there.

After 27 years it's past the time to retire George Regan and Co. The press secretary to **Kevin White** when he was Boston's mayor back in the seventies, Regan is by all accounts a decent if overpaid press maven and problem-solver, but \$294,000 a year for PR help with all the Boston heavyweights walking, living memorials to the great job that Suffolk does, George and his team seem a bit redundant.

Retire, or Lose, Get a Lofty Parachute – Elected members of the Northern Ireland's Local Assembly make a bit less than, say, the Boston City Councilors, but the Stormont crowd does even better if they retire or are rejected at the polls. New numbers for those leaving, either voluntarily or due to voter fatigue (election loss), receive on departure \$100,000 to fund such items as resettlement allowance and office closing costs.

The Assembly parachutes have been described by the Northern Taxpayers Alliance as "totally unjustifiable" and "too big." Members insist that the generous payments help them to "adjust to life outside Stormont."

Then there are the cynics who believe that a large payment to each departing assembly member might be a good way of cleaning out a legislature that has been widely excoriated for being a do-nothing body. What few can deny is that the political leaders in the North have failed miserably in doing their priority job: providing leadership.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Sorry to learn of the passing of the Boston journalist **Bill Buchanan**, who informed and entertained the Boston public for 40 years. He was versatile, knowledgeable, and a delight to read. RIP. ... A property tax surcharge is coming for Boston property owners. The good news is that the new funding will go to pay for affordable housing, parks, and historical preservation. ... **Cardinal Sean O'Malley**, a close advisor to **Pope Francis**, has affirmed the church's position on abuse, saying "But even beyond these civil requirements, we all have a moral and ethical responsibility to report suspected abuse to the civil authorities protecting our society." ... Former US Treasury honcho and Harvard president **Larry Summers** has a good idea: stop issuing high-denomination banknotes like the \$100 bill, which are the currency of choice for drug dealers. ... While the GOP's presidential wannabees regularly lash **President Obama**, newest reports show that the US has had the best two-year job growth since the 1990s. ... The Titanic exhibit that is a Belfast showplace will soon have a floating Titanic exhibit/cruise ship. Some history with a view. Also ready for construction is a \$40 million hotel coming to the Titanic Quarter. ... The ECB, Europe's banking center, has come under recent criticism from an Irish government inquiry into the 2007/2008 financial collapse.

Carly Fiorina may have some competition from other GOP candidates as the worst candidate for US president ever, but she certainly has my vote. Is she still around? ... An Irish Treasury agency says that Ireland could have saved around \$10 billion if they had forced repayment by senior bond debt holders instead of giving a "home free guarantee." ... The Tycos and Johnson Controls corporate merger, or inversion in the slippery parlance, is key to the new firm's \$150 million in tax savings. ... **Van Morrison** is a favorite here, but it's a trifle sad that he accepted a knighthood from the Prince of Wales. ... It has been years but still no resolution about the future of Dublin's Moore Street buildings that are closely linked to the 1916 Easter Rising. Are they going to raze these historical treasures, and to what end, especially in this centennial year? ... The jerk from Manhattan leading the GOP squirrel hunt now dismisses his Irish purchase, Doonbeg Golf Club in Clare, calling it "small potatoes" ... Everyone to his or her own poison, but I turned off **Joe Scarborough** and company in the morning on MSNBC a year ago. Nothing much there. ... **Bernie Sanders** is a good man and his criticism of **Maggie Thatcher's** treatment of the hunger strikers and his public distaste for war criminal **Henry Kissinger** makes for wishing here that his policies and finance issues had more reality to them.

A happy and healthy Saint Patrick's Day to one and all.

Immigration Q&A

Permanent residence via marrying a citizen: Wrong way, right way(s)

Q. I'm a US citizen who is engaged to be married to a man from Ireland. He is there now and we want to live in the US after we're married. Can he just come here as a visitor on the 90-day visa waiver, get married, and apply for a green card? Or can we get married in Ireland, after which he comes to the US on the visa waiver, then files his application?

A. Emphatically no in both cases. This is a fundamental mistake that is not at all obvious to people who don't know the ins and outs of the relevant immigration law, and it happens quite frequently. The problem is that the visa waiver (as well as travel on most temporary visas) is granted on the basis of what the law calls "non-immigrant intent," that is, the person traveling honestly intends to stay in the US for no longer than the period allowed by US Customs and Border Protection at the port of entry. On the other hand, someone enters with temporary permission but who actually intends to stay in the US – to apply for a green card or for some other reason – has "immigrant intent." So the immigration authorities would conclude that the person had committed "visa fraud," which, generally speaking, renders him ineligible for benefits such as permanent residence and indeed subjects him to removal from the US and a bar to entering this country from abroad in the future.


There are, however, two basic ways to get legal permanent residence for your future husband without legal problems. In general terms, they are:

(1) The fiancé visa. You, the US citizen, file a petition with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for your future husband. This process includes providing proof that the two of you have met personally during the last two years and intend to marry in the US. Once USCIS grants the petition, the US State Department takes over the case. Ultimately your fiancé has an interview at the US Consulate in Dublin. He receives the visa and travels to the US, after which he has 90 days to marry you. As soon as the marriage has taken place, he can immediately file for permanent residence with USCIS and remain here while the application is being processed.

(2) Consular processing for an immigrant (permanent resident) visa. With this option, you get married abroad. Then you file a petition with USCIS and, again, once it is granted, the case is transferred to the US State Department. Your future husband then files an application for an immigrant visa, has an interview at the US Consulate, receives the visa, and travels to the US – only this time he enters with permanent residence already granted and no further applications need to be filed in the US.

Whichever option is preferable for a particular couple depends on the details of individual cases. You can visit one of our weekly legal clinics for a free, confidential discussion of the options.

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An IIIC intern's success story

By **SAMUEL LOCKHART**

I come from County Down and am a final year medical student in Queen's University Belfast. I have a longstanding interest in diabetes and its complications. When I had the chance to undertake research training at the world-renowned Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston I jumped at the opportunity. I came across the Irish International



Samuel Lockhart

Immigrant Center as a potential J-1 Intern Work & Travel Visa sponsor and got in touch online. They were extremely helpful with the application process and were always at hand to answer any questions or concerns I had.

My internship offered me an opportunity to study how a hormone that is deficient in diabetes contributes to cardiovascular disease. I learnt a range of new techniques, how to formulate and answer scientific questions, and I have been fortunate enough to present my work at international

meetings. I also have benefited from the host of exceptional medical talent concentrated in Boston and have had the opportunity to attend a number of presentations by world leaders in the field.

In addition, I have made contacts and established mentorships with senior investigators. I am hopeful that these relationships will evolve to establish collaborative study later in my career.

Nearing the completion of my internship, I began to apply for jobs that I could start following the completion of my medical degree in June. I applied to an academic foundation post and was invited to interview in December. There were greater than fifteen shortlisted candidates from the UK and Ireland, all with strong academic credentials, so competition was extremely tough. This month, I got the good news that I had secured my first choice post and will begin in March.

I have no doubt that the training and experience I received during my internship here played a key role in ensuring my success. It has provided me with the basic skills and contacts that I need for a successful research career. I cannot thank the IIIC enough for their support and help in preparing my application and for the continuous guidance they provided during my time in Boston.


Boston is awash with Irish talent. The intern-

Business Leaders Breakfast - April 28

Don't miss the Irish International Immigrant Center's 7th Annual Business Leaders Breakfast on Thursday, April 28. Our featured speaker this year will be Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, who celebrated one year in office with these words, "I love my job! I get excited every time I walk into our office, every time I sit with my team to tackle big issues, every time I am in the community and with the people who make this state the most amazing place to live, work and raise our families."

Since taking office, Healey has tackled issues touching the lives of residents across Massachusetts including the heroin and prescription drug abuse epidemic, escalating health care costs, worker's rights and student loan costs. Her office has assisted with the rollout of several policy initiatives that the Center has supported including the Earned Sick Time law and Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights. Healey is an advocate for a more equal and inclusive workplace and as a civil rights attorney, is committed to ensuring that all residents are treated fairly.

Join us for an engaging discussion on immigration, the economy and other issues facing Massachusetts and the United States. For reservations or sponsorships, please contact Mary Kerr, Development Associate, at 617-695-1554 or at mkerr@iiicenter.org



Maura Healey



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COMMUNITY BUILDING

Matters of Substance

Mindfulness tips to help with easing stress, anxiety reduction

BY GINA KELLEHER

The practice of mindfulness is a worldwide phenomenon that can have significant mental and physical benefits for all of us. Simply put, mindfulness is the gentle effort to be present in the moment. We're living in a world where it's the norm to multitask while being distracted with our phones, computers, and tablets. People feel stressed and overloaded, with too much to do and not enough time to do it. This can lead to a sense of time passing by in a blur, without much enjoyment or appreciation of what truly is important to us. Mindfulness practices help us notice when we're worrying about things in the past (can't change that) or future (hasn't happened) and to bring our focus back to the present. Doing this helps reduce the effects of stress on the mind and body thus increasing a sense of calm, contentment and well-being.

For people struggling with anxiety, depression, or addiction, mindfulness can increase awareness of



Gina Kelleher

the negative thought patterns, physical responses, and cravings associated with these conditions. By accepting these reactions without judgment, they can be reduced or eliminated over time.

The following are some simple mindfulness practices that are easy to incorporate into our busy lives:

Deep Breathing: This is one of the easiest and most effective ways to reduce worry, stress, anxiety, and cravings. Inhale with your mouth closed to the count of four. Hold your breath to the count of seven. Exhale slowly through your mouth for the count of eight. Repeat five times or

more to feel calm and centered.

Meditation: This allows us to respond, rather than react to situations. Find a fairly quiet place. Sit with your back straight on a chair or bed. Focus on the feeling of your breath entering your nostrils, chest, or abdomen. Your thoughts will wander; that's completely normal. When you notice this, bring your attention back to your breathing, without judgment. The practice is not to empty your mind but to notice wandering thoughts and come back to the breath. Five minutes daily or a few times a week can increase overall well being and contentment.

Guided Meditation: Some people prefer to meditate to a voice. There are CDs that you can buy in bookstores, or that are available online (YouTube) to listen to during breaks at work, on the train, before bed, or as needed. There are great free Apps you can download to your phone that include many different choices to help you feel better. Headspace or

Insight Timer are two that I recommend to my clients.

Listen to music: Focusing on the different notes and sounds brings us to the present and can help reduce blood pressure and heart rate.

Go outdoors: Take a short walk outside, preferably to a place where there are trees and grass. Appreciating these and other things in nature can lead to a sense of peace and calm.

Practice gratitude: Take some time at the end of each day to think of five things that made you happy or grateful, no matter how simple. Research shows that doing this regularly significantly increases happiness.

A final thought: Try to keep things simple when it comes to mindfulness. Consistency is the key to lasting, positive changes. If you need any further guidance, support, or information for stress, anxiety, depression, or addiction, please reach out in confidence to Gina Kelleher-wellness (on face book), 617 542 7654 Ext. 14, or by email to gkelleher@iiicenter.org.

EATING AND EMOTION

Dr. Bernadette Rock

Health eating for healthy weight

The vast majority of us were born with the instinctive ability to know how to eat and when to stop, but many end up losing part of that essential skill. What have you “learned” along the way that gets in the way of your ability to eat when you’re hungry and stop when you’re satisfied? Is it the rules of a diet, your “all-or-nothing” eating habits, using food as a comfort, a way to escape, or a way to distract yourself from what’s happening within and around you?

Unfortunately, many of us have been fooled into believing that there is a solution out there somewhere. Take a moment to add up all of the money and time you’ve wasted on diets that didn’t lead to lasting change! It is staggering to think about how much time in our lives has been lost to us as we tried the same things over and over again. I know, because I did it, too. And these days, most people know that diets don’t really work, so they call them “clean eating” or a “lifestyle change” instead. Either way, if you are still obsessed with what you should and shouldn’t eat, it is still a diet.

A healthy relationship with food is about finding what works for you and your own body, which also may be different at different times in your life. Can you make choices that serve you – that may mean cooking a delicious whole-food meal, really enjoying it, and feeling satisfied. I’m not a fan of strict rules around eating. Instead here are some guidelines. Think of them as your North Star!

1. Eat when you are hungry – but not too hungry!
2. Eat sitting down in a calm environment. This does not include eating in the car!
3. Eat without distractions, such as TV, newspapers, anxiety-producing conversations.
4. Eat until you are satisfied, not full or stuffed to the gills.
5. Eat (with the intention of being) in full view of others.
6. Eat with enjoyment and pleasure.

Managing your environment is also crucial to managing your eating. There are some very practical steps you can take to support yourself:

Put it away – As soon as you get home from the grocery store, put everything away in a proper place in the fridge or cupboard. Leaving anything out can trigger you visually to just “grab a piece of that” on the counter. When you get out something to eat when you are hungry, make sure everything goes back in its place so that you won’t mindlessly take some more because it’s right there.

Close the kitchen – This is a mental state that you want to be in, especially in the evenings. Clean up dinner leftovers and dishes right away and get out of the kitchen. If you can, even turn off the lights so you have a visual reminder. Of course, if you are really hungry again in a few hours, you allow yourself to intentionally get something to eat. But others times when possible even try to avoid walking through the kitchen to get to another room.

Reorganize – Our kitchens tend to become command central for the whole household. Letters, phone chargers, etc., often end up on the counter or on the table. Find another place in your house to be the central location for all those miscellaneous items so you don’t have another reason to go in the kitchen and possibly “grab a little something” in the process.

Have a Heyday: Join us on Facebook this month as we follow the progress of one Heyday participant determined to manage her weight. See heydayworld.com for details of Heyday’s online weight management program.



Bernadette Rock and her daughter Keela.

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Ireland’s Prime Minister Enda Kenny prepares to cast his vote at a polling station at St Anthony’s School in Castlebar, Ireland, Friday Feb. 26. Ireland’s voters were deciding Friday who should lead their economically rebounding nation for the next five years, with polls suggesting the outcome could be a hung parliament.

Brian Lawless/PA via Associated Press

Irish vote leaves parties befuddled; Historic coalition? Another election?

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBLIN – Lawmakers in Ireland are expressing a sense of shellshock and division over whether the country’s next government should be a historic alliance of age-old foes – or whether there should be a second election.

With two-thirds of winners declared in the race to fill a 158-member parliament, the new political landscape looked like the most fractured in Irish history. The two perennial centrist heavyweights – governing Fine Gael and opposition Fianna Fail – remained virtually neck and neck, with Fine Gael winners of 47 parliamentary seats and Fianna Fail of 43.

Analysts forecast that Fine Gael would finish a few lawmakers stronger than the party’s political nemesis, Fianna Fail. But neither would be able to form a parliamentary majority with any other single party, only each other.

Voters disgusted by Ireland’s 2008 economic collapse, 2010 international bailout, and the years of austerity deemed necessary to repair the damage threw their support in the Feb. 26 election to a dizzying array of anti-government voices. For the first time in Irish electoral history, the combined popular vote for Fianna Fail and Fine Gael slid below 50 percent.

The two parties evolved from opposite sides of the cut-throat civil war that followed Ireland’s 1922 independence from Britain. Between them, they have led every Irish government – and have never shared power with each other.

But neither side has



Sinn Féin party leader Gerry Adams arrives to vote at a polling station in Ravensdale, Ireland, Friday, Feb. 26. Ireland began voting early on Friday in the country’s General Election where recent polls suggest that the outcome could leave no party able to lead a stable coalition. AP Photo/Peter Morrison

ruled out forming a partnership if government stability requires this. Few workable alternatives look available in a parliament increasingly crowded with untested micro-parties and maverick independents hostile to both establishment parties.

The nationalist Sinn Féin party finished in third place with a somewhat disappointing 13.8 percent share of the popular vote. But both Fine Gael and Fianna Fail have ruled out cooperation, citing Sinn Féin’s ties to the outlawed Irish Republican Army.

Leading lawmakers in both Fianna Fail and Fine Gael said Sunday they cannot see how two parties so long committed

to tearing each other down can form a united Cabinet that survives for months, never mind for five years.

They forecast that coalition talks could take weeks to get going, and failure would force Ireland to hold a second election. Ireland hasn’t experienced back-to-back elections amid a finely balanced parliament since 1982.

“There’s a sense of bewilderment first of all. We’re a long way from sitting down together and talking about what our next options are,” said Regina Doherty, a re-elected lawmaker for Meath northwest of Dublin.

Finance Minister Michael Noonan, speaking from an election count cen-

ter in his native Limerick, said: “We may all be back here again very shortly.”

An editorial cartoon in the Sunday Independent newspaper captured the national mood. In it, a reporter asks the Fine Gael and Fianna Fail leaders: “What next?” Prime Minister Enda Kenny replies: “Stable chaos.” Micheal Martin counters: “Chaotic stability.”

Recounts over disputed results in Ireland’s complex, multi-round system of proportional representation mean that all winners wouldn’t be confirmed until Mon., Feb. 29, at the earliest.

The new parliament is scheduled to convene March 10 to elect a prime minister.

BC vs. Georgia Tech in Aer Lingus Football Classic

Sat., Sept. 3, Aviva Stadium, Dublin, Ireland

The Eagles of Boston College will kick off their 2016 football season in Dublin on Sept. 3 against the formidable Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech. The game in Aviva Stadium will mark the BC team's second visit to Ireland; in 1988 the Eagles defeated , 38-24, in front of a crowd of 42,000 in the old Lansdowne Road stadium. It is expected that 25,000 fans will travel from the US and Europe to take in the event this fall.

The Aer Lingus College Football Classic is an encompassing event. With thousands of US and European travelers coming to Ireland, a number of me events will surrounding the game itself, including: Dublin City Fanzone, a Boston College pep rally, a Georgia Tech pep rally, pre-game tailgates, business and academic forums, networking events, a president's lunch on game day, and social outreach / service projects in local communities.

Aviva Stadium is located in Dublin. It has a capacity of 51,700 and 48,000 for American Football. It was built on the site of the former Lansdowne Road stadium, which was demolished in 2007. It is home to the Irish Rugby Football Union and the Republic of Ireland national football team.

The game is being organized by a new entity called Irish American Events Limited (IAEL), a joint venture between Corporate.ie and Anthony Travel, both of which have been involved in the recent college football games in Ireland.

Warren Zola, the executive director of the Boston College Chief Executives Club, has announced that



Aviva Stadium, Dublin.

it will sponsor the inaugural Boston College Chief Executives Club Global Forum in Dublin on Sept. 2. "Both Boston College and the city of Boston have deep roots in Ireland," said Zola. "Given the history and tradition, it seems only natural to re-engage these two communities, and to do so by strengthening those

business communities." The forum will include a panel discussion on a relevant issue of the day, such as the use of technology in developing a global economy. Past CEO Club speakers will join current members in an audience of prominent business leaders from Ireland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

"Boston College began as a small commuter school for Irish immigrants, and today is recognized as a leading global university," said Zola. "Likewise, the Boston College Chief Executives Club is growing from the country's premier speaking forum to one recognized on the global stage. I am thrilled to take advantage of this

incredible opportunity on behalf of our members, and to continue to promote the prestige of the Carroll School of Management." Neil Naughton, chairman of the Irish Steering Committee and deputy chairman of the Glen Dimplex Group, noted that Irish sponsors of the game see the Aer Lingus

Football Classic as a means to develop connections and relationships between the Irish and New England business communities. In this setting, he said, "the Boston College Chief Executives Club luncheon will be eagerly anticipated by the business community in Ireland."

Please come and celebrate

Dorchester's Tenth Annual St. Patrick's Day Brunch

Saturday, March 19, 2016, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Blessed Mother Teresa Parish Hall
800 Columbia Road, Dorchester

Special Guests Govenor Charlie Baker Mayor Martin J. Walsh



2016 Dorchester Hall of Fame Inductees
Jim Rooney

The Honorable Marie St. Fleur
The Honorable W. Paul White

All proceeds to benefit Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry
Blessed Mother Teresa Parish

617-436-2190

\$100 per person
Reservations will be held at door

Dr. Larry Ronan and Jim Brett
Co-Chairs

Happy St. Patrick's Day



State Representative
Kevin G. Honan
Allston - Brighton



The Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division Eight Ancient Order of Hibernians Lawrence, Massachusetts

*"145 Years of Dedication to Religion,
Heritage, Charity and Community"*



Irish Heritage Month, March, 2016 Lawrence, Massachusetts

*Preserving and Fostering our Heritage and Culture
Sona Feile Padraig ort.*

The Centennial Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising

**Tuesday, March 1, 2016 IRISH FLAG RAISING
Across from City Hall – Common St. @11 a.m.**

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

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

Sunday, March 6, 2016

23rd ANNUAL CLADDAGH PUB ROAD RACE 11 a.m. (rain or shine) # 2 of the Wild Rover Race Series - For more information: runthecladdagh.com

Sunday, March 6, 2016

WHITE FUND LECTURE - OPENING RECEPTION and EXHIBIT - "A Pictorial Exhibit of the 1916 Easter Rising" with featured guest speaker, Michael Quinlin, who will speak on "Massachusetts and the 1916 Irish Rising" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence, MA @ 2:00 pm Sponsored by the White Fund & Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Saturday, March 12, 2016

THE 145th 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 pm – 11 p.m. – Awarding of the Richard Cardinal Cushing and Irishman & Irishwoman of the Year Awards. For more information please contact Charles Breen at 508 328 0323. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 13, 2016

Honor Molloy, Dublin-born, Brooklyn-based writer, actor and director, will talk and read from her lyrical book, "Smarty Girl, Dublin Savage", an autobiographical novel set in 1960s. Her father John, a seventh generation Dubliner, was a wildly successful actor and scoundrel king of the city, who did his best to destroy his family, while her mother tried to save it. Honor Molloy has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, and the Pew Foundation. Reading 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

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

IRISH FILM FESTIVAL at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence, MA @ 10:00 a.m. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH & the Irish Foundation. (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Thursday, March 17, 2016

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY – OPEN HOUSE – Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinners & Corned Beef Sandwiches & music at the Claddagh, 399 Canal St., Lawrence, MA.

Friday, March 18, 2016

47th ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON at the Lawrence Firefighters Association Relief's 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 @ 603 898 7766. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH – Handicap Accessible

Friday, March 18, 2016

OPEN HOUSE – Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinners & Corned Beef Sandwiches & music at the Claddagh, 399 Canal St., Lawrence, MA. For information call 978 688-8337.

Saturday, March 19, 2016

OPEN HOUSE – Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinners & Corned Beef Sandwiches & music at the Claddagh, 399 Canal St., Lawrence, MA For information call 978 68-88337

Saturday, March 19, 2016

SAINT PATRICKS DAY PARADE 1:00 pm for more information visit their website www.lawrencestpatparade.com, or email them at information@lawrencestpatparade.com

Sunday, March 20, 2016

Professor Christine Kinealy, Author, Professor and Director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University Hamden CT and John Walsh, artist, "The Bad Times". The "Bad Times" (An Drochshaol) is a graphic novel about the Great Hunger. Professor Kinealy and John Walsh will speak on their just published book at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence, MA 2:00 pm Sponsored by Division 8 AOH & the Irish Foundation . (FREE) - Handicap Accessible For more information about the "Bad Times" please visit the website: <http://www.badtimesgraphicnovel.com/>

Saturday, November 12, 2016

Derek Warfield & the Young Wolfe Tones - For further information please contact Jack Lahey @ 603 898 7766. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH & LAOH

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

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

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

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



Southie parade, breakfast set for Sun., March 20

(Continued from page 1)

It looks to be a record-sized parade, Durooss said. The previous record for Boston parade units was 142, he said, but they anticipate about 150 to march this year. In the mix will be 32 marching bands, up from the 20 to 25 the parade usually features, he said.

Joining military and veterans groups from across the country for a second year will be Boston Pride and the LGBT veteran group OUTVETS. Elected officials who had previously boycotted over LGBT exclusion are expected to march again this year.

“We were thrilled with the positive response from parade-goers last year as Boston Pride marched through the streets of South Boston,” said Sylvain Bruni, president of Boston Pride, in a statement announcing their participation. “There are many members of Boston Pride who are veterans and of Irish descent and being able to march in the South Boston St. Patrick’s Day Parade for the second year is a great accomplishment for us all,” he said.

If all goes as anticipated, participants should line up along Dorchester Avenue by 11 a.m., with the parade set to kick off at 1 p.m.

Earlier that day, state Sen. Linda Dorcea Fory will host the traditional St. Patrick’s Day breakfast at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. The event, which doubles as a political roast and pre-parade celebration of Irish-American culture, will be televised live on New England Cable News beginning at 10 a.m.

Checking the calendar for St. Patrick’s parades

Cape Cod: Sat., March 5 at 11 a.m.
Walpole: Fri., March 11 at 11:15 a.m.
Newport, RI: Sat., March 12, at 11 a.m .
Worcester: Sun., March 13, at noon.
Lawrence: Sat., March 19, at 1 p.m.
Abington: Sun., March 20, at 1 p.m.
So. Boston: Sun., March 20, at 1 p.m.
Holyoke: Sun., March 20, at noon.
Scituate: Sun., March 20, at 1 p.m.
Dublin, Ireland: Thurs., March 17, at noon.
Courtesy BITA (Boston Irish Tourism Assn.).



Scene from the parade 2014.

Chris Lovett photo



A scene from the 2015 St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast in South Boston. From left: State Sen. Michael Rush, US Senator Elizabeth Warren, host State Sen. Linda Dorcea Fory and Senate President Stanley Rosenberg.

Photo by Don West

OUR MEMBERS ARE FROM SOUTHIE, EASTIE EVEN WELLESLEY

Everyone loves better rates, fewer fees and friendlier service. That’s why CBCU membership is open to anyone who lives or works in Suffolk or Norfolk County. Say goodbye to your bank forever and join City of Boston Credit Union.

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CITY OF BOSTON
CREDIT UNION
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Obama declares Irish-American Heritage Month

The following was released by the White House on Feb. 29:

By the President of the United States
A Proclamation

Hailing from the Emerald Isle, generations of Irishmen and women have helped shape the idea of America, overcoming hardship and strife through strength and sacrifice, faith, and family. With an undying belief that tomorrow always yields a brighter day, Irish Americans symbolize the perpetual optimism that defines our country, and they have long embodied the truth at the heart of our promise -- that no matter who you are or where you come from, in America, you can make it if you try.

As we celebrate Irish-American Heritage Month, we recognize the Irish people's contributions to our country's dynamism, and we reaffirm the friendship

and family ties between our two nations. For centuries, sons and daughters of Erin have come to America's shores, adding to our rich vibrancy and putting their full hearts into everything they do. From building our country's cities as preeminent architects and earnest laborers to building our national character as people of great joy and cherished culture, Irish Americans have endured intolerance and discrimination to find a place for themselves and their children here in the United States. While remembering the great Irish Americans of the past, we celebrate what forms the foundation of the lasting Irish-American story -- a shared embrace of hard work and humility, fairness and dignity, and a mutual quest to secure a freer and more peaceful future.

Today, the United States and Ireland enjoy a thriving and cooperative bond buoyed by a strong legacy of exchanges between our peoples. During Irish-American

Heritage Month, let us pay tribute to the extraordinary mark Irish Americans have made on our Nation, and let us look forward to continued collaboration, friendship, and partnership between our countries.

Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2016 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

BARACK OBAMA

BC to host conference, concert to mark the Rising

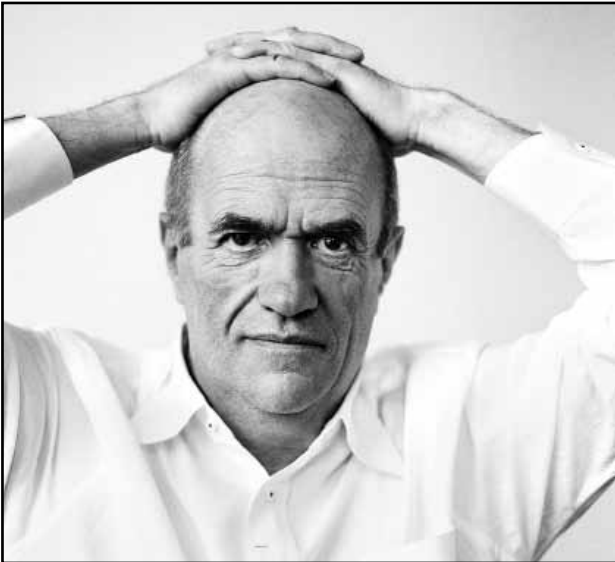
Boston College will host two major events this month to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising: an international conference, "Easter 1916: A Terrible Beauty Is Born," during March 18-20; and an Easter Rising Commemorative Concert on March 28.

The events, both free and open to the public, are part of BC's yearlong observance of the centenary of the Rising, widely regarded as a turning point in Ireland's struggle to gain independence from the British.

"To understand modern Ireland, it's important to appreciate the impact of the Easter Rising," said Oliver Rafferty, SJ, director of the University's Center for Irish Programs, which is playing a key role in organizing the BC commemorations.

"The Rising was a seminal event in Irish history not because it was a victory, but because of how the British mishandled the aftermath: executing the rebel leaders, and imposing martial law and internment. This swung Irish public opinion in favor of what the rebels were trying to accomplish, and touched off nearly seven years of struggle that brought about Ireland's independence."

The novelist Colm Tóibín, author of "Brooklyn" (now a critically acclaimed film), will be among the speakers at the "Easter 1916" conference. Also on hand will be the historians Alvin Jackson of Edinburgh University and Diarmaid Ferriter of University College Dublin, who are both former Burns Visiting Scholars of Irish Studies at BC; Emily Bloom of Georgia State University; Roisín Higgins of Teeside University; and Fearghal McGarry of Queen's University Belfast.



Colm Tóibín, author of Brooklyn, will be one of the speakers at the conference. *Brigitte Lacombe photo*

The conference opens at 6 p.m. on March 18 in Devlin 101, and includes daytime presentations on Saturday and Sunday and evening receptions Friday and Saturday. While "Easter 1916" is free and open to the public, registration is requested at <http://bit.ly/1WnfzNs>.

On March 28, Easter Monday, the commemorative

concert will take place in Gasson 100 at 6:30 p.m., offering a program of Irish music, song and dance with BC performers like former Sullivan Artist-in-Residence Seamus Connolly (who retired in December as director of Irish music programs at BC), Jimmy Noonan, Sheila Falls, Kieran Jordan, and the BC Irish Dance student club, as well as the University Chorale and the BC Chamber Music Society.

Joining the BC contingent will be a bevy of special guests, including Charlie Lennon, a traditional musician who also is a prolific composer; New England Irish harpist Regina Delaney; and The Murphy Beds, a New York City-based duo of Irish native Eamon O'Leary and American Jefferson Hamer, noted for intricate instrumental arrangements and vocal harmonies.

While the concert, too, is free and open to the public, registration is requested at <http://bit.ly/1PMKjnc>.

"Boston College has had a longstanding commitment to teaching and propagating Irish history and culture -- in fact, some of our most popular history classes here are about Irish history," said Fr. Rafferty. "BC also has strong ties to Boston, the most Irish city in the US. As part of our service to Boston, we stage events and offer resources on Irish history and culture."

"These two events, and others being held at BC, uphold that tradition by offering different perspectives on the Easter Rising. The conference will provide an intellectual engagement through the exploration of various issues in regard to the Rising: What was it? What was its impact? How did different communities and observers see it?"

A RISING TIDE OF REBELLION

In March 1916, Boston's Irish were divided over the move toward armed revolt in Dublin

(Continued from page 1)

war, the conflict's impact upon Ireland had begun to tear at many of the Boston Irish. Any realistic chance of Home Rule languished as Irishmen marched off in the ranks of the British Army to the carnage of the Western Front. In Ireland and in Boston, questions arose as to just what Irishmen were dying for in the trenches of No Man's Land. The sight of soldiers returning home with missing limbs or reeling from shell-shock (today's post traumatic stress disorder) added to those questions. So, too, did Parliament's imposition of economically crippling wartime taxes on Ireland, and if anyone in the 32 counties raised his or her voice in protest, the infamous Defense of the Realm Act meant that he or she faced imprisonment or deportation -- without any semblance of legal process. British censorship hamstrung Irish newspapers and magazines from challenging the government and its prosecution of the war.

Among the leaders moving ever closer to revolt in Ireland, a few had actually visited Boston. James Connolly, a Socialist and fierce advocate for workers' rights, delivered an impassioned speech on those causes at a packed Faneuil Hall in September 1902. For a time, he lived in Mission Hill. James Larkin, another of the men who would figure prominently in the Easter Rising, was a trade-union organizer who addressed a throng in February 1915 at Tremont Temple. Francis Sheehy-Skeffington, a friend and former schoolmate of James Joyce, came to Boston and Worcester in 1915 to lecture on everything from his support

of women's rights, his self-described militant pacifism, and his commitment to a free Ireland to his advocacy of a vegetarian diet.

John Redmond, the politician who had picked up the mantle of Home Rule from the once-revered but scandal-crushed Parnell, had set foot in Boston in 1884. John Boyle O'Reilly, the former cavalryman and Fenian rebel who had escaped hellish confinement in Fremantle, Western Australia, aboard a New Bedford whaling ship; had found success and fame as a journalist and then editor of the *Boston Pilot*; and had played a pivotal role in the rescue of six fellow Fenians from Fremantle by the whaler Catalpa, warmly greeted the young Redmond. O'Reilly, who had come to believe that a political solution for Ireland was a more realistic approach than the revolutionary fervor of his Fenian days, viewed Redmond as the successor to Parnell. Michael P. Quinlin, in his *Irish America* article "Boston and the Irish Rising," notes that O'Reilly "introduced Redmond to 5,000 people jammed into the Boston Theatre and compared him to Parnell. The cheering lasted several minutes before Redmond was able to speak."

For Redmond, the triumphant fanfare of his visit to Boston nearly three decades ago was about to implode for the city's Irish. The gathering fury of Easter 1916 would soon destroy his reputation in the wards and elevate that of Connolly and Larkin and that of men named Pearse, Collins, de Valera, Clarke, and their comrades in arms -- not in the trenches of the Western Front, but on the streets of Dublin.



The Boston College Irish Studies Program
presents

"Easter 1916: A Terrible Beauty is Born"
March 18, 19, & 20

Speakers include:

- Professor Diarmaid Ferriter (University College, Dublin)
- Colm Tóibín
- Professor Alvin Jackson (Edinburgh University)
- Professor Emily Bloom (Columbia University)
- Dr. Roisín Higgins (Teeside University)
- Dr. Fearghal McGarry (Queen's University, Belfast)

The conference will open with two brief lectures & a welcoming reception on Friday March 18, 6-8 pm. A reception the following evening, March 19 5:30-6:30 pm, is co-sponsored by the Irish & British Consuls General. For further details, & to register for the conference please visit

<http://www.bc.edu/centers/irish/studies/calendar.html>

or email: irish@bc.edu
or telephone: 617-552-3938

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Youth will be served – again – at ‘St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn’

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Over its first decade, “A St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn” has made a point of featuring performers representing the younger generation of Irish, Scottish, and other Celtic music and dance traditions. And there’s even more of a “youth movement” to this year’s show – the 11th edition – which will take place on March 19 and 20 in Sanders Theatre at Harvard University in Cambridge, with additional performances at Worcester’s Hanover Theatre (March 17) and Zeiterion Theatre in New Bedford (March 18).

The 2016 line-up includes The Outside Track, a “pan-Celtic” band with Irish, Scottish, and Cape Breton influences; Newfoundland traditional ballad singer Matthew Byrne; Boston-based uilleann piper Joey Abarta; and 13-year-old Haley Richardson, already established as an up-and-coming fiddler.

National Heritage Fellowship winner Kevin Doyle and the Miller Family, a trio of New England siblings, will provide the show’s dance component, while Vermont guitarist-vocalist Keith Murphy will once again serve as music director.

“When you gather musicians, singers, and dancers of this stripe, it’s often a let-down to just do one performance,” says the show’s creator and host, WGBH-FM broadcaster Brian O’Donovan. “So it’s nice to be able to add an extra date at Sanders Theatre, as well as once more go on the road, to Worcester and New Bedford. One of the things I



Boston-based uilleann piper Joey Abarta will be part of the cast in the 2016 “A St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn.”

love about the experience is the friendships and collaborations that result from ‘Celtic Sojourn,’ and I’m sure there will be plenty to come from this year.”

Although they’ve been together for a decade, The Outside Track remains a potent symbol of the Celtic music scene’s fountain of youth. They’ve released four albums, including the recent “Light Up the Dark” [see this month’s CD reviews] all to great acclaim, and have been lauded for both their instrumental and vocal work. Co-founders Allie Robertson (harp) and Fiona Black (accordion) from Scotland are at the heart of the band, along with long-time Irish guitarist Cillian O’Dálaigh, and their new colleague,

lead vocalist and flute and whistle player Teresa Horgan from Ireland. There’ll be a bit of local flavor for The Outside Track’s “St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn” appearance, as Greater Boston’s Emerald Rae stands in for their regular fiddler Mairi Rankin, a Nova Scotia native who supplies the Cape Breton side of the band’s personality.

“The Outside Track really typifies, in a very exciting way, the versatility you see in the more recent generations of Celtic musicians,” says O’Donovan. “They care deeply about the tradition, and it shows, but they also can shift easily into a contemporary mode. Teresa Horgan is a perfect example: One minute, she’s singing a sean-nos [old-style] piece

that’s hundreds of years old, with all of the traditional ornamentation; the next, she’ll be doing a Nanci Griffith song – and it all works.”

Newfoundland-born Matthew Byrne, meanwhile, has staked his claim as one of North America’s best interpreters of traditional songs to come along in the past five years, on the strength of his two albums, including last year’s enthusiastically received “Hearts & Heroes” (winner of the Canadian Folk Music Awards “Traditional Album of the Year” honors). Byrne’s strong, sensitively delivered vocals, nimble guitar accompaniment, and repertoire combining centuries-old ballads and contemporary songs rooted in tradition, have brought him increasing attention not only throughout Canada but in the US as well – including at the summer “Celtic Sojourn” show in Lowell last August.

“It was a pleasure to have Matthew with us in Lowell, and he got a wonderful reception from the audience,” says O’Donovan. “He’s one of those special performers who is equally gifted in his singing and guitar-playing, and has deep roots in the folk song tradition through his family.”

[Read an interview with Matthew Byrne elsewhere in this issue.]

Joey Abarta is widely acknowledged as among the most talented young uilleann pipers in the US or elsewhere, and has become a mainstay of the Boston Irish music scene since moving to the area seven years ago. In addition,

(Continued on page 20)



“These songs are windows into the lives of those people, and the time and place in which they lived,” says Matthew Byrne of his repertoire, much of which comes from his family.

Graham Kennedy photo

A fresh sound from Newfoundland

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

At the end of last year, Newfoundland folk singer Matthew Byrne did what countless aspiring musicians have dreamed of down through the ages: He quit his day job.

This was no spur-of-the-moment impulse move on the part of 31-year-old Byrne, however, but rather the outcome of several years of carefully assessing the trajectory of his musical career – which, following the release of his first album in 2010, only continued to rise. Toward the end of 2014, Byrne – who was providing tech support for the University of St. John’s distance education program – found himself needing so much more time to devote to his music that he went to his managers and asked for a one-year leave so he could narrow his focus. They gave it to him.

And then came 2015: He released the album “Hearts & Heroes,” which garnered widespread critical acclaim and considerable radio airplay, and he also performed more in the US, including in Lowell last year as part of the first “Summer Celtic Sojourn” show. So he returned to his bosses and put in his notice.

“It kind of freaks me out,” says Byrne with a laugh of his status as a full-time professional musician. “But really, everything is going very well. It just seemed that every year, I had a bigger base with which to get work, so cutting the cord made more and more sense. I’m very gratified by all the support I’ve been getting.”

Byrne will experience some of that support as a performer in this year’s “A St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn,” which takes place this month in Worcester, New Bedford and Cambridge’s Sanders Theatre [see separate story]. It’s his first visit to the Boston area since last April, when he performed at a house concert sponsored by the Folk Song Society of Greater Boston.

Those attending the “Celtic Sojourn” shows who aren’t familiar with Byrne will discover the qualities that have gained him such a following: a clear, resonant voice of subtle strength, complemented by a limber, graceful guitar style, and a repertoire rooted in a bal-

(Continued on page 27)



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The Massachusetts Harp Ensemble, led by Judy Ross, performs in “A Little Bit Of Ireland.”

Reagle Music Theatre / Herb Philpott photo

Time again to laugh it up in ‘A Little Bit Of Ireland’

BY R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR
With St. Patrick’s Day approaching, it’s time for Reagle Music Theatre’s annual celebration, “A Little Bit Of Ireland.” The 18th edition of the heartfelt homage to all things Irish plays three performances on March 12 and 13 at Robinson Theater in Waltham. Conceived and directed by Bob Eagle, Reagle’s producing artistic director, the production features a cast of 100 with music, dance, and a touch of blarney, all backed by a live orchestra.

Maintaining the show’s long standing tradition, the company includes Broadway couple Sarah Pfisterer (“Phantom of the Opera,” “Show Boat”) and Rick Hilsabeck (“Phantom of the Opera,” “Billy Elliot”); classic step-dancing from award-winning Liam Harney and members of the Harney Academy of Irish Dance in Walpole; extraordinary harpist Judy Ross, leading an ensemble of 12 harpists ranging in age from seven to 70; Reagle’s own Irish Tenors, offering lullabies and romantic ballads in four-part harmony; spirited Irish classics from Reagle’s renowned Adult Choir; and the impish charm and irreverent stories of comedian and Reagle favorite, Harold “Jerry” Walker.

Under the creative eye of Bob Eagle, award-winning Reagle has been bringing Broadway-quality musical theater to the Greater Boston area for 46 seasons. “A Little Bit Of Ireland” dates back to the late 90s when Eagle saw an opportunity to add a bit

of Irish entertainment to his annual lineup.

I recently spoke with Jerry about the metamorphosis of the show as well as his own history, which includes more than 40 productions at Reagle, from “Guys & Dolls” and “42nd Street” to “My Fair Lady.”

Originally from Newton and a longtime resident of Waltham, Walker studied at UMass Amherst and Boston University and taught Advanced Placement History at Waltham High for many years.

Q. What do you remember about the beginnings of the Irish revue. How did it all start?

A. At that time, “Riverdance” was really big . . . Liam Harney, who’s in the show, was doing his own show called “Celtic Fusion,” and Bob recognized that there was a need for a show that tapped into what was the rage at the time, but also tapped into the roots of a lot of people in Greater Boston and the greater New England area.

Q. From the beginning, the show has showcased some stunning artists, hasn’t it?

A. Bob is sharp enough to know who to go to to get different kinds of things. For music, he went to [the late] Larry Reynolds and Comhaltas. For dance he went to Liam. For fiddle playing, he said to Larry, “Who have you got?” And Larry said, “I’ve got this guy at BC, his name is Seamus Connolly – Seamus is a world renowned fiddle player.” So that’s how it started.

Q. And you handled the comedy?

A. Bob said, “I’d like to

you create a character.” Originally in his mind he thought maybe it would be like Hal Roach, that type of comedian . . . But I wanted to develop my own character. So I kind of thought of my mother. I kind of thought of my uncles . . . I wrote some of my own stories and developed this character . . . He’s a knowing comedian. He understands. He’s not a fool . . . almost like an all-seeing humorist. The audience sometimes knows what’s coming, they can kind of figure it out. But they can’t figure out how he’s going to get there.

Q. Do I understand your Mom was quite an entertainer herself?

A. My mother’s family was from Cork . . . My mother, from my earliest recollection, had the ability to dance and sing. She was a wonderful piano player and had a tremendous wit . . . She started off in local shows. She actually did vaudeville and did some tours. She also had an affinity to do accents, which I picked up.

Q. Did you ever perform with her?

A. I was on stage with my Mum when I was 8 years old . . . She had all these accents down and she would tell all these stories . . . She was a triple threat on stage . . . I really kind of modeled myself, inspirationally, after her. I think of her a great deal when I’m out on stage.

Q. She had a sly sense of humor?

A. I can remember her coming in, and my Dad would be sitting at the end of the table. He’d say, “What’s new, Kay? Anything happen today?” And she’d say, “Oh,

Kate Dailey died.” “Oh,” he’d say, “I’m sorry.” And he’d look with a knowing glance around the table at us because he knew something was coming. And he’d say, “Well what did she die of?” And she’d say, “Well, I really don’t know. But it was nothing serious.”

Q. Audiences count on the traditions of this show. How much do you vary your material each year?

A. I know I have to include some stories just about every year. I have to. There’s new material, but if I don’t tell that particular story, someone’s going to be greatly disappointed.

Q. In the past, Sarah Pfisterer has told me that when she’s not on stage, she loves to stand in the wings and watch

you work. Whom do you look forward to seeing in the show?

A. I feel the same way about her . . . I look forward to the fiddle players -- the jigs and the reels. It brings back so much. I had an aunt, her name was Minnie . . . She had this old phonograph in the corner, all these Irish records. There was no such thing, as far as she was concerned, of any recording ever made in the United States. They all had to come from Ireland. She was from Mayo and she would listen to this music. I remember the reels and the gigs and listening to them over at her house . . . I also look for the beautiful tenors and sopranos, followed closely by the dancers. I just love the sound on stage.


Q. Your mother would be quite proud of your stage work.

A. Toward the end of her life – this is not a sad story – I said, “Mum, of all the roles that I’ve done, which one did you like best?” She looked up and had the little half-Irish lilt and she says to me, “I liked when you played St. Joseph.” And I said, “Mum, I didn’t say anything.” And she said, “That’s the whole idea.”

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

•••

Reagle Music Theatre’s “A Little Bit Of Ireland,” March 12 & 13, Robinson Theater, 617 Lexington Street, Waltham. Tickets: reaglemusictheatre.com or 781-891-5600.



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Youth will be served – again – at ‘Celtic Sojourn’

(Continued from page 18)

tion to performing, he has also helped to organize events – such as a regular series of ceili dances in Jamaica Plain – and taught at the music school of the Comhaltas Ceóltoirí Éireann Boston branch. Abarta also has toured frequently, including with Mick Moloney and the group The Green Fields of America.

“The great Seamus Ennis used to say that it took 21 years to make an uilleann piper – seven years learning, seven years practicing and seven years playing – and where Joey is concerned, I think Seamus was onto something,” O’Donovan says. “Joey is a powerful piper, and he just gets better and better every time I hear him. We’re so lucky to have be part of our music community in Boston.”

Haley Richardson, a protégé of renowned Sligo-style fiddler Brian Conway, has already amassed several Mid-Atlantic Fleadh and All-Ireland titles, appeared with notable Irish music personalities such as The Chieftains and Mick Moloney, and released an album, “Heart on a String,” accompanied by her older guitar-playing brother Dylan. Last spring, she made an appearance at The Burren Backroom series, as part of a trio with Dylan and their friend, uilleann piper Keegan Loesel.

“One thing that really comes across with Haley,” says O’Donovan, “is that she has a true connection to the music. There are many young players who are technically brilliant, yet they don’t, or can’t, put their heart into their playing. Haley does, and that’s why she is a delight to listen to.”

Kevin Doyle, a virtuoso of old-style traditional Irish step



The Outside Track will be joined by local fiddler Emerald Rae for their performance at “A St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn,” which takes place in Worcester, New Bedford and Cambridge.

dance and American tap dance, has been a frequent performer at Boston-area events, including “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn” and BCMFest. The Miller Family – Ruby May, Evelyn, and Samuel – have been dancing and competing since childhood with the Goulding School of Irish Dance in Medford and Cranston, RI, and have also appeared at events and venues around Rhode Island, notably

the Blackstone River Theater. “Dance is being given a big turn in the spotlight for this year’s show, and in Kevin and the Millers we have some extraordinary talent,” says O’Donovan. “Kevin is just amazing: He’s been at it for decades and still has that infectious joy and showmanship to his dancing. The Millers bring an extra dynamic, in that they frequently perform as musicians and vo-

calists, so they have a sense of themselves as both dancers and artists.”

Keith Murphy is a highly respected musician and singer of New England and Newfoundland folk traditions, and an integral part of “St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn” since becoming the show’s music director in 2012, O’Donovan says.

“His musicality is stunning, but his skills in arranging and

organizing are equally laudable. What you want from a music director is a leader who’s a good coach, and who can get the best out of people; that’s what Keith is – someone who has the respect of every musician he comes into contact with. He has really brought a lot to the show.”

For ticket information and other details about “A St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn,” see ugbh.org/celtic.



An interdisciplinary minor, Irish Studies at Stonehill provides an introduction to the people and culture of Ireland. The minor consists of courses in History, Literature, and Politics along with options for internships, study abroad and directed study. For information, contact Program Director Elizabeth Chase at echase2@stonehill.edu or call 508-565-1329.

Hailing The Saint

Staff members at the Irish International Immigrant Center send best wishes to all for St. Patrick's month events.



Lineup is set for Boston Irish Film Festival – March 10-13

The Boston Irish Film Festival will take place over four days from Thurs., March 10, to Sun., March 13, at the Somerville Theatre, Davis Square.

Special guests will include the well-known Irish comedian and actor Pat Shortt, who will be on hand for a retrospective of some of his film work. Included in this program is the feature “Garage” by the 2016 Oscar-nominated director Lenny Abrahamson as well as the comedic short film “Spaceman Three” by Hugh O’Conor. Shortt will give some behind the scenes commentary on both films.

Thurs., March 10 – 7:30 p.m. Best Feature, “You’re Too Ugly” (81 min). Director Mark Noonan in person.

Plays with Best Short: “More Than God” (14 min). Director Kev Cahill in person. 10 p.m. – Reception at Orleans

Fri., March 11 – 7:30 p.m. Director’s Choice feature, “Older Than Ireland” (77 min). Director Alex Fegan and Producer Garry Walsh in person. Plays with Director’s Choice Short, “City of Roses” (9 min). Director Andrew Kavanagh in person. 10 p.m. – Reception at Davis Square Theatre,

Sat., March 12 – 12:30 p.m. New Irish Shorts Program 1 (126 min). 1 p.m. – “A Doctor’s Sword” (80 min). 3 p.m. “Taste: What’s Going On Live at The Isle of Wight” (78 min). 3:30 p.m. – “Unbreakable: The Mark

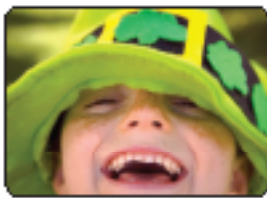
Pollock Story” (80 min). 6 p.m. – “Garage” (85 min). Plays with “Spaceman 3” (12 min). 6:30 p.m. – “Being AP” (103 min). 9 p.m. – “My Name is Emily” (94 min). Plays with “Big Bird” (10 min).

Sun., March 13 – 1 p.m. – New Irish Shorts Program 2 (77 min). 2:30 p.m. – “After ‘16” (108 min). 3 p.m. – “Michael Collins” (133 min). 4:30 p.m. – “The Women’s Council – Women of the Revolution.” Plays with “A Night of Storytelling.” 6 p.m. – “An Klondike” (113 min). Plays with “The Mayor of Boston, My Son” (25 min). 8:30 p.m. – Closing party at The Burren.

*May you be poor in misfortune,
Rich in blessings,
Slow to make enemies,
Quick to make friends.
But rich or poor, quick or slow,
May you know nothing
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– An Irish Proverb

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Burlington youth, 14, wins Reynolds scholarship

**By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**

Liam Murphy, 14, was recently announced as the winner of the Larry Reynolds Memorial Scholarship, which supports young people in the Greater Boston area who are involved in Irish traditional music.

A resident of Burlington and a budding flute, whistle, and uilleann pipes player, Liam is the second recipient of the scholarship; fiddler Audrey Bulger was the inaugural honoree.

The scholarship, supported by donations, is named for the late Larry Reynolds (1932-2012), co-founder of Boston's Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and a major figure in Boston's Irish music history. Applicants for the scholarship must be under 21, play music at an intermediate to advanced level, be members of the Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley CCE, and participate in and "contribute to the Irish music/dance/song/culture and community of New England," according to CCE Boston.

Scholarship candidates should also demonstrate "an earnest dedication to advance traditional Irish culture," and the capacity "to benefit from participation in advanced traditional cultural experience," as well as the potential to share

their knowledge and experience with the Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley branch.

Although he had listened to Irish music pretty regularly during childhood, a school project – which involved doing research on Ireland – at age 12 inspired Liam to finally give it a try. He got a tin whistle, learned a few tunes online, and then signed up for lessons at the CCE Boston music school. After about a year he took up flute, and more recently the uilleann pipes. He's had the opportunity to study with musicians such as Torrin Ryan, Lisa Coyne, Caroline O'Shea, Jimmy Noonan, Kathleen Conneely and Patrick Hutchinson.

"It's hard to put into words what exactly I like about the music," says Liam thoughtfully. "I like the rhythm a lot. And then there are those certain notes you play that just hit you a certain way, and you feel really good."

As enjoyable and rewarding as his individual lessons have been, Liam says one of the most important facets of his Irish music development is being a member of the school's Realta Geala ensemble, directed by Conneely and Sean Clohessy (and previously Christian Stevens). Through Realta Geala, Liam has had a couple of memorable and enlightening

experiences: The group earned a trip last summer to Ireland's national music competition, the Fleadh Cheoil, held in Sligo; Realta Geala also has been part of a "Trad Youth Exchange" with a group of similar-age musicians in County Clare.

"I've really enjoyed being in Realta Geala, and having the chance to go to the All-Ireland and take part in the Trad Youth Exchange," he says. "It's been great because you make a lot of friendships and other connections through Irish music; no matter how different we might be, the music is something we share."

If Liam is grateful for the care and attention his teachers have shown him, they are equally happy to have worked with him.

"Liam's been a pleasure to teach," says Conneely. "He learns by ear, and picks up things almost immediately – he's got a passion about the music you don't see often in young musicians."

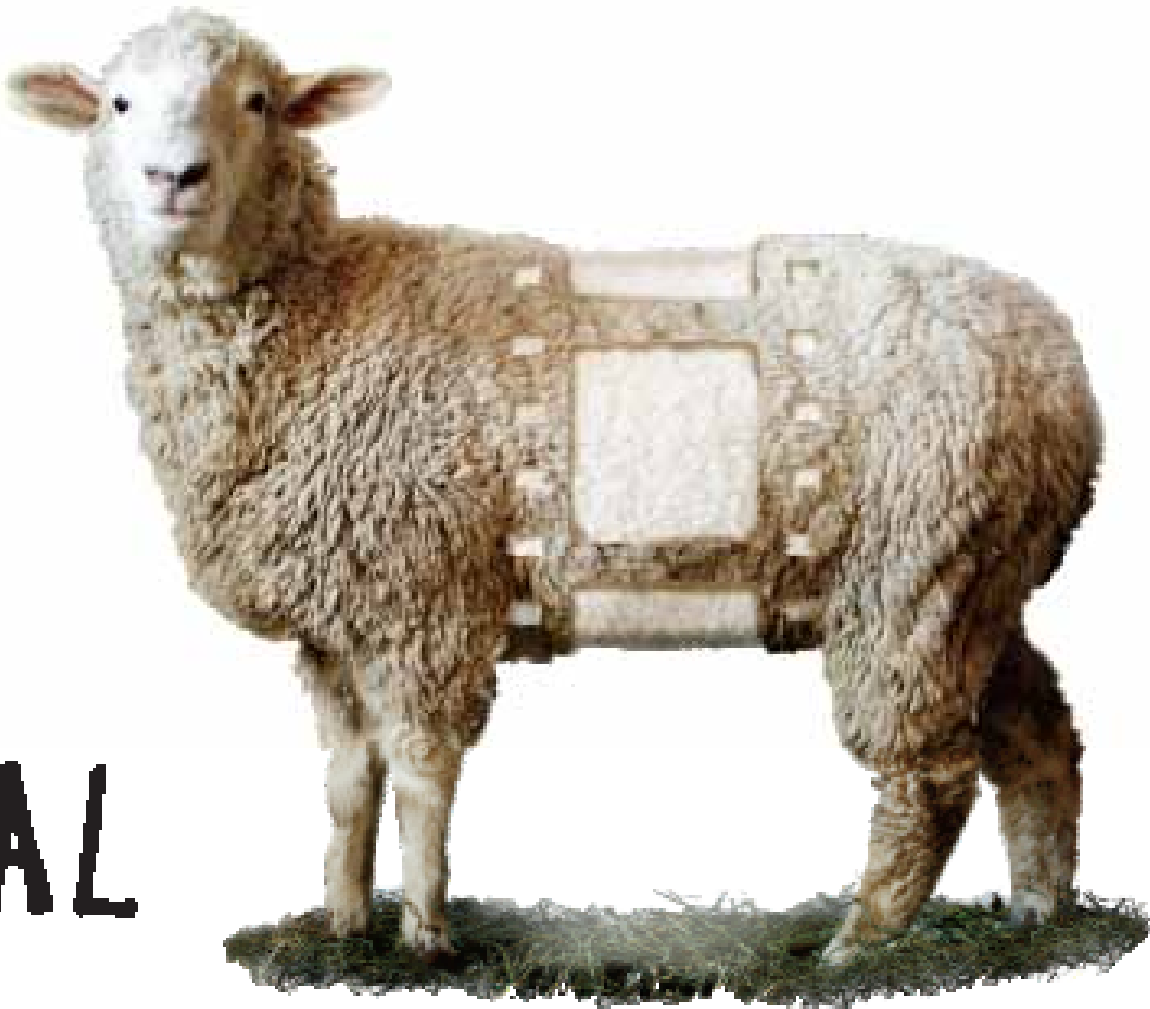
Adds O'Shea, "Liam's one of those kids who you can immediately tell 'has it' – he has a great innate musicality. Learning music by ear comes naturally to him, and he soaks up whatever you throw at him. It's been great to see his progression and I know he'll definitely will go far with music."

Liam Murphy



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Joe Cormier, master fiddler, dead at 88

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The Boston-area Celtic music scene—and the local Cape Breton community in particular—are mourning the passing of one of its most accomplished members: the fiddler Joe Cormier, who died on Jan. 31 at the age of 88.

Born Laurent Joseph Cormier in Cheticamp, a small fishing village on the northwest coast of Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, Mr. Cormier was a widely admired embodiment of his birthplace's distinctive musical tradition whose fiddling won him a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1984.

A longtime resident of Waltham, Mr. Cormier was a familiar, and welcome, figure at ceilidhs, concerts, festivals, and other gatherings throughout Greater Boston, including at the Canadian American Club of Massachusetts in Watertown, an important locus of Cape Breton music and dance activities.

He released two albums for Rounder Records in the 1970s, the first Cape Breton fiddler to record for a US label (he also made several other recordings in later years), and appeared at the National Council for the Traditional Arts National Folk Festival in 1980.

Mr. Cormier subsequently attracted a far larger contingent of admirers, through a musical goodwill tour of China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Korea in 1982, and the National Council for the Traditional Arts "Masters of the Folk Violin" tour in the US during 1988-89. In 1997, he appeared as part of Boston's popular Midsummer Revels show.

Janine Randall, a friend and frequent piano accompanist for Mr. Cormier, says that his passing represents the end of an era in Cape Breton music. "Joe was the last of those great pioneering Cape Breton fiddlers, like Buddy MacMaster or Jerry Holland. It's important to realize that, for these guys, music was not a career choice. None of them said, 'I'm a musician,' because that's not how they thought of themselves. They all had full-time jobs: Joe was an electrician himself. So



Joe Cormier was among a pioneering generation of Cape Breton fiddlers.

Tom Pich for the National Endowment of the Arts photo

being able to have music as part of your life was all the more special to them."

Mr. Cormier was known for his repertoire, which included some French as well as Scottish and Cape Breton tunes – he was often included with Cajun fiddlers and other Francophone musicians at festivals – and for the particularly strong rhythmic character of his playing. Still, as his Randall recalls, it was the Scottish tradition that seemed to be foremost in Mr. Cormier's store of music—in fact, one of his albums was titled "Scottish Violin Music from Cape Breton Island."

"Most of what he played was Scottish music you'd find in written collections, like J. Scott Skinner tunes," she says. "He'd mention his French/Acadian heritage, but Scottish was a large aspect of his playing. He was a beautiful player: He'd play these intricate, lovely

tunes—like 'Johnny Cope' or 'Neil Gow's Lament for the Death of His Second Wife'—and instead of endless hours spent in the key of D or A, you'd hear him do tunes in B-flat or F—quite advanced."

Raised in a musical household, he took up fiddle at age 5, and at age 14 was accorded the honor to which Cape Breton musicians aspire—playing for a parish hall dance. He later studied with distinguished Cape Breton musicians Angus Chisholm and Winston "Scotty" Fitzgerald, and began making the round of Cape Breton's numerous dance halls.

Mr. Cormier immigrated to Waltham in 1962, and quickly became a fixture in the area Cape Breton community, through the French-American Victory Club as well as the Canadian American Club. He retained strong ties with his homeland,

organizing a sextet of Cape Breton master fiddlers, later called the Cape Breton Symphony, which performed on Canadian television. Despite his electrician's job, he always made time to bring his fiddle along to the ceilidhs and "kitchen junkets" that were the lifeblood of the Cape Breton ex-pats.

Randall says Mr. Cormier "never had a bad word for anyone" and was attentive to his personal and musical relationships, so often inextricably linked. Explaining to her a miscommunication he'd had with one of his other accompanists, Randall recalls, Mr. Cormier said, "I didn't get into this business to make enemies."

Toward the end of his life, Randall says, Mr. Cormier, in observing the widespread popularity of Scottish, Cape Breton and other Celtic music, seemed wistful about not having been able to devote more of his time to performing.

"You got the sense he wished he was younger, so that maybe he could've taken that other path and been a full-time professional musician," she says.

Mr. Cormier leaves his wife, Norma, their children, Ricky, Denise, Lonny, Michele, Alan and Andy, five grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews—one of whom, J. P. Cormier, became a successful musician in his own right and frequently collaborated with his uncle.

How Much Money Will You Need In Retirement?

Have you underestimated?

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Brian W. O'Sullivan is a registered representative of and offers securities, investment advisory and financial planning services through MML Investors Services, LLC, Member SIPC (www.sipc.org). Supervisory Address: 101 Federal Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02110. Tel: 617.439.4389

Happy St. Patrick's Day

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CD Reviews

BY SEAN SMITH

Various artists, “Songs of Separation” •
When future historians write about the 2014 Scottish Referendum, perhaps at least one will mention that Scotland’s failed attempt at independence from England inspired a memorable recording project, this collaboration between 10 female Scottish and English folk musicians that explores the many dimensions of the word “separation” – not only political, but also physical, emotional, philosophical, even ecological; for good or bad, intentionally or unconsciously, permanently or temporarily – and how our experiences with it are more the basis for union than division. The result is an album that succeeds on multiple levels – concept, realization, production and, most of all, passion and imagination.

“Songs of Separation” also represents a prolific coalition of generations, established performers alongside perhaps less familiar – at least in the US – but equally gifted ones: Jenny Hill (who conceived the idea), Karine Polwart, Eliza Carthy, Mary MacMaster, Hannah Read (one-time Boston resident and Berklee College of Music student), Kate Young, Hannah James, Hazel Askew, Jenn Butterworth and Rowan Rheingans. In various combinations, the 10 adapted and arranged material from traditional or literary sources – and, in a few cases, composed their own songs – in support of the album’s premise, as explained in the must-read liner notes.

Between them, the participants muster guitar, accordion, melodeon, harp, banjo, flute, harmonium,

percussion, plus a glorious assortment of fiddles, viola and string bass that provide a rich firmament for the musical and lyrical ideas to take root – one minute the persona of a ceilidh band, an Edwardian-era parlor quartet the next, and then a modern string ensemble. The creativity and variation in arrangements is marvelous to behold: “London Lights” is a Scottish traditional song sprung from music hall pathos – abandoned single mother desperately seeking redemption and/or shelter – but here is filtered through a doo-wop backing (Askew taking the lead), yet without irony or scorn; Rheingans’ “Soil and Soul,” which draws upon landscapes and legends, reclines in the embrace of guitar and swelling strings; the backing for “Sea King” – Young’s adaptation of a 19th-century Danish ballad poem of a girl-turned-mermaid – includes a mystical harp and an undercurrent of handclaps, percussion and rhythmic vocalisms.

Most of all, "Songs of Separation" is about diverse voices: Polwart's soulful eloquence on the traditional "The Echo Mocks the Corncrake"; Carthy's deep, earthy tones on her own "Cleaning the Stones," about the ephemerality of physical existence; Read's gossamer-soft gentleness on the Jacobite lament "It Was All for Our Rightful King"; and James, waifish but resolute on "The Poor Man's Lamentation," her setting of a broadside ballad that – as does "Echo Mocks the Corncrake" – bespeaks the disconnection between man and nature. All the voices combine, unaccompanied, on two astounding tracks, a Hebridean waulking song and a sea-prayer in the ancient Norn language from the Shetland Islands.

The album's coda is its penultimate track, "Over the Border," which uses that most sorrowful of Scottish songs, "The Flowers of the Forest," as the starting point for a meditation on the cost of war and conflict, with the original 18th-century lyrics by Jean Elliot (about the Battle of Flodden between Scotland and England) melding into "The Flowers of Knaresborough Forest," Frederic William Moorman's poem about the devastating effect of World War I on Yorkshire villages. And then the musicians burst into the jubilant march "Blue Bonnets Over the Border," which transitions into a set of verse by Askew pointing up how many of the "borders" separating us are created by the minds and will of man: "If the gates and the borders/and the states and their orders...were all wede away," the song proclaims, "Pull down the walls."

Even the album's recording location, the tiny island of Eigg in the Scottish Hebrides, plays a role here. The two a cappella tracks were recorded in caves, which lends them a particularly authentic gravitas, and scattered throughout are aural snippets of Eigg life: a thunderstorm, rainfall, and birdsong. The latter introduces "The Road Less Travelled," an appropriately benedictional climax to the album (based on the Robert Frost poem), with Rheingans, Young and Polwart encouraging us to consider the positive way forward that separation can foster – finding courage and strength to, as they softly put it, "Sing your own way home." [Read more about "Songs of Separation" at songsofseparation.co.uk.]

The Outside Track, “Light Up the Dark” • Time for the obligatory “can’t believe it’s been more than a decade” comment. Yes, this exciting pan-Celtic quintet, with an Irish-Scottish-Canadian/Cape Breton axis, has been around for about 11 years now. Since their last album, “Flash Company” (2012), the band has undergone a line-up change, with Vancouver (British Columbia) native Norah Rendell departing and Cork’s Teresa Horgan assuming the duties of lead vocals, flute and whistle. Scottish co-founders Fiona Black (accordion) and Allie Robertson (harp) continue to keep the band’s core solid, along with fiddler Mairi Rankin from Nova Scotia and guitarist Cillian O’Dalaigh (German-born but living in Ireland).

"Light Up the Dark" sees The Outside Track continuing to integrate a more contemporary, folk/rockish quality into their trad-based sound. There's no question of Horgan's ability as a singer, nor that her presence gives a markedly different character to the band's song selections—Rendell's voice had a delightfully sinewy delicacy to it, and she often contributed interesting rare finds from traditional sources. Four of the songs here are modern compositions: "Peter's Dream" by Prince Edward Island singer-songwriter Lennie Gallant; "Get Me Through December" by Nova Scotians Gordie Sampson and Fred Lavery; "Trouble in the Fields" by Nanci Griffith; and Irishman John Spillane's ebullient "Set You Free." The first three have a rural/blue-collar North Americana narrative and feel, while "Set You Free" is all about refusing to dwell on past mistakes, and Horgan shows herself to be more than versatile enough to provide the right touches of pop and folk-rock flavorings.

The remaining two are a couple of now-familiar traditional numbers, but with some classic Outside Track trappings. Horgan and O'Dalaigh give "Do You Love an Apple?" a torch-song, night-time jazz-café treatment, with Rankin adding some amusing flourishes. They also have a go at "Canadee-I-O" (for which Nic Jones should really be getting royalties or something), straightening it out into a moderate-tempo two-four, complete with a group harmony vocal interlude at the end.

One thing that most assuredly has not changed is the band's sheer musicality, especially in the instrumental sets. Arguably the best of them is the "Glorious, Eh?" medley (idiosyncratic set titles are another Outside Track hallmark), which begins with the sweetly uplifting "Carrousel Prime" (written by Swedish cittern player Ale Carr), growing ever more layered until it eases into a Cape Breton strathspey, "Editor's Favourite," and then roars off into two Irish reels, "The Eel in the Sink" and "Homage to Rooney." The "Drilling" set, which combines reels of Irish, Cape Breton and Scottish lineage, gets a jump-start from Rankin and Black, with Horgan's flute impressively taking the lead on the middle tune. On another track, Robertson gets a well-deserved cameo to kick off Niall Valley's "The Wrong House."

"Get Me Through December" displays yet another strength of the band, weaving a complementary tune into the fabric of a song: In this case, it's Catriona MacDonald's winsome "The Joy of It," a fascinating counterpoint to the song's melody, for which authors Sampson and Lavery used "Neil Gow's Lament for the Death of His Second Wife."

What might take getting used to for some listeners of "Light Up the Dark" (including this one) is the abundance of drums throughout the album. There's nothing wrong with the concept, per se, it's just that the two tracks on which the drums don't appear, notably "Glorious, Eh?", demonstrate how perfectly fine the band can do without them (Robertson's splendid playing also tends to get overshadowed by the full-bodied instrumentation).

Any qualms expressed above, however, ultimately should not obscure the point that The Outside Track is one talented, innovative group, who bring together folk and traditional music from Canada, Ireland and Scotland (plus elsewhere) in thoroughly entertaining fashion. [The Outside Track will perform at this year's "St. Patrick's Day Sojourn" show; see story elsewhere in this issue.]

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ON THE CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Distinguished visiting Irish/Celtic musicians such as Aoife Clancy, Michael Tubridy, James Keane, Phil Coulter and Andy Cooney will be at Eastern Massachusetts venues this month, as will a number of local performers, including Aine Minogue and Kieran Jordan. And what would the month of St. Patrick’s Day in Boston be without an appearance by locally grown Celtic rockers **Dropkick Murphys**? They, along with **The Narrows** and **Tiger Army**, will be at the House of Blues March 16-18 – see houseofblues.com/boston.

• The Berklee Performance Center will host “Celtic Crossings,” a rare dual performance by legends **Phil Coulter and Andy Cooney** on March 12 at 7 p.m. Coulter is a pianist, singer-songwriter, and composer associated with such hits as “The Town I Loved So Well,” “Puppet on a String,” “Saturday Night” and “My Boy,” which was performed by Elvis Presley. A native of Derry, Northern Ireland, he has recorded and produced numerous best-selling records, and in 2001, he was nominated for a Grammy Award in the New Age category for his album “Highland Cathedral.” Cooney’s professional career took off 30 years ago when he toured as the vocalist with bandleader Paddy Noonan. For more than two decades he has led a



Richard Wood and Gordon Belsher -- at the Canadian American Club of Massachusetts in Watertown on March 12.

highly successful solo career that has included collaborations with the likes of Ronan Tynan, Crystal Gayle and the RTE Orchestra, as well as with Coulter, who produced Cooney’s 2014 album “Bright Brand New Day.”

For information about this concert, see berklee.edu/events/celtic-crossings.

• The trio of **Makem & Spain**, representing a wealth of family music tradition, will be in concert on March 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Merrimack College’s Rogers Center for the Arts in North Andover. Rory Makem – the son of legendary Irish singer Tommy Makem – and brothers Mickey and Liam Spain, whose father also had a strong love of Irish music, are noted for their musicianship and harmony singing in their performances of classic Irish songs and ballads, as well as their own material. Tickets and other information available at merrimack.edu/live/events/49012-makem-and-spain.

• Two of Ireland’s most influential and active traditional musicians, Chieftains co-founder **Michael Tubridy** and accordionist **James Keane**, will be in concert at Boston College on March 22 as part of the Gaelic Roots series. Tubridy is widely known for his excellent flute, tin whistle, and concertina playing, and

(Continued on page 28)

Matthew Byrne: A fresh sound from Newfoundland

(Continued from page 18) had a huge repertoire that included songs from my grandmother, my great aunt, my great uncle. My mother recorded and wrote down songs from them and our neighbors, and I’m so grateful she did that.”

Form thus becomes content, he says: “These songs are windows into the lives of those people, and the time and place in which they lived. The ballads all tell a story, of course, in a way that’s unique. And so, by keeping these ballads alive, this way of telling a story becomes a story in and of itself.”

Not surprisingly, then, music was a facet of Byrne’s life from the beginning. “My brother and I were humming traditional melodies before we could talk,” he says. “It felt very natural for me to start playing the music when I was older, whether on my own or sometimes with my brother.”

This musical heritage helped Byrne find his voice as a singer, literally and metaphorically, early on. “For me, it’s always been that combination of a beautiful melody with a beautiful story – whether it’s about love or going to sea – which draws me to a song. I’ve never tried to pigeon-hole myself, and I inherited that from my mother: I’ve gone through her collection, and she would have some rare version of a ballad no one else had ever come across, but she’d also have something

like ‘The Wild Rover,’ which everyone knows. “I love being able to bring a song to an audience that perhaps is unfamiliar to them, and then go onto a song they’re more likely to know. By the same token, I’ll do a song that’s a couple of centuries old, but I also like singing a contemporary one like ‘True Love Knows No Reason’ [written by Norman Blake].”

Two defining experiences for Byrne came in a span of two years. In 2009, he became a member of The Dardanelles, a group of young Newfoundland musicians that set out to bring their native tradition to a wider audience. They played at major festivals around Canada, such as Winnipeg, Vancouver and Mariposa, and also did some tours in the US, UK, and Australia. For Byrne this was “a way to get on the radar” as a performer, and to get a taste of what a musical career might be like.

A year later, he released his first album, very aptly titled “Ballads.” “I had a collection of songs that I’d been singing since I was knee-high, and just felt I wanted to bring them into a studio and see what happened. Once I did, I realized that they were all ballads, and that just crystalized for me my feeling about the music and how I approached it.”

So four years later, when Byrne decided he wanted to do another

recording, he had a very useful point of reference. “With ‘Ballads,’ my mindset had been that I wanted to make an album as a personal achievement, and who cares where it goes from there,” he explained. “So there was desperately minimal marketing or publicity for it. With the second album, I knew I wanted to establish myself more as a guitarist, with a breadth of styles, different tunings, and so on, but also make a more concerted effort to market it and build an audience.”

“Hearts & Heroes” went on to earn “Traditional Album of the Year” at the 2015 Canadian Folk Music Awards and widespread praise in North America and abroad. Not a bad start to a full-time musical career. And Byrne looks forward to building on this promising beginning through his involvement in “St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn” and appearances at events in the northeast US such as the Mystic Seaport and Old Songs festivals.

“I’ll also probably take some time to conceptualize a new album,” he muses. “One thing I’ve found already is, it’s hard to make new music when you’re touring and performing a lot. That’s a balance I’ll have to find, but you know what? I’m glad I have the opportunity to do it.”

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ble bass) and Ewan MacPherson (guitar, mandolin, vocals), is renowned for its energetic performances and varied repertoire that includes not only Irish but Scottish, Breton, American and other influences.

• Boston-based Irish sean-nos dancer **Kieran Jordan** will hold an “Irish Dance Party” on March 23 to celebrate the launch of her new instructional DVD, “Musical Feet, Volume 2: The Next Step” [read a Boston Irish Reporter story about the DVD at <http://bit.ly/1NHSE9A>]. Jordan will be joined by special guests **Michael Tubridy** and **James Keane** – who are performing March 22 at Boston College’s Gaelic Roots series, as noted above – and **The Vox Hunters** (the duo of Armand Aromin and Benedict Gagliardi, who appear on the DVD), as well as dancer **Kevin Doyle** and bouzouki player and vocalist **John Coyne**, plus a multitude of dancers including her own dance company.

All Backroom shows start at 7:30 p.m. See burren.com/Backroom-Series.html for more information.

• **Kieran Jordan** also will present “Little Gifts,” a celebration of the creative experience in Irish dance and music, on March 11 and 12 at Green Street Studios in Cambridge. Jordan and her colleagues and former students Jackie O’Riley, Rebecca McGowan, Kristen Kelly, Hannah Pelton, Amanda Carey, Lauren Milord, and Samantha Jones will perform, with music by The Vox Hunters and John Coyne; there also will be an appearance by children of O’Riley Irish Dance. Ticket information/reservations and other details are available at littlegifts.brownpapertickets.com.

• The week of St. Patrick’s Day will be quite the eventful one for The Burren’s owners and guiding spirits, **Tommy Mc-**

Carthy and Louise Costello, who are celebrating the pub’s 20th anniversary. On March 16, and 18-20, McCarthy will debut “Another Fiddler of Inishbofin,” the sequel to his 2013 play “The Fiddlers of Inishbofin.” This romantic comedy, performed by Burren staff along with McCarthy and Costello, has been developed by playwright Peter Holm and introduces new music and musicians to continue the story of the goings-on – musical and otherwise – on the isle of Inishbofin. Proceeds from the show will go to the Cancer Care Leahy Clinic. For tickets, go to brownpapertickets.com/event/2508175. [Read the *Boston Irish Reporter* story on “The Fiddlers of Inishbofin” at <http://bit.ly/219tfPy>.]

McCarthy and Costello also will hold their annual St. Patrick’s Day party at The Burren on March 17, during which they will be joined by **Robert Elliot** and **Seamus Noonan**, as well as other special guests, for traditional tunes, ballads, stories and dancing. There will be four shows, at 1, 3, 5 and 7 p.m., all of which will include a traditional Irish meal of corned beef and cabbage or Guinness beef stew with soda bread (a vegetarian option is also available), followed by Burren Shamrock Cake. For reservations, go to brownpapertickets.com/event/2501330.

• New England fiddler-vocalist **Lissa Schneckenburger** and husband **Corey DiMario** (double bass, tenor guitar) will come to Harvard Square’s Club Passim on March 16 at 8 p.m. Schneckenburger, who recorded a companion set of CDs of New England traditional songs and contra dance music, has played with fiddle trio Halali and the Childsplay ensemble, while DiMario is a member of the groundbreaking bluegrass/old-timey group Crooked Still.



Makem & Spain -- at Merrimack College on March 4.

Ticket information is at passim.org/club/lissa-schneckenburger-corey-dimario.

• The duo of **Richard Wood** and **Gordon Belsher** will be at the Canadian American Club of Massachusetts in Watertown on March 12 at 8 p.m. for a concert and dance. Wood is an award-winning Prince Edward Island fiddler noted for melding his traditional style with rock-and-roll energy, and his appearances with The Chieftains, Shania Twain, and former “Riverdance” star Jean Butler, among others; Belsher has featured his guitar, mandola, bodhran and vocals on two CDs, both nominated for the “Roots/Traditional Solo Recording of the Year” category of the East Coast Music Awards.

See canadianamericanclub.com for more details.

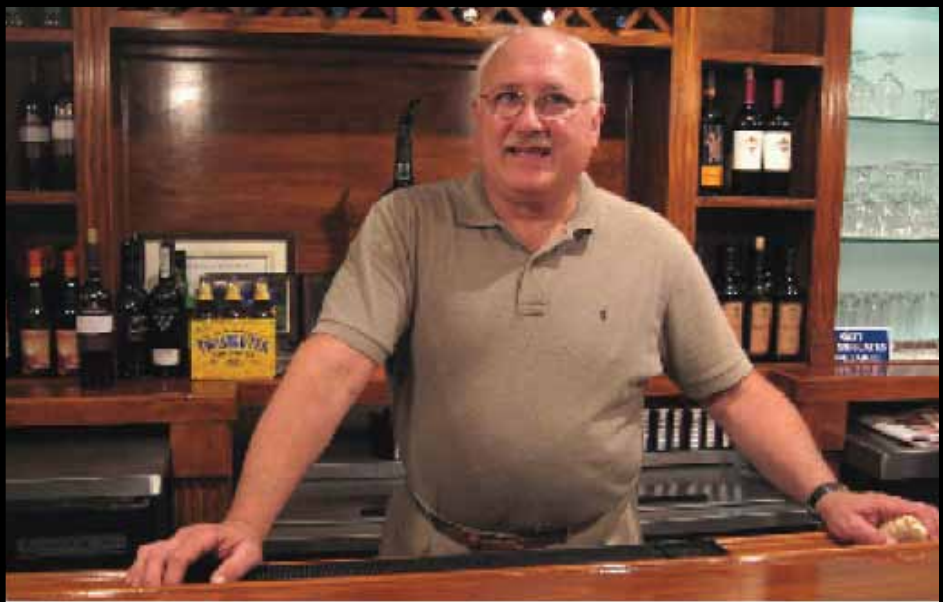
• On March 26, notlob Music will present **Trí Scéalta** (Irish

Gaelic for “three stories”), the trio of **Mai Hernon**, **Nancy Hewitt** and **Kyle Carey**, at the Armory Café in Somerville. Hernon is a traditional singer from the northwest of Ireland who has performed in numerous Irish/Celtic festivals, including last fall’s Dorchester Irish Heritage Festival; Hewitt, a Boston-based singer-songwriter, has been greatly influenced by Irish music and songs; Carey, who lived in Boston for a couple of years, studied Scottish Gaelic and uses many traditional themes and influences in her original songs. The trio combines ancient sounds of Ireland and Scotland with more modern music from America. See notlobmusic.blogspot.com for information and reservations.

• Boston-area Irish trio **Ceol Corvus** will play a free concert on March 5 at 3 p.m. in the Belmont Public Library Assembly Room.

The band (**Emily Peterson**, concertina and whistle; **Steve Levy**, banjo, mandolin, bouzouki and vocals; **Sean Smith**, vocals, guitar, bouzouki and bodhran) has performed at various local festivals and concerts, including BCMFest, the Club Passim Campfire Festival and Irish Cultural Centre Boston Irish Festival. See belmont.lib.ma.us.

• **Emmet Cahill**, an award-winning 25-year-old Irish tenor who performed with the Irish phenomenon Celtic Thunder, has embarked on a solo career. He will be performing at the Irish Social Club of Boston on Fri., March 18, at 8 p.m. Last year, he performed in sold-out shows in over 30 cities across the United States and he expects 2016 will be his “busiest and most exciting year yet” with touring and the release of his official debut album.



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SPECIAL TO THE BIR
It's March and Ireland is alive and lively after a cold and stormy winter. It is, of course, St. Patrick's time to shine and a month when everyone is Irish, regardless of heritage.
ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL

From March 17th to the 20th, Dublin celebrates Ireland's main man with the annual St. Patrick's Festival, conceived and planned 21 years ago by the Irish government "to develop a major annual international festival around the national holiday over which the 'owners' of the festival, the Irish people, would stand proud. It sets out to reflect the talents and achievements of Irish people on many national and world stages."

The first festival happened a year later – on March 17, 1996 - and lasted for just one day and night. But it was so much fun and so well received that it has since grown into a four- or five-day event in and around Dublin City Center. There's an outstanding parade on the 17th that draws marchers from around the world. The festivities also include a fun fair, walking tours, street theatre, music, dance and more.

From March 16 to 19, an indoor Irish Craft Beer and Whiskey Village will showcase the very latest beer, cider, and whiskey offerings as well as artisan food and entertainment.

Lots of different types of events are planned, including the Dublin Bay Prawn Festival in Howth from the 18th to the 20th. Howth's restaurants, bars, and cafes will offer prawn specialties and the Festival Food Village will have a selection of Dublin Bay Prawn dishes.

This is a wide-ranging festival that definitely has something for everyone. For more information, check out stpatricksfestival.ie. And don't forget that no matter where you go in Ireland this month, there will no doubt be some sort of celebration honoring St. Patrick. So be sure to check with the tourist board wherever you are to get dates and details.

THE RISING

There's a lot to do in Dublin and Ireland in



Kylemore Abbey in Connemara, formerly a girls' school that closed in 2010, signed an agreement last year with the Catholic University of Notre Dame in Indiana, for mutual cooperation on an educational mission at Kylemore.

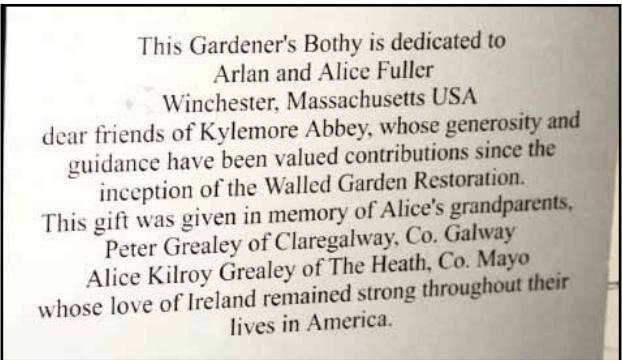
addition to the St. Patrick's festivities, including events and exhibits commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising of 1916.

Among the commemorative events is an exhibit called "Rising" at the National Photographic Archive in Meeting House Square, Temple Bar. This is the National Library of Ireland's flagship exhibit for the centennial and showcases the library's extensive collection of images of events and locations and the men and women of the Rising during Easter Week 1916. See the library's website, nli.ie for more details.

For other activities, exhibits, commemorations, and attractions in Dublin, visit Dublin.com or Ireland.com.

LONGUEVILLE HOUSE

Longueville, near Mallow, Co. Cork – will celebrate St. Patrick with a "Green with Envy" weekend from March 14-16. Longueville belongs to an accommodation group called The Great Fishing Houses of Ireland. Included in these properties are hotels, country houses, B&Bs, and guest houses that have met stringent standards, have the premises, fly fishing, facilities, and staff to offer a complete angler's holiday.



Americans have made huge contributions to Kylemore Abbey in Connemara over the years including Arlan and Alice Fuller of Winchester, MA, who are recognized with this plaque in the gardener's bothy.

At Longueville, guests are invited to walk the 500-acre estate and have the family's friendly dogs tag along. There is also clay pigeon shooting, fly-fishing on the Blackwater River that runs through the property, and more. After your day out, you can book a massage in your room, enjoy afternoon tea, have a delicious meal crafted from locally sourced ingredients, and savor an after-dinner taste of Longueville House Craft Cider or Apple Brandy. A traditional Irish music session is scheduled for Saturday night, March 16, during the "Green with Envy" weekend.

For more information, visit longuevillehouse.ie or email info@longuevillehouse.ie

DONKEY SANCTUARY

If you book a night or weekend at Longueville House, you'll be very near one of my favorite Irish attractions, the Donkey Sanctuary in Liscarroll, Mallow, Co. Cork. It's the most amazing facility and has rescued nearly 5,000 donkeys since it was founded in 1987. The Sanctuary also re-homes donkeys; it had 340 rehomed around Ireland as of December and was looking for homeowners who could take a pair to open up space at the Sanctuary for more rescues.

Paddy Barrett, his father, and his grandfather all worked over many years to rescue, help, and improve conditions for Ireland's often forgotten donkeys and mules. Paddy, whom we met at the Sanctuary several times, retired in 2014 after 27

years of service. We wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Visiting the Sanctuary is great fun and an interesting outing. There are lots of walking paths that meander past fields of donkeys, and it's a great place to take kids as well as adults. To learn more about the Sanctuary's wonderful work, hours, and more, visit thedonkeysanctuary.ie.

KYLEMORE ABBEY

Ireland is about six weeks ahead of us weather-wise so if you fly from Boston in the flurry of a March snowstorm, you'll land at Shannon or Dublin to the joys of green grass, spring daffodils, tulips, and such. Those are just a few things that make Ireland so appealing in the spring.

If you enjoy flowers and gardens, there are many magnificent private gardens all over Ireland that are open seasonally to the public. One of our favorites is the beautifully restored six-acre Victorian walled garden at Kylemore Abbey in Connemara.

A bit of background: Benedictine nuns, who operated an internationally renowned girls' boarding school in Ypres, Belgium, fled to Ireland when their abbey was destroyed during WWI. They settled at Kylemore nearly 100

years ago, reopened their boarding school, and established day schooling for local girls. The school closed in 2010, but Kylemore is still going strong, albeit in a slightly different direction, and still led by this monastic community of nuns.

The entire property has been refurbished and extended over the years and is now deservedly the biggest tourist attraction on the West Coast along the Wild Atlantic Way. Visitors of all ages can tour the castle and grounds, visit the outstanding craft and gift shop, and have tea or lunch in the café or tearoom.

The Victorian walled garden, glasshouses, and other structures had been neglected by several previous owners over the years and had fallen into total disrepair. In fact, the glasshouses had actually collapsed and only brick foundations remained. But in 1996, the Benedictine community began restoration thanks to grants, loans, and donor generosity. Several glasshouses have been rebuilt along with the head gardener's house and workman's bothy. The garden reopened in 1999 and has since won awards and much praise.

Kylemore, under the leadership of Abbess Sr. Maire Hickey OSB, has completed a monastic church at the visitor center, signed an agreement with the University of Notre Dame for construction of an educational excellence center that will be located at Kylemore, and is currently planning a new monastery for the nuns. The vision for the future, according to the website, "is of Kylemore as an educational center, putting its rich resources at the service of the Church and society."

There's a lot going on at Kylemore and a visit there is highly recommended. For more information, visit kylemoreabbey.com.

VISITING

We hope that wherever you go in Ireland and whatever you choose to do there, you will have the trip of a lifetime. Be sure to check online for travel deals with Aer Lingus and other carriers that serve the Emerald Isle. And have a wonderful St. Patrick's Day.



In the magnificent garden at Kylemore Abbey in Connemara.



A collection of tools used over the centuries is on display at Kylemore Abbey in Connemara.
Judy Enright photos

Another Fiddler of Trishbofin

Scandalous Romantic Comedy Sequel



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ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY, TAKE TIME TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE



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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

Who was St. Patrick?

When St. Patrick set foot in Ireland in the 5th century AD, he faced an uncertain future in a little-known country. Warring Celts were scattered in tribal groups across the island, ruled with iron might by five provincial kings. Eerie dolmen monuments and ancient ruins dominated the landscape. Even the Roman conquerors of Britain had not ventured this far – apart perhaps from the odd traveler or adventurer.

Against this backdrop, St. Patrick’s phenomenal success as a Christian missionary seems all the more incredible. By the end of the 15th century, Ireland had become a Christian nation.

Perhaps Patrick’s elevation into sainthood was therefore inevitable. But his prominence in the traditions and legends of the country says something of the reverence, awe and affection in which he has been held in the intervening centuries and which are rekindled in the Irish every St. Patrick’s Day.

The Feast of St. Patrick is now celebrated in nearly every country throughout the world where Irish descendants or influence have continued to reinforce is popularity. Among the countries with centuries-old traditions of celebrating St. Patrick’s Day were obviously the United States, Canada and Australia, but less obviously France and Argentina and even the Caribbean island of Montserrat. Nowadays it is also celebrated in countries such as Russia and Japan.

In Britain - Ireland’s closest neighbor and its biggest visitor market - the Trojan efforts of a large population of Irish descent have established March 17 as a day of celebration for British and Irish alike.

Who was St. Patrick? The man largely responsible for converting Ireland to Christianity over nearly 30 years, up to the year 462 AD or thereabouts - even if the work had been started by other missionaries before him.

Was he real then? Most definitely, even if the facts about his life have been freely mingled over the centuries with legend and make-believe, his existence is authentic. A written document, his Confession, is tangible evidence of his authenticity.

Where did he come from? An important thing to remember about Patrick is that he was not Irish. In fact he was what nowadays at least would be called British, even if he was of Roman parentage.

Where in Britain did he originate? To be honest, nobody knows. Patrick himself refers in his writings to his father owning a holding near the village of Bannavem Taberniae, but there is no such name on any map of Roman Britain. The date of his birth is commonly given as circa 389 AD.

How did he first arrive in Ireland? As a 16 year old named Succat, he was captured in a raid by the Irish King, Niall of the Nine Hostages, and sold into slavery, working as a herdsman for six years on Slemish Mountain in County Antrim. Irish pirate chieftains were given to raiding the western coast of Britain in those days. Hence, it has traditionally been assumed that Patrick originally came from South Wales, probably along the Severn Valley, which could also mean that he came from Gloucestershire. Modern scholars however, are more inclined to think of Strathclyde as being more likely.

How was that slave turned into a missionary? After six years, Patrick managed to escape from his master, Milchu -



legend has it that he was told of a waiting ship in a dream - and made his way back to Britain. According to Patrick, he had another dream of monumental importance. In it, The Voice of Ireland called to him to return to that country as a Christian missionary. As a result, he went to France, some say, studied to become a Christian and a missionary at the monastery of Auxerre, near Paris, and later was ordained a priest. In 432 AD, now a bishop named Patricius, he was sent by the Pope to Ireland to take up where a previous missionary Bishop, Palladius, had left off.

How successful was he? Phenomenally so, if some are to be believed. By some accounts, he failed to convert King Laoghaire (pronounced Leary), High King of Ireland and, by an odd coincidence, the son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, who had originally captured him. Other accounts say that he succeeded. Crucially, however, he won the King’s permission to continue his work in Ireland. Some historians, however, are inclined to believe that the thrust of his efforts was confined to Ulster, concentrating on Downpatrick, by then the seat of the Ulster Kings. Whatever the truth of that, it appears that over two to three decades from 432 AD, either he or his disciples travelled to just about every corner of Ireland. And his legacy lived on. By the end of the 5th century, Ireland was a Christian nation.

When did he die? There is some doubt about this too. Some accounts say Patrick lived to be all of 120 years of age! Most, however,

point to him dying on March 17 about the year 461 AD at Saul, County Down, at a church built on land given to him by Dichu, a local chieftain, who was one of his converts. The Annals of Ulster also mention him dying in 491 AD. This has given rise to the so-called “two Patricks” theory, providing food for endless speculation by scholars. By the end of the 7th century a single Patrick had already become a legendary figure.

Where is he buried? A tombstone in the grounds of Down Cathedral in Downpatrick is supposed to mark his grave. But there are serious doubts. Patrick is almost certainly buried somewhere in County Down but it is thought that the Norman nobleman John De Courcy may not so easily have found the remains almost seven centuries after Patrick’s death. De Courcy claimed to have found them and brought them to the seat of his stronghold. The claim was politically convenient to say the least in 12th century Ireland as the Normans bade to consolidate their power.

Legends

Separating fact from fiction in the story of St. Patrick can sometimes be tricky. But the legends more often than not speak for themselves.

St. Patrick is supposed to have driven the snakes from Ireland. Certainly, there are no snakes in Ireland. But neither are there any in New Zealand and there is no record of St. Patrick ever having visited there! Moreover the Graeco-Roman writer Solinus recorded the fact that Ireland was snake-free a good

two hundred years before St. Patrick was born! The story that Patrick banished the snakes seems quite simply to have been invented in the 12th century by a Northumbrian monk named Jocelyn, whom the wife of the Norman John De Courcy brought to her husband’s court in Downpatrick.

...

One legend has it that Patrick, when he escaped from his youthful slavery in Ireland, went straight to France. Deciding to visit his uncle in Tours, he had to cross the River Loire. He had no obvious means of doing so, but he found that his cape was made an admirable raft. On reaching the other side, he hung his cape out to dry upon a hawthorn bush. Despite it being the middle of winter, the bush immediately burst into bloom. Fact: to this day, the hawthorn blooms in winter in the Loire Valley and St. Patrick has two feast days there - one on March 17 and the other on Christmas Day.

...

Patrick, despite his saintliness, was not averse to bouts of temper, it seems. After a greedy man once denied him the use of a field to rest and graze his oxen, Patrick is said to have cursed the field, prophesying that nothing would grow on it from then on. Sure enough, that very day, the field was overrun by the sea and remained sandy and barren for evermore.

...

A blind man once came to Patrick seeking a cure. As he approached, he stumbled several times and fell over and was duly laughed at by one of Patrick’s

companions. The blind man was cured. The companion, however, was blinded.

...

Before he died, an angel told Patrick that he should have two untamed oxen yoked to his funeral cart and that they should be left to decide where he should be buried. With great political foresight, the oxen chose Downpatrick.

On the day that Patrick died, night never fell in Ulster nor did it for a further 12 days.

‘The Shamrock’

The shamrock is popularly identified with Ireland. That custom owes its origins to St. Patrick.

What is a shamrock? The reality is that shamrock is a form of clover - Trifolium repens, Trifolium pratense or more likely Trifolium dubium, to give its botanical pedigree - and only looks different from what one might expect because it is picked so early in spring. It is not unique to Ireland. Trifolium dubium is found from Scandinavia to the Caucasus and even in America

What’s the connection with St. Patrick? Legend has it that in attempting to explain the three-in-one principle of the Holy Trinity to the pagan King Laoghaire (pronounced Leary), St. Patrick found the three-leafed shamrock a convenient teaching aid. Four-leafed shamrocks obviously are discounted. They cause severe theological problems!

What is meant by “drowning the shamrock”? The answer seems fairly obvious - a few drinks on St. Patrick’s Day by way of celebration. What is not so obvious is that this is a custom of British rather than Irish origin! Presumably for morale purposes, from at least the middle of the 18th century, an extra ration of grog was provided by English army commanders to Irish troops on March 17. Queen Victoria in 1900 ordered that soldiers in Irish regiments should wear shamrock on St. Patrick’s Day in memory of fellow Irishmen killed in the Boer War. Shamrock worn as a symbol of remembrance thus predates the red poppy of Flanders fields.

Sites Associated with Saint Patrick

Nowhere is more closely associated with the Apostle of Ireland than Downpatrick, the ancient capital of the kingdom of Lecale. Here in the leafy graveyard of Down Cathedral, with the Mountains of Mourne as a backdrop, lie the mortal remains of St. Patrick.

A large simple granite slab marks the grave where he takes his eternal rest alongside Ireland’s other two patron saints, Brigid and Colmcille, reputedly buried here as well. It would be fair to say that rival claims for St. Patrick’s last resting place do exist - bones of contention as it were. Apart from claiming Patrick’s grave, Down Cathedral has had a history for which the word ‘chequered’ barely does justice. Destroyed by an earthquake, pillaged by the Danes, burnt by the Scots, destroyed again by the English, it then lay in ruins for the best part of 200 years.

Today it is hard to imagine a more peaceful place, with its views across the river Quoile to the ancient Cistercian Abbey of Inch. About a mile north-east of Downpatrick, at the mouth of the Slaney River (now called Fiddler’s Burn), is the village of Saul where St. Patrick began his mission to Ireland circa AD 432, and where he died.

Information courtesy Tourism Ireland.

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

• The Charitable Irish Society will hold its 279th Annual St. Patrick Day Dinner on March 17 at the Omni Parker House Hotel in Boston. The occasion will mark a return for the Society to this historic hotel, an appropriate way to mark the centenary of the Easter Rising of 1916 and the many Charitable Irish Society events held at this venue in the past. The featured speaker, Diarmaid Ferriter, Professor of Modern History at University College, Dublin, will discuss the meaning and legacy of the Rising. Professor Ferriter is the author of five books on modern Irish history, including his most recent, "A Nation and Not a Rabble: The Irish Revolution 1913-1923." He is a frequent commentator on Irish television and radio and writes a weekly column for The Irish Times.

• Old Sturbridge Village will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with an Irish-themed weekend of song, stories and history during its Celtic Celebration weekend March 12-13, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Daytime activities include Irish music, step dancing, stories and more. The Irish band Full Gael will give a concert at 7 p.m. on Sat., March 12 (Not included with OSV daytime admission; concert tickets are \$12 per person; \$10 for Old Sturbridge Village members). Full details of the weekend's many activities and performances are available at osv.org.

• March 6 will be Irish Family History Day all day. NEHGS & the Ulster Historical Foundation present a day of lectures, discussion, and more, exploring your Irish heritage. At the Courtyard Marriott Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston. For registration information: shop.americanancestors.org.

• Beidh Failte Romhat Anseo! You will be welcomed at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury on Sun., April 10, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. The event will include speeches, including the Proclamation, and live Irish music. For more, call 857-719-6979.

Save the Date!



The Eire Society of Boston

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

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

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

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



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



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The 2016 IN/Boston
St. Patrick's Day Party
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We are delighted to announce our Annual St. Patrick's Day party, which is fast coming upon us! This much anticipated members-only event will be held on **Friday March 18th, at Fenway Park!** As always, there will be Irish music, dancing and cheer, special guests, and more! We will also host an open bar and hors d'oeuvres throughout the evening. Members are welcome to purchase one additional ticket for a guest.

If you are not a member, then sign-up before tickets sell out.

Become a member now
irishnetworkboston.net/membership/

About Irish Network Boston

Irish Network Boston (IN Boston) is a business, cultural and social network with membership encompassing Irish-born, Irish-Americans, and friends of Ireland in the Boston area – the capital of Irish America. IN Boston is part of a national network in the United States of Irish networks from across the country under the Irish Network USA (IN USA) umbrella



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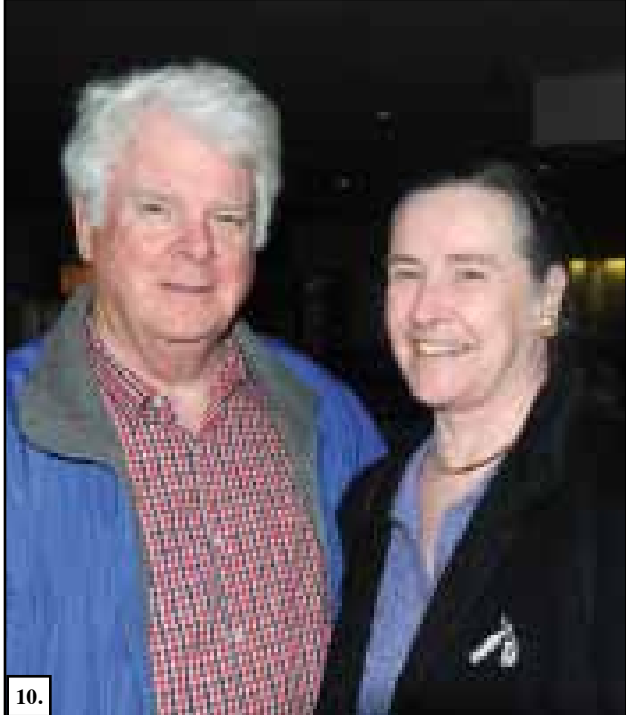


BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett
Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The Irish Social Club in West Roxbury hosted a lecture and reading by Boston author Ronan Noone on Sunday, February 21, The program was jointly hosted by the Eire Society of Boston. The ISC continues to host programs and Sunday evening dances as part of its mission to promote Irish culture in the city.

Pictured are: 1.) Paul Doyle, Weymouth; Ronan Noone, Weymouth; Tom Carty, Dedham, President, Eire Society. 2.) Ronan Noone, Weymouth; 3.) Mary Mulvy Jacobson, West Roxbury; 4.) Catherine O'Neill, Dorchester; Bill and Cathy Smith, West Roxbury; 5.) Dave and Mary Barrett, Stow; 6.) Paul Doyle, Weymouth, John McGuire, Roslindale; 7.) Bill Fitzgerald, Milton; Ann Doherty, Milton; 8.) Michael and Susan Donlan, West Roxbury; 9.) Mary MacMillan, Newton Lower Falls; Robin Tagliaferro, Providence, RI; 10.) Bill and Celia Sheehan, West Roxbury.



The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

The word for “Saint” in Irish” is Naomh /neev/. Therefore, I can greet you with, “Happy Saint Patrick’s Day!”, -- “Day Happy St. Patrick”, **Là sona Naomh Pádraig!**

Over the past several months we have been reviewing the Irish “**irregular verbs**” of which there are only eleven plus the **copula**, “joining” verb, **Is**. Some are “**irregular**” in all three tenses we have had so far – **definite past**, **present**, and **future** (**bi** “be” and **abair**, “talk”). Others are “**irregular**” in only one tense, usually the **definite past** (**cluín/clois**, “hear”). One is truly useful for beginners in only one form, **beir** “born”, **rugadh** /ROOK-uh/ or rug /rook/ as in the queries, “Where were you born?” or “When were you born?”

So far you have had these **verbs** – and I hope that you are keeping the **Irish Columns** for reference. Since last fall we have studied the **copula**, **Is**, and **abair** “speak” or “talk”, **beir** “born”, **bi** “be”, **cluín** or **clois** “hear”, **feic** “see”, and **déan** “do” or “make”.

I already made the point that many younger native speakers are doing away with the endings **-im** “I” and **-mar** and **-mid** “we” following the examples of all the other forms that use the subject pronouns, **Déarfaidh mé** “I will speak” but also **Déarfaidh muid** “We will speak” in place of **Déarfaimid**, “We will speak”.

The most complicated of these so far has been **déan**, not because its forms are complicated but because of all the many idioms or uses that may be made from it.

Rinne an léine as lion; “The shirt was made of linen.”

English **verbal nouns** and **adjectives**– “I was *reading*” or “*reading glasses*” – words we used to call “gerunds” and “participles” always end in **-ing**. Not so in Irish where each one must be learned separately. **Abair**, for example, has a **verbal noun** in **ra** “saying” while **déan** is **déanamh**, “doing” or “making”.

Here, again, are the **verbal nouns** for the Irish **irregular verbs** that you have had so far. Understand that there is no **verbal noun** for the two verbs “be”, **Bi** and **Is**. **Bi**, of course, is used to make the “progressive”, “going on” while something else is happening as in, “She was talking when Bill dropped dead.”

abair /AH-puhr/ beir /beyr/ cluín /kloon/	“speak, say” “born,laying” “hear, listen”	rá /rah/ breith /brey/ cluistin /KLOOSH-cheen/	Bhí sí ag rá nuair ... “She was talking when ...” Tá an cearc ag breith an ugh. “The hen is laying the egg.” Tá an ngasur ag cluistin do dhuine. “The boy is listening to a man.” Tá Nóra ag déanamh tae. “Nora is preparing tea.” Bhí Séan ag feiceáil i rith an bpoill nuair ... “Sean was looking through the keyhole when..”
dean /jen/ feic /fehkh/	“do, make” “see, look”	déanamh /JEN-uhv/ feiceáil /FEHK-uhl/	

The **irregular verb** we will have next is **faigh** “get, find”, pronounced /faah/. It is irregular in the **definite past** and **future tenses**, perfectly regular in the present tense – if one remembers to insert a “silent **-e**” to keep the rule that a **consonant** must be bracketed by **vowels** of a similar quality even if one is not pronounced. Fne old rule of Irish, Broad to broad and slender to slender.”

Faigh “get, find”, pronounced /faa/.
Definite past tense: **Fuair** /FOO-uhr/ **mé, tú, sé, sí, sibh**, and **siad** but **fuaireamar** “we”.
Present tense: **Faighim, faigheann tú, sé, sí, sibh, siad** and **faighimid** “we”.
Future tense: **Gheobhaidh mé, tú, sé, sí, sibh**, and **siad** but **gheobhaimid**, “we”.
Gheobhaidh looks like a real “tongue twister” but it is not as difficult as it looks.
Gheobh is /gyau/ and **-aidh** is /ee/ so **gheobhaidh** is /GYAU-ee/. There is an alternate pronunciation where **gheobh** is /gyohf/ but we will stick with the /gyau/ pronunciation.
The **verbal noun** for **faigh** is **fail**, pronounced /fahl/, almost like the English word “fall”.

Some of the uses of **faigh** include:
fail amach faoi rud X “to find out about X”
scéala a fháil “to get news”
bás a fháil “to die”
níl fail air “he is unavailable”

You will get an opportunity to practice these in future columns.



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4 Friday	Battle of the Banshees Youth Boxing Matches with Gentlemen’s Gym, TNT Boxing, Grealish Boxing Club and South Shore Boxing Club. 7 pm. Donations accepted at the door.	13 Sunday	the luncheon, please contact Peggy Cloherty by March 7 at 617-734-7472. Tickets are \$30.
5 Saturday	Emmett O’Hanlon from Celtic Thunder at the Irish Social Club! For tickets please visit http://emmettohanlon.ticketleap.com/emmett-ohanlon-live-at-boston-irish-social-club/ Tickets can also be purchased at the door. 7pm.	17 Thursday	Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton
6 Sunday	Silver Spears	18 Friday	Happy St. Patrick’s Day! Noel Henry’s Irish Show Band. Admission \$20. Doors open at 7 pm.
11 Friday	Pub Night with the Fenian Sons	20 Sunday	Irish Tenor Emmet Cahill from Celtic Thunder. Named Tenor of the Year by the Irish Music Association. Tickets are \$30. To purchase tickets or for more information, please visit www.emmetcahill.com
12 Saturday	Co. Roscommon Association Annual St. Patrick’s Dinner at the Irish Social Club. Music by Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton. Tickets are only \$40 and this event will sell out. No tickets sold at the door. For more information, call Richie Gormley at 617- 327-7777.	26 Saturday	Mossie Coughlin
13 Sunday	Ardteanga Dhuchais I mBoston catered. St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon at the Iris Social Club after Gaelic Mass at the SMA Fathers in Dedham, which begins at 10 am. Choice of chicken or corned beef. If you plan to attend	27 Sunday	Comedy Night hosted by Joe Finn: Lenny Clark, Artie Januario the Pharmacist, Graig Murphy, and John Cotter. Tickets-\$25. Doors open at 7 pm and show starts at 8 pm. Call Joe Finn at 617-755-3386 for more information.
		31 Thursday	Fintan Stanley
		1 Friday	Members Meeting at 7:30 pm. Please bring your membership card for admittance.
			APRIL
			Audrey’s Race to end Alzheimer’s. Audrey is running the Boston Marathon in honor and memory of her grandmother, Kay McIntyre.

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