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A towering, saintly presence on Croagh Patrick, Co. Mayo



Photo courtesy Tourism Ireland

Liz Carroll, fiddle in hand, is ready for St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Make no mistake, fiddler Liz Carroll is proud to have grown up in Chicago, and has always enjoyed playing in and around her hometown. But she's more than happy for the opportunity to spend time in Boston.

"When people ask me, 'Where are the best sessions?' I answer, 'Well, Chicago – but oh, those sessions in Boston...,'" laughs Carroll, whose past performances in the Boston area include the ICONS Festival, The Burren, and "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn." She adds, "It's such a vibrant scene. There are so many wonderful young musicians who come to the area – I think Berklee College of Music has a lot to do with



Liz Carroll and Nic Gareiss fiddle and dance at "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn" performance at the Cutler Majestic Theatre on Dec. 9, 2009. Courtesy WGBH

that – and bring a lot of exciting, fresh perspectives with them. But the 'old guard' – like the local Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann chapter – has always

done such a great job in keeping the music alive and well."

Carroll will return to the area this month for the 12th annual "A St.

Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn" production, which takes place March 15-18 with shows at the Hanover Theatre in Worcester, Cabot Theatre in Beverly, and the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center in New Bedford, before closing out with matinee and evening performances in Sanders Theatre on the Harvard University campus.

The 2017 "A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn" cast also includes Irish singer Karan Casey and her band, local fiddle-harp duo Jenna Moynihan and Mairi Chaimbeul, and guitarist-singer Keith Murphy, the show's music director. Siblings Ruby and Sam Miller from Rhode Island will be the featured dancers.

(Continued on page 22)

Irish minister for youth coming to Boston for the month's festivities

Dr. Katherine Zappone, Ireland's Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, will represent the Irish government in Boston this month, continuing the long tradition of a high Irish government official coming to the United States during the festive St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

During her visit, the minister will be an honored guest at several local celebratory events, including the March 15 Irish Network/Boston reception at Fenway Park, the Irish American Partnership breakfast March 17 breakfast at Boston's Seaport Hotel, and state Sen. Linda Dorcea Forry's political breakfast March 19 at the Boston Convention Center.

The American-born Minister is a native of Seattle, Washington, and holds a PhD from Boston College. She was appointed to her post last year. She was nominated to the 24th Seanad Éireann by Taoiseach Enda Kenny in 2011, and was elected to Dail Éireann for the Dublin South West Constituency last February 2016.

A former Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights Commission (2002-2012) and a former CEO of the National Women's Council of Ireland, she has spent her life campaigning on social justice issues working to ensure that everyone is treated equally with fairness and justice.



Katherine Zappone, heads up Ireland's Office of Children and Youth Affairs.

A month of parades aplenty (Page 3); Music and dance events abound (Pages 18, 19)



I work in Hollywood but I keep my money
in my hometown-Kevin Chapman

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Looking ahead: the March parades

Sunday, the 19th at 1 p.m. – Boston’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade will kick off from Broadway Station in South Boston. Check out southbostonparade.org for information regarding the history of the parade, the parade route, parking restrictions, and how to get there.

Saturday, the 4th at 11 a.m. – Cape Cod – Yarmouth. March starts at the intersection of Long Pond Drive and Route 28 in South Yarmouth. Info: 508-362-7239, capecodst-patsparade.com

Saturday, the 11th at 1 p.m. – City of Lawrence. Parade starts at Essex / Amesbury Street.

Saturday, the 11th at 11 a.m. – Rain or Shine, 61st Annual Newport St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Stars at Newport City Hall. Info: discovernewport.org; NewportIrish.com

Sunday, the 12th at noon – City of Worcester. Starts at Park Avenue. Info: 508-753-7197.

Sunday, the 19th at 1 p.m. – Town of Abington. Starts at St. Patrick’s Square, Abington Center. Info: 781-878-1570; 781-878-7785.

Sunday, the 19th at noon – City of Holyoke. Starts in downtown Holyoke. Info: 413-533-1700; holyokestpatricksparade.com.

Sunday, the 19th at 1 p.m. – Town of Scituate. Starts at Gate Middle School, First Parish Road. Info: 781-545-6671; scituatechamber.org.

Information courtesy of irishmassachusetts.com and Boston Irish Tourism.

Bruins to salute Irish

The Boston Bruins will host the team’s first-ever Irish Heritage Night when they host the Detroit Red Wings at TD Garden on March 8. John McDermott, the Scottish-Canadian tenor who is known for his renditions of “Danny Boy” and “Loch Lomond,” will be performing the national anthem.

There will also be performances from Irish step dancers and the selling of Irish-themed hockey pucks, among other events and merchandise to commemorate both the approaching St. Patrick’s Day and the strong Irish heritage in the New England area.

Kerry Collins, the Director of Community Relations for the Boston Bruins, said the Bruins are excited to join with other Boston teams like the Red Sox and Celtics to honor the strong Irish community.

“This is the first time we’ve hosted an Irish heritage night, and we’re excited to incorporate it into the Bruins game,” said Collins.

Sen. Forry hosts pre-parade breakfast on March 19

By **BILL FORRY**
EDITOR

State Sen. Linda Dorcea Forry will host the traditional St. Patrick’s Day breakfast at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center on Sun., March 19. 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.

It is the fourth consecutive year that Sen. Forry—elected in 2013—will host the event, which features a line-up of state elected officials, including US Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, Gov. Charlie Baker, Mayor Martin Walsh, Congressman Stephen F. Lynch, and Rep. Nick Collins, among many others. A crowd of about 600 is expected for the breakfast, which features live music, a full breakfast, and a

wide range of attempts at humor by the state’s leading politicians.

The breakfast serves as a warm-up for South Boston St. Patrick’s Day Parade, organized by the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council. The route will follow its traditional course 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.

If all goes as planned, participants should line up along Dorchester Avenue by 11 a.m., with the parade set to kick off at 1 p.m. NECN’s live coverage of the parade will air from 12:30-3 p.m.

A scene from last year’s breakfast.
Don West photo



Dorgan’s, site of the early St. Patrick’s Day Breakfasts.

Photos from “South Boston on Parade” by Paul Christian

‘South Boston on Parade’

The book was written and edited by Paul Christian, a sixth-generation South Bostonian who retired as commissioner/chief of department of the Boston Fire Department in 2006, under the auspices of the South Boston Historical Society.

Writes Christian in his foreword: “George Washington never met St. Patrick. Yet they share a joyous commemoration each March in South Boston’s Evacuation Day



Former Mayor Curley rides in one of his last parades.

and Saint Patrick’s Day a rich history of bringing people together, a

glorious joint celebration honoring both the Father of Our Country and the Patron Saint of Ireland and of the Archdiocese of Boston.”

In this volume, Christian traces in words and pictures the parade’s history from 1901 to the present as it has evolved from a march commemorating a military victory to one of religious, ethnic, and national pride and then into more of a secular celebration.

IAP honors Joe Leary

The Irish American Partnership (IAP) will honor its retired president, Joe Leary, at its annual St. Patrick’s Day breakfast on March 17, the Feast of St Patrick, at the Seaport Hotel in South Boston.

The breakfast is a celebration of Irish heritage and highlights the IAP’s work supporting education and community development programs in Ireland, North and South. President Emeritus Leary will be cited for his estimable work furthering the partnership’s mission during his presidential tenure from 1988 to 2016.

Joe and his family, brother Kevin, and sisters Mary and Elizabeth were recipients of the *Boston Irish Reporter’s* 2016 Boston Irish Honors in honor of their tireless philanthropic work.

In recognition of Mr. Leary’s commitment to peace in Northern Ireland, proceeds from the breakfast will benefit the RDS Primary Science Fair’s expansion into Belfast.

The breakfast will also feature special guest Katherine Zaponne TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

‘The Irish Atlantic,’ exhibit opens to the public on March 10

The Massachusetts Historical Society will launch a seven-month-long exhibition entitled “The Irish Atlantic” with a presentation and reception at the Society’s headquarters (1154 Boylston Street near the Fenway) on Thurs., March 9, at 6 p.m.

The exhibition itself, a free event, will be on view from March 10 through Sept. 22.

The essence of the showing, according to the Society, is an exploration “of 175 years of the Irish in Boston from the founding of the Charitable Irish Society in 1737, through famine relief efforts led by Capt. Robert Bennet Forbes at the helm of the *Jamestown*, to a mass migration movement, decades of community and institutional building, and a rise in political power.”

Co-sponsored by the MHS and the Forbes House Museum, “The Irish Atlantic” programming will include a number of discussions:

- “The Mission of the Jamestown” (6 p.m., March 27);
- “Moving News, Affecting Relief: The Irish Famine’s Trans-Atlantic Circulations” (5:15,



The Jamestown heads for the Atlantic.

March 28);

- “The Rise and Fall of The American Party [the Know-Nothing era] at 6 p.m. on April 12;

- “Make Your Own Comic: The Jamestown Relief Mission to Ireland & The Life of John Boyle O’Reilly (2 p.m. family program on April 18);

- “Boston to the Rescue: Robert B. Forbes and Irish Famine Relief (9 a.m., to 4 p.m. workshop on April 20 that will be open to K-12 educators; \$25 per person fee).

Flying to Ireland? Let's count the ways

By Ed Forry

The competition for flights to Ireland this summer is really heating up.

The US government, under the “Open Skies” agreement with the EU, has given the go-ahead to Norwegian Air to launch new transatlantic flights from Ireland to the states. The low-cost airline will begin its first flights in July, using TF Green Airport in Providence. When that schedule is activated, there will be a half dozen ways to get from New England to Ireland by air:

- Aer Lingus, the Ireland-based airline, offers daily service from its traditional Gateway Logan to both Shannon and Dublin;

- Delta Airlines will begin daily seasonal service to Dublin in early May through October, offering late evening flights attractive to business travelers, who can have a full business day in Boston and arrive to do business before noon in Dublin;

- Two Iceland-based carriers, Icelandair and the low cost WOW Airlines, offer one-stop options to Dublin, Belfast, and Cork, with a change of planes (and allowable stay-over) in Reykjavik;

- Beginning July 2, Norwegian Air (NAI) will offer service to Cork, Shannon, Dublin and Belfast, although not from Logan. NAI is establishing a Providence base at Green Airport in Warwick, some 60 miles south of Boston.

NAI will also begin flights to Edinburgh, Scotland on July 1;

- Other options, although not as convenient, are London flights offered by several legacy airlines, including British Air, Delta, and Virgin Atlantic, with connections to cities on the island of Ireland; and last year, western Massachusetts and Connecticut travelers were pleased when Aer Lingus initiated flights from Bradley International in Hartford.

Beginning this summer, NAI will offer as many as 24 flights weekly from Ireland to New England and New York state, flying to airports in Providence, Hartford and New Windsor, NY, on the Hudson River near West Point. And in a carefully crafted marketing move, the airline recently bought a full page ad in the *Boston Globe* offering an introductory fare of just \$65 each way. The offering sold out within hours.

Although the new service had been anticipated locally for some time, last year the talk had been that the flights would be between Cork and Boston. There was great enthusiasm in Cork when NAI spoke of “Cork/Boston” flights, and political and business leaders in Boston lobbied aggressively for approval from the US Transportation Department. But there was disappointment when it was learned the airline had bypassed Boston’s Logan for cheaper landing costs in Providence.

The new NAI routes create a strong competition in the transatlantic marketplace, and it’s no surprise that most of the Norwegian flights will be to Dublin, Europe’s fastest-growing airport. Aer Lingus has been marketing Dublin as a hub for its connecting flights to destinations all over Europe, and late last month the airline’s CEO “came out swinging” at news of the new service, the *Irish Times* reported.

Aer Lingus said it “is sceptical, claiming the fares Norwegian is offering – as low as 69 euro one way – are simply a stunt and not the building block of a viable business,” according to the published report.

As for the Norwegian flights, super-economy priced tickets come with extra charges, a pricing structure similar to the hugely successful no-frills Ryanair. We priced a mid-September NAI Providence/Dublin round trip for under \$500: \$249 to Dublin, \$244 return to Providence.

But there were extras- a reserved seat, checked bag, and a meal can cost an additional \$105, upping the cost to \$650-700.

When we checked online, we did find some one-way fares next fall as low as \$99 in the “economy cabin.” But be forewarned: The cheap fares come at a cost in comfort: Legroom is tight- just 31 inches. In the premium, higher-priced seats, legroom is 46 inches.

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Northern Ireland tribalism is a unique force that has created a near-permanent division amongst its people. This artificial state, set up and controlled by British leadership almost 100 years ago, has proven itself almost ungovernable since its inception.

On Thurs., March 2, 700,000 Northern Ireland voters will go to the polls to elect the 90 members of their new governing Assembly. It was only 10 months ago that they elected the last Assembly. That version collapsed because of the inability of its Unionist and Nationalist factions to agree on much of anything. The immediate cause was a growing scandal involving the DUP’s First Minister Arlene Foster and the protest resignation of Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, then the Northern Ireland leader of Sinn Fein.

It is probable that the election results in terms of party influence will be about the same as 10 months ago and that will lead to intense negotiation and probably a deadlocked Assembly. There have been some changes: Martin McGuinness has retired and Sinn Fein’s new Northern Ireland leader is Michelle O’Neill. But the same animosities prevail.

It will be the first task of the new Assembly to agree on its operational rules and elect the new leadership. Under the Good Friday agreement they will have only three weeks to do this or responsibility for running the Northern Ireland government will return to the British Parliament and include a mandated call for yet another Assembly election.

The odds on an early agreement between the parties are less than 50-50. To go back to direct rule from London after all the work that has been done to create peace would be a tragedy.

But the reality is that 20 years of peace and non-violence in Northern Ireland have done little to improve understanding and respect between Catholics and Protestants. The hardliners on both sides look for every opportunity to flaunt their superiority and denigrate the other party.

Nearly 50 so-called “Peace Walls” (sometimes called “Peace Lines”) still separate working class Catholic

Off the Bench

Following Trump as he awakes and gets ready

By James W. Dolan
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Did you ever wonder what Donald Trump goes through every morning to maintain his hairdo? I have been doing some research and believe I am the first to report the early routine of our 45th president as he begins each day.

He awakens each day to his preferred alarm – applause from a specially designed audio system in his bedroom. After sending a couple of tweets, he jumps out of bed and summons his bed, bath, and beyond staff to prepare him for the day’s activities. Following his morning bath (the first of three he takes each day), and before slipping into his specially designed robe, which bears his likeness superimposed on the presidential seal, he enters his patented tanning bed. After covering his eyes with protective goggles, he cooks for about ten minutes. Some critics say the white rings around his eyes make him look like a raccoon. Supporters think he looks more like an owl.

After the tanning, he summons the most important member of his extensive personal staff, his hair stylist, who has been with him for more than 20 years. It’s his job to put the presidential hair, what Trump describes as his crowning glory, in order. No easy task after a night of tossing, turning, tweeting, and big-league thinking. First there is the washing, then the coloring, and the setting, the entire process taking about a half hour while the president watches the morning talk shows.

One of the first decisions the president makes each day is what color to use. He has a carefully selected range from orange to blond depending upon his mood; orange when feeling liberal, and blond when he’s conservative minded. The apparatus and solutions used to keep the hair in place are classified as top secret. One disgruntled insider has leaked that Elmer’s Glue was found to be the most reliable. Trump has vehemently denied that charge and accused the purveyors of “fake news” of promoting the story. He disclosed that a secret combination of starch, olive oil, and oatmeal works best. The hair stylist is never far from the president

and Protestant homes and families. Built to last only six months, they have been in existence for 20, 30, 50 years. Young people living 50 yards from each other never meet. A British reporter doing a story about discord in Northern Ireland quoted a young man living on one side of the wall: “They are all soap dodgers over there. Can’t you smell them?”

Until these walls come down it may be futile to expect such people to agree on anything as they become adults.

The red, white, and blue colors of the British flag are painted on the curbstones of many neighborhoods to remind Catholics they are not wanted. Similarly the green, white, and orange colors of the Irish flag are painted on the curbs in Catholic areas.

Last month, Nichola Mallon, a pregnant Catholic mother who is a former SDLP mayor of Belfast and member of the City Council and the recent Assembly, received a bullet in the mail as death threat for her disagreement with a statement made by a Protestant leader. Also last month, a British flag on a large pole was erected in the middle of the night in the small town of Magherafelt in Co. Derry by a Loyalist group The Mid-Ulster District Council (now with a Catholic majority) had it cut down the next day.

The balance of power is changing with the Protestant population decreasing and the Catholic population increasing. Of the six Northern Ireland counties, four now have Catholic majorities. And Northern Ireland’s two largest cities, Belfast and Derry have Catholic majorities.

The Irish language has a dedicated following throughout Ireland, especially among the Irish of Northern Ireland. There are over 80 primary schools in the North that teach exclusively in Irish. On the Falls road in West Belfast high on a large hill is an Irish high school called Colaiste Feirste with 600 students and 47 teachers. They speak Irish during their school day, during sports practice, and as much as possible when they are at home. The Irish language is a very important part of their heritage.

When the Catholic Nationalists tried to give the Irish Language increased status in the Northern Irish government, the Unionists forcefully rejected the idea. DUP First Minister Arlene Foster snidely said she preferred Polish to Irish. No accommodation was possible.

How can we expect the politicians to govern sensibly with such bitterness remaining. The violent years have taken an enormous toll. No one wants to return to that time of terror.

Maybe time will heal all, but it has to begin soon.

Off the Bench

Following Trump as he awakes and gets ready

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in the event of wind or high humidity.

To save money, Trump has suggested that the stylist carry the device with the nuclear codes, referred to as the “football.” He can slip it into the case in which he carries my hair stuff and eliminate the need for a military officer to follow me around, the president said. His national security adviser informed him that while his hair stuff is important, the nuclear codes require a higher level of security.

The hair stylist, the president said, “has been with me through marriages, bankruptcies, and countless deals. He has managed,” he added with a wink, “to make me look great through thick and thinning. Without my hair, I’d just be an average-looking handsome guy. but with it, I’m spectacular,” he exclaimed. Putin would die for my hair, he said.

Although the White House photographer is never far from Trump, he is never allowed in the presidential preserve until the morning ablutions are completed. At heart a simple man of modest tastes, the president complains that all his life he has had to project an outsized personality to meet the demands of his fans. Otherwise, he would have preferred to have a farm in a small town and have his hair cut by a local barber, one he could call Joe and who would call him D.J.

Trump said that after he completes eight years as president, he intends to retire to that small farm and raise chickens. He will personally sell eggs and vegetables at a farm stand by the side of the road. Unlike his predecessors, he does not want a presidential library. “After all, he said, “I never did much reading.” Instead, he intends to welcome immigrants from all over the world to stay in his barn – the biggest, best, and most-luxurious barn in the whole world. One can’t leave it all behind, he said with a smile.

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



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Point of View

History abounds around the breakfast table on the Saint’s day

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

There is no denying that the event is literally part of Boston’s turf – that’s not a point of view, but a simple fact. At the 2017 St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast in South Boston, state Sen. Linda Dorcea Fforde will once again command center stage at the annual event. She has put her own stamp on the tradition since her first stint, in 2014, as the host of the much-ballyhooed event. She has scored a political, cultural, and gender “hat trick” of what was long a case of the Boston Irish “boyos” ruling the podium. As a woman, a Haitian American, and the first non-Irish American male to run the show, Dorcea Fforde continues to turn three stereotypes of the breakfast on their heads.

If you ask many in these parts how long the breakfast has been a tradition and how it has been run, and by whom, the answers might run from “always” to “since the first parade” (officially in 1901). Many people also assume that the event has always been a “political roast.” The actual answers are murkier. In fact, a case can be made that the annual breakfast started as a dinner or banquet.

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

The reason that the 26 men pulled it off is that they were Protestant. The religious question aside, the men drew up a charter that professed their pride as sons of the Emerald Isle, and they were meeting on the day dedicated to Ireland’s patron saint. The celebration did not take place in Southie. The site, historian James Bernard Cullen writes, “was the Irish Presbyterian Church, established in Boston in 1727...in a building which had been a barn on the corner of Berry Street and Long Lane [now Channing and Federal Streets].”

In what seems a distinct precursor of the later South Boston breakfast, the Charitable Irish Society’s centennial celebration, held on March 17, 1837,

featured a format that would shape the Southie gala. The Society’s festivities offered a special list of guests composing a who’s who of Boston’s movers and shakers: “Governor Edward Everett, Mayor Samuel A. Eliot, Hon. Stephen Fairbanks, President of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, the Rev. Mr. John Pierpont, the Hon. John P. Bigelow, Hon. Josiah Quincy, Jr.” and numerous other luminaries.

Fairbanks delivered an address testifying to the fact that Boston Irishmen, Protestant and Catholic, were indeed making their way in the city. In no way was the event a roast, but it was a meeting of notable politicians and businessmen.

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

Dinners and banquets, but not yet official breakfasts, followed the St. Patrick’s Day parades organized by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, which numbered some 8,000 members in Boston alone by 1900. Bands, organizations, refreshments—all were handled by the Hibernians’ Entertainment Committee. In the hands of Ward 17 boss “Pea Jacket” Maguire and other Boston Irish leaders, fun, festivities, and pride in Irish roots ruled the city on March 17.

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

According to John Allison in his “History of the St.

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

Only when the city appropriated funds for the breakfast was it held between 1910-1920. Five years later, in 1925, a St. Patrick’s Day breakfast bore a strong resemblance to today’s repast. Allison notes that the gathering featured “Himself” – Mayor James Michael Curley – making a “witty speech” in which he leveled barbs at friends and foes alike. E. Michael Sullivan then stood and sang “The Wearing of the Green.”

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

In March 1945, the *Boston Gazette* related that supporters of Mayor John Kerrigan wanted to hold a breakfast reception for him before the Southie parade. In a move that would seem incomprehensible today, Kerrigan nixed the idea because he “did not want any political demonstrations.”

From 1951 to 1960, the pre-parade meal was a luncheon – actually two luncheons. The City Council luncheon, hosted by the mayor, was held at the South Boston Athletic Club, and state officials attended an affair at Dorgan’s Old Harbor with Senator John E. Powers serving as host. Eventually, Powers’s event superseded the mayor’s, with the papers anointing him “St. Patrick’s Day toastmaster,” a precursor to the role that William Bulger would later take to a whole new level of wit and rhetorical flourishes.

Because John Powers ran the show at Dorgan’s, all the subsequent sitting senators of the First Suffolk District followed suit. That “suit” was long filled by Irish-American men named Powers, Moakley, Bulger, Lynch, and Hart. Now, Sen. Dorcea Fforde hosts the St. Patrick’s Day breakfast, continuing to write a new and fitting chapter in the annals of Boston.



STONEHILL COLLEGE



Happy Saint Patrick’s Day

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Bay State’s Dems in Congress vow to resist Trumpian agenda

By ANDY METZGER
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

A Sudanese mother who adopted five orphans from her war-torn country and a veteran of Boston’s busing crisis stood alongside US Sen. Ed Markey and Con-

gressman Joe Kennedy III on Tues., Feb. 21, as they pledged to confront the president’s immigration agenda and other Trump administration actions.

With Congress in recess, the Democrats spoke at a Downtown Crossing locale nearby pivotal spots where

Bay Staters rejected the British yoke, undermined the federal Fugitive Slave Act and enshrined marriage equality into law - a geographical fact referenced by the state’s junior senator.

Standing steps from a monument commemo-

rating the Irish Famine, which spurred migration from the island nation to Boston, Markey noted the proximity of other sites of historical significance as he urged the crowd to “fight” the agenda of President Trump.

“It was here just three

blocks away that the American Revolution began, rising up against tyranny, against discrimination,” Markey claimed. Speaking to reporters after his speech, Markey endorsed emulating “peaceful revolutions” that came about through public activism.

Trump’s plan for a wall on the southern border would not reduce illegal immigration, according to Markey, who said cooperation with the Mexican government and immigrant communities in the US would be a better approach.

The rally occurred after reports that the Department of Homeland Security would target for deportation a broader swath of the immigrants who are in the country illegally.

US Rep. Joseph Kennedy used the occasion of the rally to have a conversation with a young girl in Spanish. He said the new Trump administration policy “targets children the same way it targets hardened criminals.”

The president has said he took action to protect the public from terrorism, and he wants to build a wall to help enforce existing laws barring unauthorized entry into the country.

Non-politicians who joined the speaking program told stories about their struggles with ethnic strife.

Sadia Mohamed, a Chelsea resident who is the



US Sen. Edward Markey: “When necessary we will resist.”

mother of six, including five orphans she adopted, told reporters she came to the United States in 2008 from the Darfur region of Sudan, the scene of what is widely recognized as a genocide perpetrated by government-backed forces. Sudan is among seven Muslim-majority countries that Trump had targeted in a controversial executive order barring travel by non-citizens to the United States. The order was subsequently blocked by federal courts.

Mohamed is a naturalized citizen who works at Logan Airport as a wheelchair assistant, according to a spokesman for 32BJ SEIU, a union working to organize airport workers. Four of Mohamed’s children are also citizens, one has a green card and another is in the process of obtaining a green card, according to the union. “Massachusetts will persist, but when necessary we will resist, and we will be a special place,” Markey said.

HAVE A HAPPY ST. PATRICK’S DAY



NICK COLLINS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

May your blessings outnumber
the shamrocks that grow,
and may trouble avoid you
wherever you go.
-Irish Blessing

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Sláinte!

Happy St. Patrick’s Day
to our friends and neighbors,
from the MCCA.

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For each petal on the shamrock
This brings a wish your way-
Good health, good luck, and happiness
For today and every day.

Go mbeannai Dia duit
(May God Bless You)

Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Happy St. Patrick's Day



**Congressman
Michael Capuano**
7th Congressional District

www.mikecapuano.com

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 Proverb

from
Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry
and Family



**Don't miss the St. Patrick's Day Breakfast
on Sunday, March 19, 2017**

**Telecast live on NECN – 10 am- 12 noon
Live streamed worldwide at NECN.COM**



Happy St. Patrick's Day



State Representative
Kevin G. Honan
Allston-Brighton



Eire Society Gold Medal Dinner and Award Ceremony Saturday, April 29 2017, 6pm Hyatt Regency Boston



Colm Tòibín, 2017 Gold Medalist

The Gold Medal is given to a person or persons
who exemplify the best of Irish culture and ideals.

The Gold Medal Dinner and Award Ceremony
will feature a presentation by Colm Tòibín.

Tickets for the Gold Medal Dinner are \$150.00 per person. Make checks
payable to the Eire Society and mail to: Ms. Cate McGrail, Event Chair,
105 Beech Street, #1, Belmont, MA 02478. Tel. 617-739-6484.

Email: events@eiresociety.org

Irish Quotes & Quotations

- “The Irish seem to have more fire about them than the Scots.”

– Sean Connery
- “The Irish do not want anyone to wish them well; they want everyone to wish their enemies ill.”

– Harold Nicolson
- “I think there’s a bit of the devil in everybody. There’s a bit of a priest in everybody, too, but I enjoyed playing the devil more. He was more fun.”

– Gabriel Byrne
- “There is a courageous wisdom; there is also a false reptile prudence, the result, not of caution, but of fear.”

– Edmund Burke
- “Ireland is a peculiar society in the sense that it was a nineteenth century society up to about 1970 and then it almost bypassed the twentieth century.”

– The author John McGahern
- “Though the pen is mightier than the sword, the sword speaks louder and stronger at any given moment.”

– Leonard Wibberley,
Irish author of comic novel
“The Mouse That Roared”
- “I had that stubborn streak, the Irish in me I guess.”

– Gregory Peck
- “When I get a very generous introduction like that, I explain that I’m emotionally moved, but on the other hand I’m Irish and the Irish are very emotionally moved. My mother is Irish and she cries during beer commercials.”

– Retired U.S. General
Barry McCaffrey
- “A Kerry footballer with an inferiority complex is one who thinks he’s just as good as everybody else.”

– The author John B. Keane
- “The immigrant’s heart marches to the beat of two quite different drums, one from the old homeland and the other from the new. The immigrant has to bridge these two worlds, living comfortably in the new and bringing the best of his or her ancient identity and heritage to bear on life in an adopted homeland.”

– Irish President Mary McAleese
- “Whether it be a matter of personal relations within a marriage or political initiatives within a peace process, there is no sure-fire do-it-yourself kit.”

– the poet Seamus Heaney
- “Making peace, I have found, is much harder than making war.”

– Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein
- “A drunkard is a dead man, and all dead men are drunk.”

– W.B. Yeats
- “He was a fiddler, and consequently a rogue.”

– Jonathan Swift
- “Dublin was turning into Disneyland with super-pubs, a Purgatory open till five in the morning.”

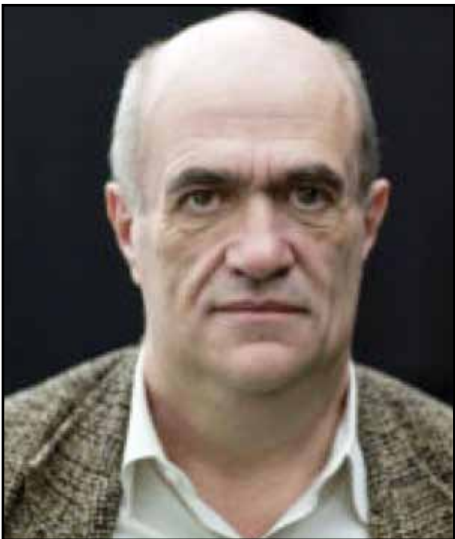
– Joseph O’Connor,
“Two Little Clouds”
- “Every action of our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity.”

– Sean O’Casey
- “Everywhere I go I’m asked if I think the university stifles writers. My opinion is that they don’t stifle enough of them. There’s many a best-seller that could have been prevented by a good teacher.”

– Flannery O’Connor

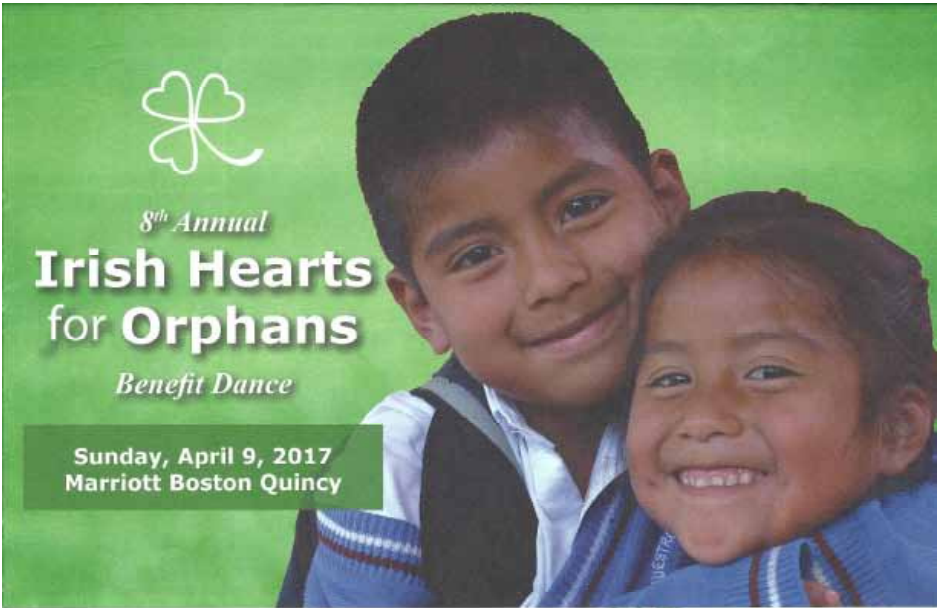
Eire Society cites Tòibìn for its 2017 Gold Medal Award

The Eire Society of Boston has announced that Colm Tòibìn, novelist, short story writer, playwright, journalist and literary critic, is the winner of the society’s Gold Medal award for 2017. Tòibìn will receive his award at a ceremony on Sat., April 29, at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Boston, where he will offer a presentation. “We are particularly pleased to present the 2017 Gold Medal to Professor Tòibìn,” says Thomas W. Carty, president of the Eire Society of Boston. “His accomplishments have vaulted him to the forefront of the Irish literary scene. His direct and thoughtful positions on matters of social importance make



Colm Tòibìn

him a visionary spokesperson for the citizenry of Ireland and its worldwide diaspora.” For more information on the Gold Medal Dinner and Award Ceremony contact Cathleen McGrail, Event Chair, at events@eiresociety.org or call 617-739-6484.



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*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
But happiness
From this day forward.*

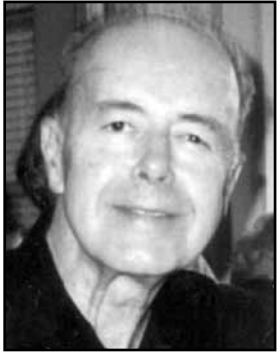
– An Irish Proverb

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Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

BY BILL O'DONNELL

Trump's Emerging Tax Plan: Bad for Ireland – The early predictions for the Trump administration tax package is that it will shake up the world of direct foreign investment and severely impact Ireland's economy. The *Irish Times* used the term “potentially toxic” regarding the Trump plan's negative effect on Ireland and its economy going forward.



Bill O'Donnell

A version of the plan, now in its formative stages, calls for a cut from 35 percent to 15 percent in the corporate tax rate that US companies currently pay on profits. That would result in an enormous decline in America's overall tax revenue unless other sources of revenue are found to make up the loss. One idea being floated by Republicans in Congress is a “border adjustment tax.” This revenue reordering would make up for the

reduced tax income by increasing taxes on those companies that sell into the United States while cutting tax bills for companies exporting from the US.

There are those who say that the border tax could raise a significant amount of money, with one estimate hitting \$1 trillion (\$1,000 billion) over the next decade, a sum used to pay for tax cuts elsewhere in the budget.

The window of opportunity for this radical tax shift is relatively short – until the autumn – which means that campaigning members of Congress would be looking to the 2018 mid-term elections when they would be selling the plan to a volatile, untested electorate.

As now envisioned, the restructuring on import/export taxes will have a decided impact on Ireland and other overseas companies, and bring new threats of retaliation from global markets. The word about the plan being used among companies doing business internationally is “danger.”

This year and into 2018 could mean vast changes for American companies and serious concern for an Ireland that has done well, even prospered, with its current low corporate tax policy and strong links to corporate America.

Troubled Deutsche Bank Has Long, Close Links to Trump – The *Guardian* newspaper has conducted an internal examination of the hundreds of million of dollars the bank has loaned to **Donald Trump**, a probe aimed at learning if there are any suspicious financial connections between the new President and Russia. The internal Deutsche review “found no evidence of any Russian link,” but the bank is under increased pressure to appoint an independent external auditor to review the institution's misconduct in other, non-Trump matters. Deutsche Bank is also “undergoing scrutiny” by the US Department of Justice for alleged misconduct and possible Russian money-laundering.

A member of the US House Ways and Means Committee, **Bill Pascrell**, a New Jersey Democrat, is urging Deutsche to “shine a bright light” on its lending to the president while adding that Congress should also be allowed to “review Trump's tax returns in closed session.” Amen to that, and the sooner the better.

Return of “Beauty Queen” Triggers Warm Memories – An over-booked flight home to Boston with an unexpected extra day to revel in our holidays back in the early '70s was the first time I saw **Anna Manahan** on stage in what was to be a lengthy and enriching special friendship. We had met briefly through a mutual friend a year earlier, and my wife Jean was with me on this trip to Ireland. We both were enthralled as Anna and **Art Carney** performed wondrously in Brian Friel's “Lovers,” which was on tour in Limerick.

Even if I wanted to, I can't escape the memory of Anna this month of March in 2017. It has been eight years since she died after a long and lustrous career as the Grand Dame of the Irish theatre. Her brave heart allowed her nearly 60 years in front of audiences, and eight decades as Ireland's most endearing personality. She appeared on stage from the Royal Court in London to Broadway in New York. She had a unique rapport with theater audiences with the way she made the stage a home and the audience her guests. The critics were unanimous: She came alive, electric when she was on stage.

Waterford was Anna's touchstone. Her hometown gifted her with the Freedom of Waterford City, named a sprightly housing estate after her, and smiled with pleasure as she lived her life between “work” (her name for on-stage moments from Panto in Dublin to Broadway's Beauty Queen, the television shows and the one-woman performances) on Williams Street with her brothers **Val and Joe**.

A frequent visitor to Boston, a city she loved, Anna was the 1984 recipient of the Eire Society of Boston Gold Medal for lifetime achievement in the arts.

But there was a second act for Anna and it opened in 1998 in New York where she stunned critics and her fellow actors with the power and perception of

her role as Mag in “Beauty Queen of Leenane,” the **Martin McDonagh** play that opened first off Broadway in an Atlantic Theater Company production, and after rave reviews, moved to the Walter Kerr Theater on Broadway where it won six Tony nominations and four Tony Awards. “Beauty Queen” is now on tour and it just completed a run at Boston's Paramount Theater with Marie Mullen as Mag.

With six nightly performances and two matinees, if memory serves, Anna was at center stage eight times a week for most of the play's performance. It was an endurance trial every night, but as tired and sick as she was those 19 years ago, she wouldn't consider an understudy or some time off. Anna Manahan was a team player and “Beauty Queen” was her team, and she did it night after night until she eventually gave in and sought relief.

Anna had long thought via a long-ago diagnosis that she had a lingering allergy or something similar. Finally, after much urging by the cast in New York, she relented and saw a doctor. It turned out that she was suffering from a heart virus that she had fought to overcome but could never find relief for as she toured from Australia to Boston to Belfast and points in-between to keep her theatrical commitments.

Anna listened with amazement as she learned from the celebrated cardiologist sitting across from her that she had a serious problem and would be dead in a year or less if she didn't immediately begin using life-saving medicine that would end her years of mysterious suffering and constant unexplained fatigue. She lived for eight more years, until March 8, 2009, traveling yearly to the United States to see her doctor, now an old friend, and take back to Waterford a large supply of the life-prolonging medicine.

That should be the end of her brilliant life story, but it wasn't. That happened when she won the Tony for “Queen” as Best Featured Actress and went on stage in 1998 before millions on TV to accept the award. She thanked her friends and fellow cast members, but saved her best for her doctor, the medicine man who found time in a specialist's hectic life of healing to treat her. She always referred to him as “the doctor who saved my life.”

A personal note: Back in spring 1998 Jean and I visited and stayed with Anna on a series of visits to New York to see her perform in “Beauty Queen.” And we later attended her “wrap party” to mark the final performance of “Beauty Queen” before she flew home to Waterford.

Wheels Coming Off This “Finely Tuned Machine” – Sadly, the finely tuned machine, as our president called his administration in his first weeks in the White House is in reality a deeply flawed operation, especially at **Rex Tillerson's** State Department. Media reports (that dishonest press!) note senior staff positions left vacant, his deputy sent back to the parade grounds, and US foreign policy being made by the ideological clique that surrounds Trump. While Tillerson was showing the flag at the G20 conference in Bonn, back home, a major department that he had left unattended, one that is organically weak and confused, was left outside the loop on key policy decisions, many of which were coming directly from the White House.

If this administration were a Fortune 500 company, the executive board of directors might be scanning the business pages with thoughts of a fresh face as CEO. But the Trump situation is far different; it's in peril amidst calls for the reigning majority party, the GOP, to go into alarm mode and bring things under control. But I wouldn't hold my breath until that egg shell is broken. In the interim we have an elected president who wants to talk about old elections, voter fraud that never happened, and media that have seen enough in Trump's first days to raise the alarm.

Yet there are small mercies we may be thankful for. Among those are (to date) no sign of the “BS Three” – Newt Gingrich, Rudy Giuliani, and Chris Christie. They have not been selected by the president to join the White House team, so all is not quite as dark and gloomy in a deeply divided America as it could be.

Ugly Business Out of the North – The Northern Ireland province has enough problems they would dearly like to improve on, but they could do no less than run down the brutal, violent messages that arrive on politician's desks. The latest obscenity is a bullet – conventional shorthand for a death threat in the North – in a post to a SDLP Assembly candidate in North Belfast, **Nichola Mallon**.

Mallon, the target of loyalist paramilitaries, is pregnant and due to give birth to her second child in May. Alliance leader Naomi Long, who has also received loyalist death threats, voiced her “absolute sympathy and support for Mrs. Mallon.”

Who are these “tough guys” who love to intimidate women? The people of Ireland have had enough of that strong-arm politicking; it has no place in Irish society. What great sin or political evil has Mrs. Mallon done to merit such an outrageous mail delivery, you ask? Well, she has spoken out as an elected official against paramilitaries who profit at the public's expense, describing the threat as “an affront to democracy” from paramilitaries and thugs reacting to her “legitimate questions” about how public money is being spent. And she has been

an unrelenting critic of Stormont's Social Investment Fund, which recently received nearly \$2 million dollars in public money.

Too Early For Snap Judgments – I had intended to cover a compilation of reports from a variety of sources regarding the stability and clarity of accusations made by the president. These evaluations included some material from **Al Franken**, a US senator from Minnesota who says that some of his fellow senators think Trump is “not right mentally.” Along with that, the *Guardian* (UK), and questioners from BBC News have been putting probing questions to mental health professionals. I decided to let that discussion ripen somewhat before sharing it. Although I confess I am not sanguine about all this, given Trump's 77-minute anti-press diatribe on Feb. 17, an unanchored rant with no clear purpose.

The March Almanac of Life, Death and Travail – March 1, 1965: The body of Sir **Roger Casement**, who had been hanged in 1916, was re-interred in Glasnevin Cemetery; Republicans in Long Kesh begin phased hunger strikes in support of better conditions; March 2, 1984: The death of Belfast-born **Rinty Monaghan**, world flyweight boxing champion; March 6, 1831: US Gen. **Philip Sheridan** was born in Killinkere, Co. Cavan; 1988: The shootings of three unarmed Provo IRA in Gibraltar; March 8, 1966: The Dublin landmark Nelson's Pillar was demolished by Republicans; March 10, 1888: **Barry Fitzgerald**, a renowned character actor as an adult, was born in Dublin; 1966: The short story writer **Frank O'Connor** dies; March 12: The educator **George Berkeley** is born in Thomastown,, Co. Kilkenny; March 17, 1762: First St. Patrick's Day parade in New York; 1858: The Fenians, an Irish Republican Brotherhood, are launched in Dublin by **James Stephens**; March 20, 1964: The death at age 41 of **Brendan Behan**; March 24, 1909: The death of John M. Synge at 38; March 25, 1920: The arrival in Ireland of the notorious Black & Tans; March 29, 1873, **Peg Sayers**, storyteller and autobiographer, was born in Dunquin, Co. Kerry; March 30, 1979: **Airey Neave**, a member of the British Parliament, was assassinated by an Irish National Liberation Army car bomb in the House of Commons car park.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

The numbers for the next election in the Republic of Ireland have begun to tighten up and Fianna Fail, long considered struggling for a resurgence of public support, has jumped into an early lead. Latest polling (Feb. 18) shows Fianna Fail overtaking Fine Gael. In recent surveys the Soldiers of Destiny jumped six points to 33 percent, while Taoiseach **Enda Kenny's** party is at 25 after a 4- point drop. ... The Brexit border skirmishes have developed a hard edge as roads near Dundalk in Co. Louth are filling with protesters in opposition to a hard border between Ireland and the UK, which is a major concern. ... GAA finances are reflecting an increase in revenue for 2016, but warn of lower attendance. ... Building firms in Ireland are pleading for expats to return home to be a part of the anticipated construction boom over the next five years. ... New York Congressman **Peter King** was saying he helped design the Trump immigration ban, but now, amid growing Criticism, he is now edging away from the issue, perhaps because he has had no job offer from Mr. T. ... The writer and widely respected cultural public figure **Anthony Cronin** has died at age 88.

There are changes coming in EU phone bills; the end of mobile roaming charges is in sight. ... Amidst a dispute between the **Pope Francis** and the Knights of Malta, the Vatican has taken over and accepted the resignation of the Knights' grand master. ... In late January, Trump talked of a probe of supposed voter fraud, but little is heard lately from the Tower Man. ... Four bills have been proposed for the 2017-2018 session of the Mass. House that would require drug makers to disclose the cost for research, marketing and manufacturing (applause here). ... Sinn Fein's new leader has moved to rescind the NI invitation to the US president, apparently after getting a look at Trump in action. ... I sense that Bay State Attorney General **Maura Healey** would love to go one-on-one with the GOP fantasy brigade over the phantom buses to New Hampshire polling places.

The European Central Bank is warning Washington that deregulating US banks “could sow the seeds of the next financial crisis.” ... **Alasdair McDonnell**, the SDLP member of the British Parliament for south Belfast, is cautioning against hard borders in the Brexit aftermath. ... The ads are out pushing the commemorative “Donald coins,” but like the original they have no price tag and their value is a mystery. ... Thousands are backing the House of Commons speaker who has banned Trump from addressing the Commons during his upcoming state visit. ... The beat goes on for Irish passports, especially from Northern Ireland and other parts of the UK. Recent applications from the UK were up a stunning 74 percent. ... The UK-based Aldi supermarket chain is busy opening stores in New England, with one near the Mass-RI line.

Wishing one and all the peace and patience of Saint Patrick as we grapple with today's burdens.

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



IIIC immigration legal services alert - Irish International Immigrant Center's immigration attorneys and social workers are available for all Irish immigrants during this time of uncertainty. We are closely following changes in immigration policy. If you or anyone you know wants to speak to an attorney or social worker please call us at 617-542-7654.

Working to save the environment

Donal Hogan from County Galway made the big move to the US after graduating with a degree in biodiversity and conservation. For Donal, the lure of wide-ranging opportunities in the US made it the perfect place to further his career, and when his friends recommended the IIIC for his J1 IWT visa, he applied straightaway.

Says Donal, "The whole team at the IIIC were immensely helpful and efficient in helping me sort out my visa in a short space of time. There was always someone to answer my questions and offer advice on contacts in the field.

Donal's first job offer came from The Great Basin Institute, an environmental non-profit based in Boise, Idaho. His role was as a research associate in the institute's Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring project, which conducts rangeland habitat surveys on the vast public lands in the Western US. What he learned - plant identification, soil characterization and field skills - were

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Donal Hogan

acquired working and camping for seven days in a row in the desert.

Following on from the field season in Idaho he continued working for the GBI in California for two months. Because of a heavy work schedule, Donal had six days off every two weeks. He used his time to experience the spectacular Pacific Northwest, taking multi-day backpacking trips in Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Yosemite and other national parks. This experience left Donal with a wealth of great memories, stories and the "trip of a lifetime."

As the summer season came to a close and all of the rangeland plants dried out, Donal began work back in Boise as a Forest Inventory Technician in the Boise National Forest. Boise has become Donal's favourite city in the US. It's a relatively small city of 200,000 people but the people are some of the friendliest and welcoming in the US. The city has a vibrant nightlife with many events, while

only being a 40-minute drive to ski slopes and a few hours' drive from many wild and beautiful places.

Donal has gained an appreciation and understanding for the diverse cultures in the west from meeting rural Idahoans, cowboys on the range, and Native Americans to the vibrant city folk of San Francisco, New York and Boston.

Raising funds for immigrants and refugees – "24 Hours of Ireland" on St. Patrick's Day – America is a nation fueled by immigrants, and few cities in America feel the vibrant pulse of new cultures like Boston.

Immigrants make this country - and this city - great. The plight of our immigrant brothers and sisters is on all of our minds these days, but it's rare we have a chance to actually get involved!

We're delighted to be partnering with Aeronaut Brewing Company to raise funds for immigrant and refugee families. The IIIC has been designated as Aeronaut's 2017 St. Patrick's Day charity, and they're throwing a massive two-day Irish cultural festival at Aeronaut Craft Brewery, Somerville, on Fri., March 17!

We'll feature live music by Sláinte, one of the most rip-roaring Irish bands in the entire region, with many more entertaining performances Friday night and Saturday. Try your luck and help support the IIIC's important work for the immigrant community by participating in our exciting auction and raffle!

There's so much to look forward to, especially as Aeronaut releases its very first Irish stout!

Please join us for what will most certainly be a hopping time! For more information, please see our website, iiicenter.org, or contact Jason McCool at mccool@aeronaut.net.

Legal clinics during March (Clinics are in the evening)

March 7 and March 21 – Irish International Immigrant Center, One State Street, 8th Floor, Boston.
March 29 – St. Mark's Hall, 1725 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester.

Our Downtown Boston location is fully accessible by public transportation. For info, call 617-542-7654 or check at iiicenter.org.

EATING AND EMOTION

Dr. Bernadette Rock

No strict rules; a few guidelines

The vast majority of us were born with the instinctive ability to know how to eat and when to stop, but over time many of us lose 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 to distract yourself from what's happening within and around you?



Dr. Bernadette Rock

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 of our lives have been lost while 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.

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.

Reorganize – Our kitchens can tend to become command central for the whole household. Letters, phone chargers, etc. can easily end up on the counter or on the table. Find another place in your house to be a central location for all those miscellaneous items so you don't have another reason to go in the kitchen and "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.

Matters of Substance

An Important Lesson: Self-Compassion

This past Valentine's Day, whom did you think about and extend kindness, compassion and patience to? Most likely it was your partners, children, neighbors, friends and even strangers. But we often forget to do the same for ourselves. Instead, we extend to ourselves the opposite of love: criticism, judgment and self-deprivation. This spring, take a moment to think about what happens when we don't engage in self-compassion.

Research tells us that when we don't accept that we are as human as our friends and family and just as entitled to moments of fear, failure and suffering, we are more susceptible to depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. It may feel counter-intuitive but the more we can love ourselves and be gentle with ourselves, the stronger and more optimistic we end up being.

Kristin Neff, author of the upcoming book, "Self-Compassion: Stop Beating Yourself Up and Leave Insecurity Behind," explains that increasing your self-care and



Rachel Reisman

"realizing that suffering, failure and imperfection is part of the shared human experience" impacts many aspects of our lives from healthy eating and exercise, to work performance and relationships.

A steady diet of self-criticism instead of honoring our humanness and accepting our moments of weakness, does much less for our goals than we've been led to believe. For instance, whether we are facing a slip in our sobriety or the end of a relationship, acknowledging our remorse, sadness and frustration, and permitting ourselves a grace period of grief and pain enables us to move forward.

As you do things for others take a few moments to remind yourself of a few intangible but powerful gifts that that no one can take away from you: self-kindness, shared-humaneity and mindfulness. Being kind to oneself is extending to yourself the recognition that we are not perfect and all experience challenges.

When we remind ourselves that everyone, regardless of age, stage of life, or economics will experience chapters of hardship and vulnerability, we feel kinship with others. When we face difficult feelings and don't judge them, just let them be, we manage them better. It's when we fight hard to avoid them or judge ourselves for having strong emotions to begin with that we end up inviting in anxiety and depression, internal conflict, and hardship.

As we remember to cultivate love in our lives, whether it be with friends, spouses and communities, let us not forget to tend to our first love, respect and compassion for oneself.

Submitted by Rachel

Reisman, LICSW. Wellness Director at the IIIC; rreisman@iiic.org; 617-542-7654, Ext. 14.



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(Clinics are in the evening. Please call for more information.)

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Norwegian Air plans routes from Providence to 3 Irish cities

**By MATT O'BRIEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS**
The low-cost carrier Norwegian Air Shuttle is promising to boost traffic at smaller airports on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean when it starts service to Europe this summer from Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York. Norwegian Air announced

on Feb. 23 that it's opening new flight crew bases and plans to hire pilots and flight attendants at Rhode Island's T.F. Green Airport and Stewart International Airport in Newburgh, New York, about 60 miles north of New York City. Year-round flights from those airports to Edin-

burgh, Scotland, begin in June, and to four airports in Ireland and Northern Ireland in July. There also will be flights to Edinburgh from Connecticut's Bradley International Airport, near Hartford. Officials who represent the three Northeast airports and their counterparts in

Ireland celebrated the move as a boon for family vacationers, business travelers, and local jobs and tourism. "Everyone would rather fly out of here than schlep to Boston," said Rhode Island Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo, speaking that morning at a news conference at the

airport in Warwick, just south of Providence and about an hour's drive from Boston's Logan Airport. Norwegian Air's move creates the first year-round international flights for the Rhode Island airport after years of expanding runways, building hotels, and making a commuter-train connection. "People

thought we were a little far-reaching, and finally all the pieces are starting to come together," said Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian, a Republican. One-way flights bound for Europe started at \$65 for the first 10,000 seats, but were already selling out on Feb. 23. Once the introductory phase is over, flights will start at \$99. Some Europe-bound flights were on sale for more than \$300 on the airline's website near the end of last month.

The service includes flights to Cork, Dublin and Shannon airports in Ireland, and to Belfast in Northern Ireland. The company won permission from the Obama administration in December for its disputed plan to expand flights to the United States, but did not receive approval from the Federal Aviation Administration until Feb., spokesman Anders Lindstrom said.

Several large US airlines and their labor unions opposed the expansion, arguing it would threaten US jobs. They have accused Norwegian Air of getting around Norway's labor and tax laws by operating new flights with a subsidiary based in Ireland called Norwegian Air International. The Transportation Department approved a foreign air-carrier permit for the subsidiary in December, but pilot unions and other opponents are pushing Republican President Donald Trump to overturn the decision. White House press secretary Sean Spicer suggested earlier last month that the country would benefit from the arrangement because US workers would build the planes and service them. Rhode Island state officials say they expect Norwegian Air to seek money from a \$1.5 million state incentive fund designed to attract new commercial routes to the airport.

Tourism Ireland has welcomed the announcement of a raft of new Norwegian Airline (NAI) services from the US to the island of Ireland. The agency's North American CEO Allison Metcalf said, "Today's announcement is more good news for Irish tourism from the United States, following a record year in 2016 when an estimated 1.4 million American travelers visited Ireland, and augurs well for prospects for tourism from the US to Ireland in 2017. Service to Dublin from Providence begins on July 2 with five weekly flights; Service to Shannon from Providence begins on July 3 with twice-weekly flights. Year-round service to Cork from Providence will start on July 1 with three weekly flights, and service to Belfast from Providence will be twice weekly from Providence as of July 2. Days of operations from Providence will change between the summer 2017 and the winter 2017/2018 winter season. *Material from Tourism Ireland press statements was added to this report.*

Two days of 'bualadh bos' at the Harvard Club, Boston: March 10, 11 (5-8 p.m.)

In the Irish language, the phrase "bualadh bos" is used to express applause, and it's likely there'll be plenty of hurrahs at the Harvard Club on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston on Fri., March 10 (5 p.m.-8 p.m.), and on Sat., March 11 (same time) when The Irish Writers Centre, Poetry Ireland, and the Consulate General of Ireland will present some of Ireland's finest contemporary writers in historic Boston, the capital of Irish America. Tara Bergin, Kevin Barry, Paul Howard, Nick Laird, Lisa McInerney and Stephen Sexton will join in conversation with local champions of the Boston arts world as they explore novel insights into Irish literature today.

On Saturday at 3 p.m., Paul Howard of million-selling Ross O'Carroll-Kelly fame will chat with the *Boston Globe's* Kevin Cullen about rugby, life, journalism, fake news, and the world we live in today. This is a free ticketed event and you can secure entry by registering your interest at Event Brite by Fri., March 3. Bualadh Boston is being produced by the Irish Writers Centre, Poetry Ireland and the Consulate General of Ireland and is being supported by Culture Ireland, the Center for Irish Programs at Boston College, the Irish Institute at Boston College, UCD, the Irish American Partnership and Words Ireland.



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

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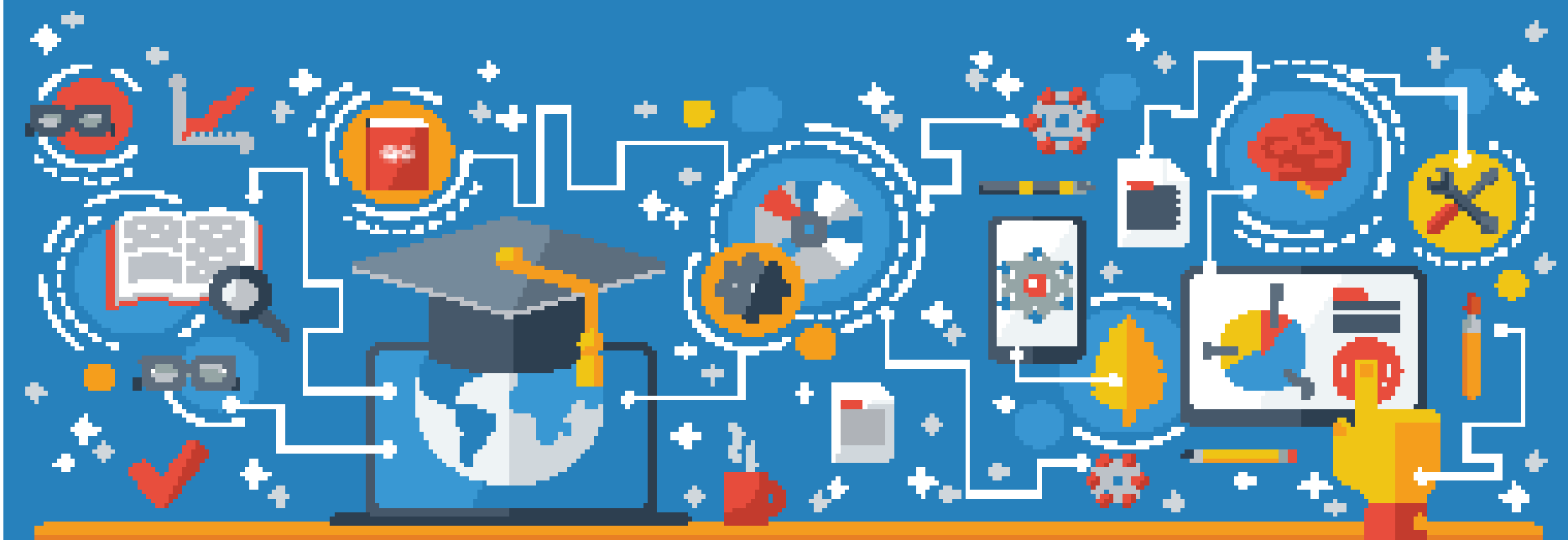
About the Irish American Partnership

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

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Lawrence, Massachusetts

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Wednesday, March 1, 2017 IRISH FLAG RAISING
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Saturday, March 4, 2017

THE 146th ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BANQUET AND DANCE at the Reliefs' In, One Market Street, South Lawrence, MA. Traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner with dancing to John Connors & the Irish Express 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 5, 2017

24th ANNUAL CLADDAGH PUB ROAD RACE 11 a.m. (rain or shine) - For more information: runthecladdagh.com

Sunday, March 5, 2017

OPENING RECEPTION and EXHIBIT - "A Pictorial Exhibit of the Leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising" with local author, CHRISTOPHER KLEIN who will talk about his book, "John L. Sullivan" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA @ 2:00 pm Sponsored by Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Saturday, March 11, 2017

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

Saturday, March 11, 2017

OPEN HOUSE – Corned Beef Sandwiches & entertainment at the Claddagh, 399 Canal St., Lawrence, MA.

Sunday, March 12, 2017

WHITE FUND LECTURE – ELLEN B. ALDEN, local author will discuss her book, "Yours Faithfully, Florence Burke" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm Sponsored by Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

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 – Sponsored by Division 8 (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Friday, March 17, 2017

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

Friday, March 17, 2017

47th ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON at the Reliefs' In, One Market Street, South Lawrence, MA Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner with entertainment by the Silver Spears Irish Show Band at NOON. Awarding of the Honorable John E. Fenton Citizenship Award - For more information please contact Jack Lahey @ 603 898 7766. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 19, 2017

DAVID D. MCKEAN, local author will discuss his most recent book, "Lowell Irish" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm Sponsored by Division 8 AOH (FREE) - Handicap Accessible

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

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 - Sponsored by Division 8 (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Saturday, March 25, 2017

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

Sunday, March 26, 2017

AN IRISH MUSIC LECTURE/CONCERT - Music at the Steinway: Stories at the Lectern - performed by Terri Kelley at the Lawrence Public Library, Sargent Auditorium, 51 Lawrence St., Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm Presented by the Friends of the Lawrence Public Library & Division 8 In loving Memory of George Dexter Kelley (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

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 – Sponsored by Division 8 (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

IRISH HERITAGE MONTH IS SPONSORED BY THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS DIVISION 8 and DIVISION 8 LAOH

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.



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

Katie McNally’s ‘Boston States’ salutes legacy of Cape Breton style, nods to the modern way

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR
Blame it on Gaelic

Roots.
During its time, Boston
College’s famed summer

school and festival pro-
vided inspiration and di-
rection for many a young,

or even not-so-young, person with an interest in traditional music. So it was in 2003 when 12-year-old Katie McNally came to Gaelic Roots to build on her nearly two years of fiddle lessons, which up to that point had mainly centered on Irish music.

But that week, a funny thing happened: McNally listened to fiddlers from other traditions, like the Scottish/Shetland style of Catriona MacDonald and David Greenberg’s Cape Breton style, and found herself getting hooked.

“I think what dawned on me that week at Gaelic Roots was that all the fiddle tunes that I thought were ‘cool’ were actually Scottish,” recalls McNally, a Westford native now living in Somerville. “As a fiddle player, I’m pretty obsessed with melodies, and I think the drama of Scottish tunes has always been really striking to me.”

That summer, McNally began taking Scottish fiddle lessons from Hanneke Cassel, and quickly immersed herself in the Boston-area Scottish music community. And over time, McNally also became a regular at the Canadian-American Club in Watertown, the hub of the local Cape Breton community, becoming equally adept in the distinctive fiddle style – related but not identical to Scotland’s – of the island.

It was only fitting when McNally returned to BC and Gaelic Roots – now an academic-year concert series – earlier this year to perform selections from her recently released second album, “The Boston States,” a paean to her Cape Breton experiences and friendships. Recorded



Katie McNally found that recording her recent album “The Boston States” -- along with Shauncey Ali and Neil Pearlman, left, – in Cape Breton was a unique experience: “It was just a great creative space to be in.”

in Cape Breton, the album features McNally with pianist Neil Pearlman and violist Shauncey Ali, and guest appearances by Finlay MacDonald on border pipes, percussionist Cathy Porter and step dancer Wendy MacIsaac, who doubled as producer.

Prior to the Gaelic Roots concert, McNally (along with Pearlman, who was her accompanist for the event) settled in to reflect on the making of “The Boston States” and her continuing growth as a musician and composer since her debut recording, “Flourish,” four years ago – and indeed, since that summer nearly 14 years ago when she first acquired the taste for Scottish and Cape Breton music.

“There’s definitely a nod to the past – but then again, aren’t we all doing that when we play traditional music?” she said of the new album. “‘Boston States’ is the name that Cape Bretoners and other people in the Canadian Maritimes have used for

generations to refer to Massachusetts and New England in general. The Boston area has been home to many people from Cape Breton, so there’s a strong connection that has existed for decades. I thought it was important to touch on this, especially as the older generations are passing on.”

At the same time, McNally said, she was conscious about her identity as an American playing Scottish and Cape Breton music yet with a demonstrably contemporary approach, one shaped by her tutelage under fiddlers like Cassel as well as her attendance at fiddle camps (including the one at Boston Harbor), where there is much opportunity, and encouragement, to experiment with different styles. McNally’s formative musical experiences also have included playing in the fiddle ensemble Childsplay and as part of the all-female quartet Long Time Courting, and touring with Galician

(Continued on page 21)

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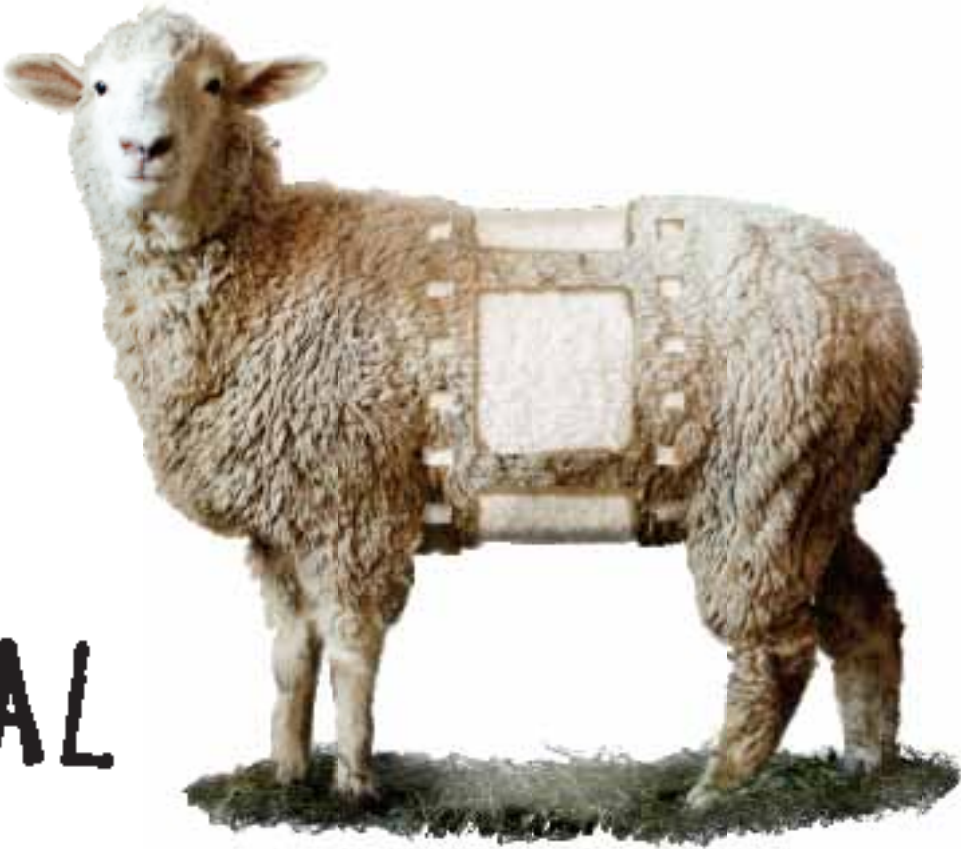
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Calendar of Celtic music, dance events

March 2017
March is typically the mother lode for Irish/Celtic music events in Greater Boston and Eastern Massachusetts, and this year is no exception. Here's a look at some of the month's happenings:

- Popular entertainers **Phil Coulter and Andy Cooney** once again team up for their "Celtic Crossings" show, an evening of "Irish warmth, spirit and culture" presented through music and dance, on March 4 at 7 p.m. in the Berklee Performance Center, produced by Bridget's An Irish Tradition. Coulter, a Grammy-nominated

musician, songwriter, singer and producer from Derry, Northern Ireland, has amassed dozens of platinum, gold and silver albums. Long Island native Cooney, who has sung professionally for more than three decades, has toured around the world and been featured on CD, DVD and broadcast television. Their special guests include Irish vocalist Geraldine Branagan, world champion Irish dancer Conor O'Brien (who has performed in "Lord of the Dance") and the Irish Pops Ensemble.

Also at the Berklee Performance Center this

month is the Canadian wife-husband fiddle-playing, step dancing duo of **Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy**, on March 12 at 7:30 p.m., presented by World Music/CRASHarts. The two both come from distinguished music families: MacMaster's relatives include Cape Breton music icons Buddy MacMaster, Ashley MacIsaac, and Andrea Beaton; Leahy has performed for years with his siblings in the award-winning ensemble titled with the family name. MacMaster and Leahy continue to celebrate the Canadian folk music tra-

ditions with skill as well as flamboyance and verve.

For tickets and other information about both shows, go to berklee.edu/events.

- The Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton will have a busy day of it on March 18, beginning at 4 p.m. with a family celi led by **Cait Bracken** and music by **Denkis Galvin, Nathan Gourley and Laura Feddersen**. The event will feature well-known participatory dances such as the Siege of Ennis, Walls of Limerick and Kerry Set. Then at 7:30 p.m., the center hosts a concert by singer **Niamh Parsons**, accompanied by guitarist **Graham Dunne**. Parsons, from Dublin, began her professional career in 1990 and is regarded as among a select group of performers who helped establish a new, high-profile role for women in Irish music. She has six studio albums and one live album to her credit.

On March 25 at 7:30 p.m., singer and storyteller **Helena Byrne** will make a return visit to the center. Her musical credits include appearances with James Taylor, Moya Brennan, and Bob Geldof, and collaborations with Kila co-founders Ronan and Colm O Snodaigh; she has also been active in the theatrical realms, and is founder of the Break-Away Project Performance Company,

which promotes ties between Irish and American artists and encourages the development of new theater and music. Last year, Byrne released the CD "Scéal," a collection of stories and reminiscences of Ireland.

Go to irishculture.org for prices and other details on these events.

- Boston-area and New England performers will be in the spotlight at "Irish Music Night" on March 18 at 8 p.m. in Medford's Chevalier Theatre: **Matt and Shannon Heaton**, who offer traditional as well as original songs, and flute/whistle-guitar/bouzouki duets, all steeped in Irish tradition; **Laura Cortese**, a Scottish-style fiddler who has worked in many different traditions, styles and genres of music; and **Fódhla**, the trio of **Ellery Klein** (fiddle), **Nicole Rabata** (flute) and **Bethany Waickman** (guitar), which brings its own mix of musical influences and backgrounds to bear on the Irish tradition.

See chevaliertheatre.com for tickets and other event information.

- Boston College's Gaelic Roots series will hold a special evening of music and dance on March 30 at 6:30 p.m., with performances by BC faculty members **Sheila Falls** (fiddle) and **Kieran Jordan** (dance) and their students, along with special guests. The event is free and open to the public, and takes place at Connolly

House, 300 Hammond Street, Chestnut Hill. Go to bc.edu/gaelicroots to register and for more information.

- Meanwhile, on March 10, **Kieran Jordan Dance** will collaborate with Symphony Nova – a 10-person classical chamber orchestra – for a program spotlighting the 17th-century Irish harp music of Turlough O'Carolan, featuring original choreography and new musical arrangements. This performance takes place at 7:30 p.m. in Arts at the Armory in Somerville. Go to kieran-jordan.com/performances.php.

- **RUNA**, an Irish-American quintet that has gained a strong regional following via its appearances at New Bedford Folk Festival and elsewhere, comes to two area coffeehouses: the Old Sloop Coffeehouse in Rockport [oldsloopcoffeehouse.org] on March 3, and Circle of Friends Coffeehouse in Franklin [circlefolk.org] on March 4. RUNA incorporates elements of bluegrass, flamenco, blues and jazz into its mainly Irish-Scottish repertoire.

The Bombadils – the duo of Canadian Luke Fraser (guitar, mandolin, vocals) and American Sarah Frank (fiddle, banjo, vocals) – will open for RUNA at the Old Sloop.

- The Burren Backroom Series will host **Téada**, regarded as one of the best traditionally-



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ALBUM IN STORES NOW



Quebecois quartet Le Vent du Nord plays at Club Passim March 30.

oriented Irish bands to emerge this century, on March 8. The group, which has released five albums, is driven by the melodic strength of fiddler Oisín Mac Diarmada, accordionist Paul Finn and Damien Stenson, backed by Sean McElwain (guitar, bouzouki) and Tristan Rosenstock (bodhran). Although singer-accordionist Seamus Begley, who joined Téada five years ago, will not be making the trip, his daughter Méabh – a fine singer and musician in her own right – will sit in with them. Téada also will perform on March 10 as part of the Belleville Roots Music Concert Series in Newburyport [bellevil-

lechurch.org/roots.php]. **Kevin Burke**, one of the most influential fiddlers in the modern Irish music revival, comes to the Backroom on March 15. Burke’s Sligo-style playing has become famous through his stints with The Bothy Band, Patrick Street, Open House and the Celtic Fiddle Festival, as well as his various other collaborations. Another legend of the Irish revival, **Robbie O’Connell**, rounds out the Backroom slate for the month on March 22. O’Connell had strong musical roots in his family, as a nephew of the Clancy Brothers, and toured with them for almost two de-


cares while also working with other musicians such as Mick Moloney, Seamus Egan, Jimmy Keane, and Eileen Ivers. All the while, he’s cultivated a career as a masterful singer-songwriter whose works like “Keg of Brandy” and “Hard to Say Goodbye” have been widely covered. O’Connell also appears at the Coffeehouse Off the Square in Hingham on March 18. See oldshipchurch.org/coffeehouse-off-the-square.html. All three events begin at 7:30 p.m. For tickets and other details, go to burren.com/Backroom-Series.html. • The Burren also will hold its traditional St. Patrick’s Day celebra-

tion on March 17 featuring music, dance and storytelling with Burren co-founders and owners **Tommy McCarthy and Louise Costello**, joined by **Robert Elliott and Seamus Noonan** plus special guests. Show times are at 1, 3, 5, and 7 p.m.; an Irish meal is included. Go to burren.com. • **Ronan Tynan**, widely acclaimed as “America’s Irish Tenor,” will perform at the Tilden Arts Center in West Barnstable on Cape Cod on March 19 at 3 p.m. Born in Dublin and raised in Kilkenny, Tynan has toured internationally and sung at such landmark events as the state funeral for Ronald Reagan, the Belmont Stakes, benefits and memorial services for 9/11 first responders, and the inauguration of Boston Mayor Martin Walsh. He has released five albums as well as a DVD of his motivational speaking. For tickets and other show information, go to bluefrog.showare.com. • On March 9, Club Passim in Harvard Square welcomes Acadian trio **Vishten**, comprising the LeBlanc sisters, Emmanuelle (whistles, octave mandolin, bodhran, keyboards, jaw harp, percussive dance, vocals) and Pastelle (accordion, piano, percussive dance, vocals) from Prince Edward Island, and Pascal Miousse (fiddle, mandolin, guitar, vocals) of Magdalen Island. Their music, which encompasses traditional Acadian-French songs and instrumentals as well

as their own compositions, is steeped in the culture and history of the Canadian Maritimes. Club Passim will host a preview show for this year’s New England Folk Festival Association (NEFFA) on March 19 that will include the **Vox Hunters**. The duo of **Armand Aromin and Benedict Gagliardi** is well-versed in – but by no means limited to – Irish traditional music. Their performances are typified by driving dance tunes with fiddle, concertina, banjo and tin whistle, ear-pleasing harmony singing, and good humor. Also on the bill will be Outrageous Fortune and Gogoski. Locally based Scottish-American duo **Jenna Moynihan and Màiri Chaimbeul** will hold a CD release concert on March 26. Upstate New York-born fiddler Moynihan met Chaimbeul – a harpist from Scotland’s Isle of Skye – when they were students at Berklee College of Music, and built a partnership around a fusion of Scottish and Appalachian/old-timey music, with elements of classical and jazz. Opening for the pair will be The Sound Accord, a Phoenix-based “chamber folk” string sextet that blends traditional and contemporary Scottish and other Celtic instrumental music with classical influences. [Moynihan and Chaimbeul also are appearing in this year’s “A St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn” – see story elsewhere in this


issue.] **Le Vent du Nord**, a leading exponent of Quebecois music, takes the Passim stage on March 30. The quartet of **Nicolas Boulterice, Oliver Demers, Rejean Brunet, and Simon Beaudry** has continually shown energy and creativity over its almost 15 years of existence. Their most recent album, “Têtu,” shows the band incorporating contemporary material – some of it their own compositions – alongside the traditional. For showtimes, tickets and other information, go to passim.org. • The journey of a young, 19th-century Irish woman’s journey to America is the subject of “**Themselves: An Immigrant’s Story**,” presented by the John F. Kennedy Library Presidential Library and Museum on March 11 at 10:30 a.m. The interactive performance includes storytelling and traditional Irish music and dance. Registration and other details at jfklibrary.org. • The Reagle Music Theatre of Greater Boston will present “**A Little Bit of Ireland**” on the weekend of March 11 and 12. The theater’s annual celebration of St. Patrick’s Day – conceived and directed by Reagle’s producing artistic director Bob Eagle – features a cast of 100 and a live orchestra, with Irish music, dance and comedy. For tickets and information, see reaglemusictheatre.com. – SEAN SMITH

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‘A Little Bit of Ireland’ features the soprano Mara Bonde Ricker



Cast members will perform Irish favorites in “A Little Bit of Ireland” at Reagle Music Theatre March 11 & 12. *Reagle Music Theatre / Herb Philpott Photo*

BY R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR
 “A Little Bit of Ireland,” Reagle Music Theatre’s annual musical celebration of all things Irish, returns to the Robinson Theatre in Waltham for three performances only on March 11 and 12.

Conceived and directed by Reagle’s Producing Artistic Director Bob Eagle, the revue features Reagle’s own Irish Tenors and adult choir, classic step dancing, the comedy of Harold “Jerry” Walker, the heavenly sounds of the Massachusetts Harp Ensemble (founded by Judith Ross), a cast of 100 plus a full orchestra, all of which makes the Reagle production one of the largest Irish shows in New England.

Featured soloist this year is the soprano Mara Bonde Ricker. Living in Concord with her husband and children, Mara is renowned as a gifted crossover artist, equally at home singing The Great

American Songbook or appearing with the finest opera companies from Sarasota to Lake George.

Originally from South Hadley in western Massachusetts, Mara is a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College where both her parents were music professors. She subsequently earned her master’s in vocal performance at Boston University where she was invited to join the Opera Institute.

She was also a Fellow at the Aspen Music Festival and one of 12 singers selected to study at the Britten-Pears School in Aldeburgh, England, with opera legend Joan Sutherland.

Locally she has performed with The Boston Pops, The Handel & Haydn Society, Boston Baroque, and Boston Lyric Opera, among others. When she toured with Boston Musical Theater, she delighted audiences from Belgium to South Korea.

Reagle audiences will remember her well as Sarah Brown in the 2015 summer production of “Guys & Dolls” as well as in the company’s annual Christmas revue.

We spoke about “A Little Bit of Ireland” as she and Bob Eagle were discussing the running order for the show:

Q. The production standards are always incredibly high at Reagle. What will you be singing during your spots in the Irish revue?

A. The first song I’m going to be doing is “Come Back To Erin” . . . I love these songs, they’re absolutely beautiful. Another is “Ireland Mother Ireland” -- I believe that’s going to be with the harps . . . And then there’s some fun stuff -- the “St. Patrick’s Day Parade” song. And of course “The Irish Blessing” in Act Two. Very poignant. Then we end it with “It’s A Great Day For The Irish.” I was just listening to the Judy

Garland (version) of that and I said, “This is so much fun!”

Q. You’ve been a member of the Reagle family for a while, but this marks your first time in “Little Bit of Ireland.”

A. I brought my kids to see this show a couple of years ago and I fell I love with it . . . I always bring my kids to see the summer shows . . . “Carousel” and “Kiss Me Kate” and “Thoroughly Modern Millie” . . . They love them. I think it’s so important for kids to be taken to these shows.

Q. As a child, you were surrounded by music. What was that like?

A. My Dad was a professor at Mt. Holyoke for 34 years . . . he was teaching theory and composition. My Mom was a piano instructor at Mt. Holyoke as well, for about 8 years. She does private piano teaching now. They did a lot of piano four hand concerts together. Their music studio was down on the lowest level of our house . . . and from when I was very, very little, I grew up hearing all this music through the heating vents.

Q. Did you ever join in?

A. My Dad is a classically trained pianist but he’s also a jazz musician, so he always had the “thousand song-sheet” book around the house. He would grab that and say “Come on Mara, let’s go sing some of these songs.” So I started singing those -- The American Songbook and jazz standards -- from when I was pretty little.

Q. We think of operatic voices as being so strong and powerful. Do you do anything special to protect your voice?

A. I don’t smoke, I never smoked. You don’t drink a lot, even though I may want my glass of wine once



Soprano Mara Bonde Ricker: “This is so much fun!”

in a while. (*Laughing*) I do have them, but if I know I have to sing the next day, I won’t drink anything because it’s so drying. And I am crazy about taking my Airborne when I go on an airplane. Getting a cold is the worst, ever. . . . It feels like your super powers are taken away! . . . We’re just so protective of our instruments. It isn’t like an instrument you can pull out of the case and dust it off and polish it up. We carry it inside of us.

Q. A couple of rapid fire questions. Favorite American Songbook composer?

A. Oh, gosh . . . In terms of the jazz standards, I am enamored of Harold Arlen’s “Come Rain Or Come Shine.” It’s one of my favorite things to sing. I absolutely love it. Sometimes you find a piece that just fits you. It’s kind of like trying on clothes and seeing what works and what doesn’t work . . . It just feels really good.

Q. And classical?

A. Sinking my teeth into

classical pieces and some of the operas, Mozart is one of my most favorite composers. If I really had a different voice in the world of opera and I could sing all the major Puccini leads, that’s what I’d really want to sing, too. I can sing some Puccini, but I don’t have the big, big opera voice for it.

Q. If you could invite anyone, past or present, to sit in the front row at Reagle and hear you sing, whom would you choose?

A. The first person who pops into my head . . . is Ella Fitzgerald. I regret that I never heard her sing live. I just absolutely adore her. I know everybody else does too, but when I hear that sound, she makes me melt.

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

“A Little Bit of Ireland,” March 11 (2 & 7 p.m.) and March 12 (2 p.m.), Robinson Theatre, 617 Lexington Street, Waltham. Info: reaglemusictheatre.com or 781-891-5600.

Saluting Cape Breton legacy, nodding to the modern way

(Continued from page 16) bagpiper Carlos Nunez.

“This seemed like a truthful way of framing my playing, and that of Cape Bretoners in Boston, for a modern audience. The best way to think of ‘The Boston States’ is as a reimagining of the kind of Cape Breton music that you would encounter at the Canadian-American Club and other dancehalls, or among the neighborhoods of Cape Bretoners, in the Boston area.”

So while “Boston States” is, in a sense, a tribute to Boston’s Cape Breton legacy -- including tunes associated with giants like Jerry Holland, Bill Lamey and Joe Cormier -- it is definitely not a throwback, old-school album. McNally displays all the trademarks of the rugged yet beguiling Cape Breton fiddle style, but interpolates modern ideas and techniques. Pearlman ventures beyond the unique Cape Breton piano accompaniment, with its boogie-woogie-inspired walking bass, to bring in jazz and Latin elements. Ali, meanwhile, transfers his bluegrass-centric

fiddle grooves to viola, adding depth and cross-hatching to the melody.

The first track, which begins with the reel “Colin McIntosh” (a composition by Dan R. MacDonald) serves to affirm both a connection to the past and a new direction. It starts with an excerpt of a recording of Cormier playing the tune with the classic Cape Breton fiddle-piano dynamic -- the fade-in of the instruments suggesting continuity -- until McNally and Pearlman take over. And then McNally, along with Ali, shifts to a rhythmic bowing, and Pearlman takes the lead, throwing in some tasty jazz-flavored variations; finally, there’s a flourish by McNally and Ali that acts as a segue into the second reel, “Black Horse.”

Another set begins with a strathspey, “The Fir Tree” -- McNally describes it as Scottish, with a Cape Breton setting -- that came from the repertoire of Lamey, segueing into a McNally original, “Batmoreel,” in which McNally and Ali trade off on the melody and variations, fueled by Pearlman’s

syncopated backing. For contrast, the strathspey “Donald John the Tailor” opens with a hushed, slowly unfurling exploration of the tune by McNally, with slightly off-stage noises and noodlings from Pearlman and Ali, gradually building strength into a syncopated piano-viola transition over which McNally takes off into “One More Week,” a reel of her composition, that is enlivened by MacIsaac’s step dancing; there’s an interlude in which McNally and Ali play a repeating two-note riff with varying harmonies, and then Pearlman helps kickstart the reel back up again for another run-through.

The compositional talents of Pearlman and McNally are highlighted in a set that begins with his sweet-toned jig, “The McNallys of Frances Hill,” on which he takes the lead on melody, followed by Ali and McNally; the set closes with McNally’s reel “The Millers of Newbury,” full of harmonic richness from the trio.

One of the more inventive tracks on the album combines a McNally origi-

nal, “The Martlet,” with one of Holland’s storied tunes, “Father John Angus Rankin.” Here, Pearlman switches to a Fender Rhodes electric piano, laying in a rock-solid beat that is eventually taken up by McNally and Ali while he solos in an increasingly funky mode. After establishing the second tune, McNally defers to Ali for another entrancing solo, then reasserting the melody to a bracing conclusion.

“I had met Shauncey at a fiddle camp a few years ago, and really liked his playing,” said McNally. “He wasn’t playing viola, but I eventually coerced him to try. I just like how the viola blends with the fiddle: It gives you a different timbre, and while a viola doesn’t have the range of a cello, you still get that lower-end sound, and it’s also a nice intermediary with the piano.”

The experience of recording in Cape Breton, and working with MacIsaac, a talented fiddler herself and a member of one of Cape Breton’s most eminent musical families, was a thrill for McNally.

“Wendy does an amazing job of making Cape Breton music sound modern, but she’s an old-style player who keeps the heart of the music present even as things are pushing forward.

“It was a dream to record at the studio [Lakewind], because basically everyone in Cape Breton music has recorded there. And because they just record fiddle albums, they know how to properly mike a fiddle, and how to get the piano to sound right. Our engineer, Mike Shepherd, actually built me a microphone, and said ‘See how you like that.’ When you have that kind of expertise and knowledge helping you, it makes the recording process a pleasure.”

McNally had perhaps a third of the album worked out when she arrived at the studio, and the setting was a factor in getting the rest of the material squared away.

“I recorded my first album in Massachusetts, so after each day in the studio I’d just go back to my house,” she explained. “But in this case, I just

never left that headspace -- you’d go outside, and there you were in Cape Breton. It was just a great creative space to be in.”

One other result of making “The Boston States,” McNally added, was that it got her thinking of her the Canadian part of her family heritage that includes ancestry from Prince Edward Island and Montreal. So she feels an even deeper connection to Boston’s Cape Breton community, which has undergone a change in the past decade or so due to demographics and economics, among other factors.

“The maritime Canadians aren’t moving here like before. They’re more likely to go to western Canada -- you don’t need a visa for that. It’s true that the Cape Breton population in Boston has been declining, but you know, people still go out to the dances at the Canadian-American Club, and the camaraderie and the love of the music and dance is all still there. I feel very fortunate to be part of it.”

Comprehensive Financial Planning: What Is It, Why It Matters

Your approach to building wealth should be built around your goals & values

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

Just what is “comprehensive financial planning?” As you invest and save for retirement, you will no doubt hear or read about it - but what does that phrase really mean? Just what does comprehensive financial planning entail, and why do knowledgeable investors request this kind of approach? While the phrase may seem ambiguous to some, it can be simply defined.



Comprehensive financial planning is about building wealth through a process, not a product. Financial products are everywhere, and simply putting money into an investment is not a gateway to getting rich, nor a solution to your financial issues.

Comprehensive financial planning is holistic. It is about more than “money”. A comprehensive financial plan is not only built around your goals, but also around your core values. What matters most to you in life? How does your wealth relate to that? What should your wealth help you accomplish? What could it accomplish for others?

Comprehensive financial planning considers the entirety of your financial life. Your assets, your liabilities, your taxes, your income, your business - these aspects of your financial life are never isolated from each other. Occasionally or frequently, they interrelate. Comprehensive financial planning recognizes this interrelation and takes a systematic, integrated approach toward improving your financial situation.

Comprehensive financial planning is long-range. It presents a strategy for the accumulation, maintenance and eventual distribution of your wealth, in a written plan to be implemented and fine-tuned over time.

What makes this kind of planning so necessary? If you aim to build and preserve wealth, you must play “defense” as well as “offense.” Too many people see building wealth only in terms of investing - you invest, you “make money,” and that is how you become rich.

Basing decisions on a plan prevents destructive behaviors when markets turn unstable. Impulsive decision-making is what leads many investors to buy high and sell low. Buying and selling in reaction to short-term volatility is a day trading mentality. On the whole, investors lose ground by buying and selling too actively. A comprehensive financial plan - and its long-range vision - helps to discourage this sort of behavior. At the same time, the plan - and the financial professional(s) who helped create it - can encourage the investor to stay the course.

Think of a comprehensive financial plan as your compass. Accordingly, the financial professional who works with you to craft and refine the plan can serve as your navigator on the journey toward your goals.

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. He may be reached at 617-479-0075 x331 or bosullivan@financialguide.com.

Liz Carroll, fiddle in hand, is ready for St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn

(Continued from page 1) Carroll has been one of America’s most prominent Irish fiddlers for a good three decades or so, not only for the precision and verve of her playing but also for her based-in-tradition compositions. Among other honors, she has received a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, was nominated for a Grammy for “Double Play,” her album with longtime collaborator guitarist John Doyle, and was the first American-born composer to win Ireland’s Cumadoir TG4 award for traditional Irish music.

As the daughter of Irish immigrants, Carroll came by the music honestly – her father played accordion, her grandfather the fiddle, and her parents often took her to a live radio show that featured Irish music. She took up fiddle, and by her late teens was regularly atop the All-Ireland competitions, with two first-place finishes plus a second place in solo fiddle, and another in the duet category.

Yet as much as she loved tunes from tradition, Carroll found she liked composing her own – her first solo album, “A Friend Indeed” (1978), featured five of her pieces – although at first finding a venue in which to play them wasn’t always easy.

“For me to play an unknown tune in those Chicago sessions wouldn’t have gone over very well,” she says. “I’m not a ‘session-buster,’ but I do like to hear individuals try things out – I remember being fascinated years ago being around bluegrass fiddlers, who were all about taking solos.

“So the only time I would usually trot out my own tunes was when I played with my friends, and we’d learn each another’s stuff. Part of the reason was, back then we didn’t learn tunes all that fast, and when an album we all liked came out we’d focus on learning everything on it. But then it might be another six months or so before the next album, and you’d be dying to play a new tune to challenge yourself. So my tunes were pretty complicated then, very notey, and all over the fiddle; over time, they’ve

Liz Carroll is happy to be in town performing as part of “A St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn.” Boston, she says, “is such a vibrant scene.”

gone the other way, and they’re quieter, with less notes.”

Carroll went on to tour with the Green Fields of America ensemble headed up by Mick Moloney, released a second solo recording – incorporating more of her compositions – and later recorded two albums as part of the trio Trian, with guitarist Daithi Sproule and accordionist Billy McComiskey.

And then along came John Doyle: He and Carroll made for a powerful partnership that often turned the melody-rhythm dynamic upside down and sideways.

“He’s simply a genius, with just a flawless sense of rhythm,” says Carroll. “And what a memory. We’d have someone come up before a concert and say, ‘Would you do such-and-such tune?’ And I’d say to him, ‘John, this one is pretty complicated,’ and he’d reply, ‘Play it.’ He would get it just like that. And then, when we’d play it for real, he’d remember it perfectly. It makes no sense to me!

“We just had a great level of understanding with one another. Sometimes I’d have a strong idea of what the chord should be in a particular part of a tune, so he’d give me what I wanted to hear – but then he’d throw in something different, and it worked. I didn’t feel like what John did was ‘accompaniment’ – he was right on top of it, wasn’t sitting back. We were a duo in every sense of the word.”

But the Carroll-Doyle partnership was in some ways a victim of its own success.

“John’s a multi-tasker, and he just needs to be doing a bunch of different things at once,” explains Carroll. “I tend to be more settled, and focus more on one or two things. He kept on getting all these fantastic offers because everyone wanted to have him on their tour, or play on or produce their album, and it just didn’t seem right to hold him back. But we had a great run, and we’re still close friends,



and every now and then see each other at some festival or other event.”

Carroll, for her part, spends some of her time playing in the String Sisters, an all-star female band whose members – including Annbjorg Lien, Liz Knowles, and Catriona MacDonald – represent fiddle traditions from Ireland, Scotland, Scandinavia and America. (They’re rumored to be recording a new album sometime soon.) In 2013, she released her first solo album, “On the Offbeat,” in more than a decade, with an impressive guest list that included Sean Og Graham, Trevor Hutchinson and Seamus Egan.

Which leads to the inevitable question of when Carroll’s next recording might be. And here, Carroll – like more than a few musicians – is contemplating a dramatically altered landscape than when she started out.

“It’s just a very different time,” she says. “I’ve been working with a terrific guitarist-pianist, Jake Charron, and told him recently that we should put some tracks down. But then I started thinking about the pros and cons of doing a CD – the time, the expense, and so on. But my husband Charles said, ‘Look, whatever this thing is going to be, you should just do it. Who knows if it’s going to be an album or a download; don’t let it stop you from putting something on tape.’ And I’ve taken that to heart.”

Carroll is grateful for the chance to work with musicians from more recent generations, even if in unlikely circumstances. “I was on Skype not long ago with this 11-year-old kid from Utah who wanted to make up tunes, and ended up having the best time – I’m whistling one of his tunes while walking through the house. I just feel all energized by work-

ing with these younger musicians. They bring so much creativity and spark to the tradition.”

Here’s a look at the rest of the performers who’ll be appearing in “A St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn”:

- Waterford native Karan Casey, who was through town back in November as the lead singer with the Childsplay fiddle ensemble, was an original member of the groundbreaking Irish-American super-group Solas, with whom she recorded three albums before embarking on a solo career. Casey’s most recent album, 2014’s “Two More Hours,” featured her own compositions and showed her diverse musical background, blending jazz, blues and R&B. She’s also toured with Maura O’Connell and Lúnasa, and performed in A Stór Mo Chroí, a collaboration with John Spillane, Lumiere and Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh.

- Jenna Moynihan (fiddle), from upstate New York, and Mairi Chaimbeul (harp), a native of Scotland’s Isle of Skye, met as students at Berkeley College of Music and forged a sound that fuses Scottish and Appalachian/old-timey music, with elements of classical and jazz. They are set to release an album later this month, and will hold a concert to mark the occasion on March 26 at Harvard Square’s Club Passim.

- Keith Murphy, born in Newfoundland and now living in Brattleboro, is an accomplished guitarist, pianist and arranger, as well as a masterful singer in both English and French. In addition to performing for years as part of the innovative contra dance trio Nightingale, he’s collaborated with numerous musicians and singers, and has been part of the fiddle ensemble Childsplay.

- Ruby and Sam Miller, who have often appeared as a trio with sister Evelyn, are top-flight Irish step dancers who competed in the World Irish Dancing Championships in Belfast in 2012 and Boston in 2013.

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

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John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

A year-long celebration is underway to honor the 100th anniversary of the birth of President John F. Kennedy. Born in Brookline, Massachusetts on May 29, 1917, President Kennedy was the youngest



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Jump into  Ireland

CD Reviews

By Sean Smith

Gailfean, “Won’t You Come Out Tonight?” • In a perfect universe, all legendary Irish musicians would get to play together in an infinite number of different bands that would each release at least one album. As we know all too well, the universe isn’t perfect, but here is the latest “super group,” if you will, with three All-Ireland champions: Sligo-style fiddler Brian Conway; peripatetic accordionist John Whelan; and Máirtín de Cógáin, a masterful bodhran player, singer and storyteller. Rounding out the quartet is guitarist Don Penzien, who also has a distinguished resume as a festival organizer (notably CelticFest in Mississippi).



“Won’t You Come Out Tonight?” is one of those albums where the amiability and good cheer are as easy to discern as the outstanding musicianship. The melodic interplay between Conway and Whelan is a thing of beauty – on a pair of hornpipes (“The

Cuckoo/The Western”), for instance, or reels like “The Whistling Postman/Berehaven,” or the trio of slip jigs that includes the old favorite “Hardiman the Fiddler.” Each gets a turn alone, Conway on a medley that begins with his lovely treatment of the air “The Bonny Bunch of Roses” and segues into the reels “Redican’s Bow” and “Seán sa Cheo” (Penzien’s guitar is a welcome presence throughout); Whelan powers through a trio of reels (“Finbarr Dwyer’s/ Tom Ward’s Downfall/The Maid I Ne’er Forgot”) with typical aplomb.

The vocal selections are equally pleasing, thanks to de Cógáin’s range and hearty tone, not to mention a fine choice of material, including “Nil na Lá (Day-break Has Not Come),” a Cork ditty in the guest-who-just-won’t-leave vein, around which Conway and Whelan delightfully wrap a Larry Redican-composed reel, “Kathleen’s Fiddle”; “Heenan & Sayers,” which recounts a famous 19th-century boxing match with all the swagger and bravado you’d want in a sporting ballad; “Óró, Sé Do Bheatha ‘Bhaile,” one of Ireland’s most stirring patriotic anthems, Patrick Pearse’s rewrite of an older Jacobite song; and “Castle Hyde,” a tribute to a grand Cork estate so absurd in its excessive praise that the proprietor was convinced the song had been written as a mockery.

Not only does Gailfean have gobs of talent and experience, but also a good creation story: They were stranded together at an Irish retreat in Texas during Hurricane Sandy and did an impromptu performance, which inspired them to make a go of it (“Gailfean,” appropriately enough, is Gaelic for “rough weather”). No, the universe isn’t perfect, but it does get some things right here and there. [gailfean.com]

Marco Fabbri, “Crossroads”; Michel Balatti, “The Northern Breeze”; Tommaso Tornielli, “1st” • Over the years, this space has given regular attention to the remarkable amount of Irish/Celtic music coming from Europe, as exemplified by bands such as Germany’s Cara and France’s Doolin. Italy has it going on, too, as this trio of recent recordings attests – and we’re not talking about renditions of “The Wild Rover” or “Fields of Athenry” with Neapolitan accents. These musicians have immersed themselves in the tradition and done the work to pick up its nuances and details. They’ve also been keeping quite impressive company: Guest stars on these albums include worthies like Oisín Mac Diarmada,



Kevin Crawford, Nuala Kennedy, Sean McElwain, Caitlín Nic Gabhann, Junior Davey, and Paul and John McSherry; but it bears mentioning that plenty of the supporting musicians also are Italian, and equally deserving of praise.

A native of Rome, Fabbri began playing fiddle in 1980 and spent a considerable amount of time in Belfast, joining the group Ulta and touring the continent with them. He also recorded with the unique Italian world/electronic/Celtic-fusion band Fiamma Fumana. Reflecting the extent of Fabbri’s travels, “Crossroads” is the most wide-ranging of these three albums, including music from Italian, Breton and English traditions as well as Irish. Fired by his crisp, authoritative playing across the different genres and contexts, “Crossroads” abounds with Irish music from distinguished pedigrees, including tunes composed by Sean Ryan (“Shamrock Hill”; “Ar Mhuin na Muice”), Thomas Lynch (“The Brit in the Liffey”), Charlie Lennon (“Master Seamus”) and Siobhan

Peoples (“Lochlann’s”), or learned from the work of Laurence Nugent (“Return Home”), Gerry O’Connor (“Launching the Boat,” “The Mohill”) and Christy Leahy (“Johnny the Tailor’s Fancy”), among others.

These nestle alongside the Breton tune “Suite Fisel,” a Northwest English hornpipe paired with a clog dance tune from Nova Scotia, a French perigodrin composed by violinist Niccolò Paganini, a Sicilian waltz and a couple of tarantellas – plus a traditional dance from the Bolognese Apennines he repurposes as a reel. With his lengthy list of musical friends, Fabbri sets the right mood and tone for each track: A vigorously rendered set of jigs with the McSherrys sounds straight from a cracking good pub session, while “Tarantella Nicodemo” – with Felice Zaccheo on mandola and Maurizio Geri on nylon-string guitar – resonates with a classical/Mediterranean ambience. [claddaghrecords.com/index.php/instruments/fiddle/marco-fabbri-croassroads.html]

Tornielli has played flute and whistle with The Clan, an Italian Celtic punk band, but is best known for his appearances (with the likes of Mac Diarmada and Crawford) at the Eire! International Festival in Bonedo. His tone and overall command of the instrument are quite extraordinary – the jig set “Wishing Well/Apples in Winter” and a slip jig/reels combo (“Broose and Butter” followed by his compositions “Crazy Glass” and “Interence”), as well as a pair of hornpipes, are highlights, as is his set with Mac Diarmada on fiddle and McElwain on guitar and bouzouki.

Balatti started out as a classical-style flautist but about 15 years ago decided to devote himself to the Irish flute and whistle tradition, and so he lived in Ennis, Co. Clare, for an extended time to get acclimated. He wound up joining The Birkin Tree, a pioneering band made of up fellow Irish music-loving Italians that has played with folks like Liam O’Flynn, Martin Hayes and Niamh Parsons (Balatti also is one of the few flutists in the traditional Italian music scene). Sound-wise, “Northern Breeze” is spare compared to the other two albums, Balatti backed primarily by guitarist Michael Bryan and Fabio Biale on bodhran and piano. Some of the sets (“Coleman’s March/Piper’s Maggot/The Crooked Road”; “The Humours of Giulia” set, all written by him) are a little reminiscent of Flook; there’s also a lovely duet with harpist Elena Spotti on the O’Carolan piece “Eleanor Plunkett” and quite a few ebullient flute-guitar-piano trios, notably the jig medley “Agata/Adam and Eve.” [michelbalatti.com]

At a time when one can speak of Irish/Celtic music as a global phenomenon, it’s important to see that not in terms of big, glitzy international pop spectacles – where “Celtic” functions as a brand name – staged in huge concert halls, broadcast on TV and, ultimately, disseminated via DVD. Instead, look – or rather listen – to the Marco Fabbri, Tommaso Tornielli and Michel Balatti, who embrace and understand the tradition in its most basic forms. *Che bello.*

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Traveling People

Ireland holds back little when it comes to the Saint’s day

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It’s that glorious month when everyone, everywhere is Irish regardless of ancestry or nationality. And, Ireland, where the patron saint’s day was once celebrated in a somewhat more somber and spiritual manner, now pulls out all the stops with fun festivals, parades, and other lively celebrations all over the country – some of which go on for a week or more.

DUBLIN FESTIVAL
Of course, the epicenter of Ireland’s celebration is Dublin where St. Patrick’s Festival this year promises some thousands of artists, musicians, dancers, poets, and performers in a program that runs from March 16 to 19 with more than 30 assorted events scheduled. The theme for this year’s festival is “Ireland You Are” to celebrate the Irish as a culturally diverse, complex, and brave society. Dublin poet and playwright Stephen James Smith was commissioned to write a poem, “My Ireland,” to reflect that theme. His poem will be presented during the festival.

The four-day event annually attracts more than 100,000 visitors from abroad and is highlighted by a parade down O’Connell Street at noon on March 17. During the festival, community groups and pageant companies from around the country will present performances and street theatre on topics like tales of the faeries, ancient mythical tribes, pirates, and the living landscape.

The Dublin festival has expanded this year with events spreading outside the city center to Swords, Blanchardstown, Howth. There is even a mystery train ride planned to the Wild Atlantic Way. See stpattricksfestival.ie for more information on the Dublin events.

Cork City’s Festival, with the theme “Cork – A City of Community, Culture, & Commerce,” includes a parade on March 17 and varied events that run through to March 19. For more details, see corkstpattricksfestival.ie, cork.ie, and discoverireland.ie/southwest.

GALWAY CELEBRATES
This is the 114th anniversary of the Galway St. Patrick’s Day Parade, which starts March 17



Croagh Patrick, the holy mountain in Co. Mayo, is known for its association with Saint Patrick, Ireland’s patron saint, who is said to have fasted for 40 days at the summit in 441AD. Croagh Patrick, called The Reek, has been a pilgrimage destination since pre-Christian times.

at 11:30 a.m. and ends about 1 p.m. The city’s multi-faceted festival runs in various venues around the city from March 15-17.

The Galway festival showcases local artists and community groups and celebrates the city’s diverse culture and talent through an extensive program of events. This year the parade highlights include Galway Arts Centre, Colors Street Theatre, An Taibhdhearc Theatre, and Galway Theatre Festival with community groups such as Foróige, GAA clubs, Amnesty International, and The Russian Culture Club presenting a picture of the city’s mix of cultural and ethnic diversity. See galwaytourism.ie for more.

PIPE BANDS ON ACHILL
There are celebrations in nearly every town and city on the island at this special time of year so you won’t have too hard a time finding something fun to do.

In many villages on Achill Island in Co. Mayo, for instance, there is a pipe band tradition and on St. Patrick’s Day these bands play a central role in celebrations.

After a 6 a.m. reveille, the bands spend most of the day marching. After watching the bands, be sure to stop for refresh-



This ram’s horns are painted bright kelly green - presumably to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. We photographed him as he wandered along the road on Achill Island in Co. Mayo.

ments at many locations on the island and then make time to see Achill Island’s spectacular scenery. In the evening, traditional and modern entertainment is offered in the island’s pubs and hotels. See achilltourism.com for more details.

ST. PATRICK CENTRE
If you’re on the East Coast and have even one spare day, a drive up to the St. Patrick Centre in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland, is well worth the couple of hours required to get there. (The scenery

along the route makes the trip worthwhile, too.)

The St. Patrick Centre has planned a 17-day festival featuring Irish and international artists who will celebrate with curated events and a program suitable for all tastes.

The festival opens with bells that symbolically unite churches and creeds in villages, townlands, and cities in Armagh and Down, and celebrate the life of the saint in the landscape that was once his home: Armagh City, Downpatrick, Newry, Loughgall, Dundrum, Castle Ward, the Mourne Mountains, and Slieve Gullion.

The first festival weekend, March 3-5, focuses on Pre-Christian Myths and Legends, highlighting the first people and cultures St. Patrick encountered before beginning his Christian ministry.

The second weekend, March 10-12, is titled “Spiritual Journeys” as the festival focuses on another spiritual culture, the Sufis, with performances by The Secret Ensemble’s eight musicians. This is the group’s debut of their music in the UK and Ireland and these

will be exclusive performances in Armagh and Downpatrick cathedrals. “Contemporary Celebrations” is the theme for the final weekend (March 17-19) that will include public processions, traditional religious ceremonies, and family entertainment.

The St. Patrick Centre is a fascinating place to visit at any time of year and is the world’s only permanent exhibit about Ireland’s patron saint. The Centre also has an outstanding craft shop with art and design by many gifted artists as well as a garden café. For more information, visit: saintpatrickcentre.com

DROGHEDA GIN SCHOOL

Here’s something fun, different and interesting to do while you’re visiting the Emerald Isle. Ireland’s first gin school – Listoke Distillery and Gin School - opened recently in a 200-year-old stable at Listoke House in Drogheda, Co. Louth.

Participants in small classes at the distillery will learn the secrets and history of gin and make their own special brew to take home.

Says James McKenna,

sales and marketing director for Listoke Distillery: “Having recently returned to Ireland after 18 years working in the bar industry in New York, I was struck by the interest in gin, and saw the opportunity to recapture Ireland’s heritage of spirit production.”

In addition to the gin school, a visit to Listoke estate offers an art gallery, extensive and beautifully restored Edwardian gardens, a garden shop, and tearooms. The property is also available for weddings, meeting and other occasions.

Classes can be booked up to three months in advance. See listokedistillery.ie for more.

AWARDS FOR HOTELS

Harvey’s Point Hotel in Co. Donegal was recently named Ireland’s best hotel as well as 10th best hotel in Europe in TripAdvisor’s Travellers’ Choice awards. Harvey’s also finished first in the “best service” category and second in “most romantic” category.

Castlewood House in Dingle, Co. Kerry, finished 12th in the world, tenth in Europe and first in Ireland in the “bargain” category. Castlewood was also named 13th best hotel in Europe and first in Ireland for “small hotels” and most romantic Irish hotel.

In the luxury hotel category, the Killarney Park Hotel in Killarney, Co. Kerry, was named Ireland’s best, while Pax Guest House in Dingle, Co. Kerry, was named top Irish B&B. Pillo Hotel in Ashbourne, Co. Meath, won Ireland’s best family hotel.

“Unlike other hospitality awards,” a TripAdvisor spokesman said, “These are based on feedback from actual guests over the past year.”

Georgina Campbell, an Irish travel authority, has her own take on Irish accommodation. “What we seek is not perfection but real food and hospitality with real heart and we’re finding it in clusters of excellence all over the country.” She noted Ireland’s growth as a food tourism destination with an “explosion” of casual dining.

Campbell said, “Our least satisfactory experiences have again tended to be in four and five-star hotels. Higher prices mean higher expectations, of course, but the high level of dissatisfaction is often down to simple things that could easily be fixed at any level, plus a lack of hospitality (which often means lack of a host) and poor staff training.”

For more of Campbell’s recommendations see irish-guide.com.

TRAVEL

Enjoy your visit to Ireland whenever and wherever you go. Spring is on the horizon and travel deals are sprouting in this shoulder season.

Have a very happy St. Patrick’s Day.



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BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett
Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

Described as “Boston’s first lady of contemporary Irish dance” by a Boston Globe arts critic, Kieran Jordan, Irish dance performer, instructor, and choreographer, hosted an open house on Sun., Feb. 26, at the unveiling of her dance studio in Hyde Park. Among the guests were Ireland’s Consul General Fionnuala Quinlan and her husband, Ravi Ganti.

1.) Kieran Jordan outside her new dance studio, 1310 Hyde Park Ave, Cleary Square; 2.) Dan Adams and Karyl Adams, Whitman, Vincent Crotty, Dorchester; 3.) Samantha Jones, Jamaica Plain; Joey Abarta, Roxbury; Jackie O’Riley, Roxbury; 4.) Madeleine Frasca, Melrose, Bill DeRusha and Hannah DeRusha, Medford; 5.) Jackie O’Riley, Kieran Jordan; 6.) Mary McDonald Roslindale; Leticia Rojas, Lauren Milord, Jamaica Plain; 7.) Fr. Jack Howard, Boston College; 8.) Sean Clohessy on fiddle and John Coyne on bouzouki were joined by Oisín Hannigan and Sean Clohessy.

‘EVERYTHING THAWS HERE EXCEPT OLD PAT’

On Dorchester Heights on March 17, 1776, many of Washington’s troops had ‘green bloodlines’

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

Whether one calls March 17th “St. Patrick’s Day” or “Evacuation Day,” the Irish can lay claim to both celebrations. Many men bearing surnames of “the old sod” were nestled behind bristling cannons that peered down from Dorchester Heights on that day in 1776. The redcoats, or “Lobsterbacks,” were fleeing Boston aboard Royal Navy vessels straining to haul anchor and hightail it out of the harbor – which lay directly under the Rebels’ heavy guns.

Commanding the Patriots was George Washington, who held a deep regard for Irish-born troops serving in his ranks. He placed such a high estimate upon their proven combat abilities that he honored that most cherished of Irish dates – St. Patrick’s Day – in an era when the Irish, especially Irish Catholics, were hardly a favorite of many colonists.

On that March 17, Washington was well aware that it was a holy-day for the Irish, and that many Irishmen had fought at Bunker Hill and had just helped drag those cannon up the Dorchester slopes. He acknowledged both facts by ordering that the password of the day be “Saint Patrick.”

Washington also proffered another tip of his tri-cornered hat to Patriots with Irish surnames as the British troops boarded



A sketch of the scene at Dorchester Heights, March 17, 1776.

their transports. On that momentous day, he had General John Sullivan countersign the dispatch making “Saint Patrick” the army’s official watchword.

The son of an Irish schoolmaster who had emigrated from Kerry or Limerick to Berwick, Maine, in 1723, Sullivan was one of many Rebels who either hailed from Ireland itself or were the sons of native-born Irish.

In 1776, as one of Washington’s most trusted officers, Sullivan had long recognized the Rebels’ need for heavy artillery to enforce the siege of Boston.

Washington had received, on Dec. 17, 1775, a letter from Colonel Henry Knox, a man of Irish lineage, noting that the heavy artillery so sorely needed by Washington was available at Fort Ticonderoga in upstate New York, a British fortress that had been captured by Rebel Ethan Allen and his Vermont Green Mountain Boys.

Knox, who had been sent to New York on a mission, wrote: “I hope in sixteen or seventeen days to present to your Excellency a noble train of artillery, the inventory of which I have enclosed.

According to the histo-

rian James Bernard Cullen, “Colonel Knox kept his word. With an enterprise and perseverance that elicited the warmest commendations, he brought, over frozen lakes and almost impassable snows, more than 50 cannons, mortars, and howitzers. With this train in place, Washington strengthened his position and planned make a more decisive move against the enemy.

“Colonel Knox was of a family that originally came from near Belfast. His career was a brilliant one. He commanded the artillery corps, and the effective work of his guns at Trenton, Princeton, Germantown, and Monmouth made him distinguished among the American generals. He was born in Boston, July 25, 1750.”

Also among the native-born Irishmen in Washington’s ranks near Boston on that March day, was Colonel Stephen Moylan, the dashing commander of Moylan’s Dragoons. Born in Cork, Moylan was the brother of the Roman Catholic bishop of that city, and from the American camp in January 1776, he wrote to his brother: “Everything thaws here except old Pat. He is still as hard as ever crying out for powder-powder-ye gods, give us powder!”

Cullen notes: “Moylan Street at the Highlands ob-

scurely keeps his memory among us.” Throughout the Revolution, Moylan proved one of the Continental Army’s most daring and resourceful officers, as well as a personal favorite of Washington.

While Irishmen eagerly joined the Rebels’ cause out of a desire both for independence and a chance to settle historical scores with the British, the Crown encountered pronounced difficulty in recruiting the Irish in Ireland and in the Thirteen Colonies to don the scarlet tunic of the British army and march into battle beneath the Union Jack against Washington’s troops.

One of Washington’s generals, Arthur Lee, another officer with Irish ancestors, wrote the following to Washington: “The resources of the country – that is to say, England – are almost annihilated in Germany, and their last resource is to the Roman Catholics of Ireland; and they have already experienced their unwillingness to go, every man of a regiment raised there last year having obliged them to ship him off tied and bound. And most certainly the Irish Catholics will desert more than any other troops whatever [once they were landed in America].”

An event proving George Washington’s ongoing

respect for both the Continental soldiers born in Ireland or descended from Irish immigrants unfolded with his St. Patrick’s Day proclamation of March 16, 1780. At his desk in his army’s encampment at Morristown, New Jersey, Washington signed the following General Order:

“The General congratulates the Army on the very interesting Proceedings of the Parliament of Ireland, and the Inhabitants of that Country, which have lately been communicated, not only as they appear calculated to remove those heavy and tyrannical oppressions on their trade, but to restore to a brave and generous People their ancient Rights and Freedom, and by their operation to promote the Cause of America. Desirous of impressing on the minds of the Army Transactions so important in their Nature, the General directs that all Fatigue and Working Parties cease for tomorrow, the 17th, a day held in particular Regard by the People of that Nation. At the same time he orders that as a mark of the Pleasure he feels on the occasion, he persuades himself that the Celebration of the Day will not be attended with the least Rioting or Disorder. The Officers to be at their Quarters in Camp, and the Troops of each State Line, are to be kept within their own encampment.”

For the army’s “sign” and “countersign” on St. Patrick’s Day of 1780, Washington chose the passwords “Patrick” and “Shelah” (a scholar notes that the latter term referred to “one of the historic personifications of Ireland”).

One look at the muster rolls of the Continental Army proves the Irish presence on March 17 at Dorchester Heights and throughout the Revolutionary War. They witnessed what their countrymen on the “old sod” could only dream of: the British in full flight.

Today, 241 years later in Boston, March 17 fittingly marks both St. Patrick’s Day and Evacuation Day – the celebration alike of Ireland’s venerated saint and the day the Redcoats departed Boston for good.

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'BLACK '47' – THE DARKEST OF YEARS

For Ireland, it marked the full onslaught of the Famine

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

Second of four parts

“Black ‘47” – just two words at first glance. In all of Ireland’s history, however, few phrases resonate with such horror.

As peasant families in all corners of Ireland struggled to survive in the winter of 1846-47, desperate men, women, and children turned to the government’s hastily and ill-conceived public works projects for survival. Charles Edward Trevelyan, head of the British treasury, or Exchequer, oversaw all Famine measures after the fall of Prime Minister Robert Peel’s Conservative administration to the Whigs, led by Lord John Russell. A proponent of letting free markets operate no matter the consequences, Trevelyan shut down Indian corn depots throughout Ireland and banned a ship headed for Ireland with a cargo of corn for the starving populace, asserting that the Irish could not remain “habitually dependent” on the British government and had to learn how to make “Irish property support [redress] Irish poverty.”

Trevelyan further contended that a full-blown Famine aid effort could “paralyze all private enterprise.” In short, he wanted Parliament to do nothing and let Ireland figure out a “free-market” solution, a stance that was to have catastrophic consequences for the Irish.

Stone roads to nowhere

The onset of 1847 found some 500,000 Irish laboring to build stone roads that led to nowhere throughout rural regions. The men smashed boulders with heavy hammers and were paid piece-work for every basket they could fill. Women and children lugged the baskets to meandering road beds where the stones were dumped. With one of the harshest winters in Irish memory unleashing one storm after another, bitter gales, snow, and sleet battered the road crews. Men, women, and children, weakened from hunger, clad in rags, and barefoot in many cases, collapsed with fever amid the piles of stone and froze to death where they fell.

The paltry pay allotted by the Crown proved barely enough to feed workmen and their families, especially as food prices soared. Coarse corn meal coast three times its pre-Famine price, but desperate Irishmen had

nowhere to turn except the back-breaking road work. As the Irish people’s misery and fear swelled with each day of the new year and the British government appeared incapable of or unwilling to address the catastrophe, Britain’s Quaker community strove to help the starving millions. William Forster, a leader of the Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends, which had branches in Dublin and London, had been directed to investigate the Famine and set up relief efforts, and he was stunned by the scope of the disaster. In an appeal to Britain’s collective conscience, he wrote of countless children who looked “like skeletons, their features sharpened with hunger and their limbs wasted, so that little was left but bones, their hands and arms, in particular, being much emaciated, and the happy expression of infancy gone from their faces, leaving behind the anxious look of premature old age.”

Frightful spectres

Nicholas Cummins, a magistrate in Cork, toured Skibbereen and sent the Duke of Wellington and *The Times of London* a letter describing the starving, disease-wracked people of the snow-cloaked countryside. Wrote Cummins: “I entered some of the hovels, and the scenes which presented themselves were such as no tongue or pen can convey the slightest idea of. In the first, six famished and ghastly skeletons, to all appearances dead, were huddled in a corner on some filthy straw, their sole covering what seemed a ragged horsecloth, their wretched legs hanging about, naked above the knees. I approached with horror, and found by a low moaning they were alive – they were in fever, four children, a woman and what had once been a man. ... in a few minutes I was surrounded by at least 200 such phantoms, such frightful spectres as no words can describe, [suffering] either from famine or from fever.”

Corpse-filled cottages, shallow graves, and massive, unmarked trenches in which countless bodies were dumped and covered up with quicklime and earth stretched across the island. Along with starvation, dysentery, typhus, and fevers of all sorts decimated the population, as well as doctors, priests, nuns, and Quaker relief workers striving to help. Entire families lay down along the road and died of “Road Fever.” Trevelyan’s misguided program of useless public-works projects and the cutoff of Indian corn was a disaster.

Merchant vessels laden with privately purchased cargos of Indian corn and other food did begin to dock in Ireland’s ports and offload shipments to warehouses,

but because most Irish could not afford to buy food, the warehouses remained full, and people continued to starve.

Disastrous response

By the end of June 1847, the British government ceased all public-works sites as Prime Minister Russell decided that simply “keep[ing] the people alive” superseded everything else. The new policy intended for the Irish to be fed for free through the Soup Kitchen Act, spearheaded by local aid organizations and paid in large part by taxes on Irish landlords and merchants. Once again, the British government’s response proved disastrous.

The Famine was bankrupting landlords whose tenant farmers could not pay their rent. Few people could pay merchants, and shops closed everywhere, the businessmen and their families joining the starving peasants on the streets. At the soup kitchens, demand far outstripped supply; in Killarney, only one soup kitchen existed and it had to contend with more than 10,000 people. The soups themselves – rancid meat, coarse corn, and often-rotting vegetables in boiled water – caused bowel and stomach woes for the lines of men, women, and children clutching small pots or bowls in hopes of getting soup before the pots were empty. Eventually, kitchens began to issue a four-ounce slice of bread and “stirabout,” porridge consisting of corn meal, rice, and water. Some three million Irish fought to survive on such skimpy rations throughout the summer of 1847, malnutrition and disease still claiming thousands of victims with each week.

A ‘coffin ship’ on starvation

In a perverse turn, the fall 1847 potato harvest was not blighted, but yielded only a quarter of the pre-Famine crop. Cash-hungry landlords, large and small, decided to turn their acres over to cattle and sheep and to plant, but in order to do so, they had to move off the tenant farmers clinging to their meager plots. The answer was eviction on a massive scale. The Irish Diaspora was about to swell to unprecedented levels as desperate Irish faced a choice of “coffin ships” carrying them from their country or starving to death. In “Black 47,” hundreds of thousands had perished and many thousands of the living were boarding ships barely seaworthy that were bound for Boston.

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

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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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EU doesn't want hard Irish border after Brexit

BRUSSELS — The head of the European Union's executive commission says he does not want a "hard border" between Northern Ireland and member state Ireland once Britain has broken away from the bloc.

EU Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker said Feb. 23 that the commission and "the Irish government will work

closely together during the whole process of the Brexit negotiations. We do not want to have hard borders."

Once the divorce proceedings are complete, possibly sometimes in 2019, the EU could in theory have a hard border with the U.K. through Ireland. Northern Ireland is part of the U.K.

Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny says that

because of the specificities of the British Isles and the Northern Ireland peace accord there was agreement not to go back to a hard border that would restrict travel. (AP)

Employment tops 2 million for 1st time since crash

DUBLIN — Statisticians say the number of people in Ireland with a full-time job has topped 2 million for the first

time since the country's property-driven economy suffered a calamitous crash in 2008.

Tuesday's figures from the Central Statistics Office say unemployment has fallen to 6.8 percent, an 8 1/2-year low, while the number of people with full-time employment has climbed 3.3 percent to 2.05 million, approaching the peak levels of Ireland's lost Celtic Tiger boom. (AP)

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Irish filmmakers light up Sundance screens, then set up in Somerville

By JENNIFER SMITH
REPORTER STAFF

On the heels of a small but strong showing for films with an Irish focus at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival, a slew of Irish films will light up the screens in late March at the 17th annual Irish Film Festival based in Somerville.

From inspiring documentaries about a physically limited filmmaker and an idyllic prep school in County Meath to the visceral transformation of a soft-spoken farmer into a vengeance-driven vigilante, the Emerald Isle was well-represented at the Park City, Utah, film fest in January.

Three films with Irish connections were featured in the mountain town's annual festival, which selected 113 films from 13,782 submissions from the United States and abroad.

• The rich and moving documentary "It's Not Yet Dark" tracks the Irish filmmaker Simon Fitzmaurice's triumph in the face of a crippling motor neuron disease. Directed by Frankie Fenton and narrated by Colin Farrell, who reads passages from Fitzmaurice's memoir, the film leans into sentimentality as it chronicles the subject's physical decline and creative resurgence.

In his early 30s, at the peak of his critical success and personal happiness, Fitzmaurice began to show signs of the disease that would ultimately leave him paralyzed. Unable to breathe, move, or speak on his own, he nonetheless was able to use technology attuned to his gaze to express himself through writing and directing.

• "In Loco Parentis" is a gentle documentary focused around the Headfirst preparatory school in Kells, Co. Meath. Director Neasa Ní Chianáin, the Irish documentarian behind "Fairytale of Kathmandu" and "The Stranger," uses teachers Amanda and John Leyden as an entry point into the holistic teaching approach championed by the stately prep school.

With an eye on a small cluster of students, Chianáin watches them test the boundaries of a contemporary education



A scene from "In Loco Parentis," a documentary that turns its lens on the Headfirst preparatory school in Kells, County Meath.

while they are bolstered by a possessive and supportive atmosphere. Her directorial hand is light, for the most part avoiding dramatic expository moments in favor of a clear-eyed look at the cycle of arrivals, growth, and departures that have marked nearly half a century of the aging Leydens' creative mentoring of their young charges.

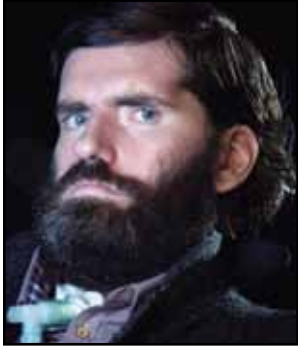
• A fatalistic, violent, and sharply-directed revenge film, "Bad Day for the Cut," is writer-director Chris Baugh's offering set in Northern Ireland about a soft-spoken, middle-aged farmer who becomes a vigilante after the murder of his elderly mother. Donal, played by Nigel

O'Neill, lives with his frail mother Florence (Stella McCusker) on their small farm. Generally at ease with a life put on pause so he can care for his mother, Donal's relatively peaceful existence is uprooted when he discovers his mother dead in the parlor, apparently the victim of a vicious home invasion.

Florence, it turns out, had secrets of her own, and the film unwinds a tale of older generations' sins coming back to haunt their offspring. As the bodies pile up, O'Neill's grounded humanity and inventive uses for household items blunt the edge of increasingly brutal displays of violence that which fully merit the film's inclusion

in Sundance's edgier Mid-night section.

Locally, the Irish Film Festival will host its me-



Irish filmmaker Simon Fitzmaurice is the focus of "It's Not Yet Dark."

dia/VIP kickoff event on Thurs., March 2, at the Aeronaut Brewing Company in Somerville. None of the Sundance films will cross over into the Greater Boston festival, which will announce its slate at the kickoff.

The four-day festival will run from Thursday, March 23 to Sunday, March 26, featuring over 40 Irish films, shorts, and documentaries.

Benefit set to help combat Alpha-1 genetic condition

The Celtic Connection will host a fundraiser to benefit the Alpha-1 Foundation on March 4 at the Boston Marriott-Newton Hotel. Alpha-1 is a genetic condition that affects the lungs and may cause liver damage in infants, children, and adults.

The disease has been found to be especially

prevalent in those of Irish descent. Many Irish and Irish-Americans are likely carriers of the disease.

Those suffering from Alpha-1 are often misdiagnosed with emphysema or COPD, and have usually exacerbated their symptoms through tobacco use.

Testing is available for carriers of Alpha-1, and

the people from the Celtic Connection are eager to spread the word about awareness, treatment, detection, and prevention. They invite you to join 400 guests at the 7 p.m. dinner. Tickets are \$50 per person.

For more information on Alpha-1, visit Alpha1.org.

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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

This month we are going to review the **Conditional tense**. In addition, recall that the **Definite Past** is a single point in time while the **Habitual Past** extends over a period of time.

Suppose Liam worked in a pub for several years. **Ghlanadh Liam an orlár nuair a dhóirtidis duine a ndeoich.** “Liam *used to clean* the floor when someone *spilled* their drink.” Both of these verbs are in the **Habitual Past** since Liam worked as a pub keeper for some time. **Ghlan sí an orlár tar eis dhoirt a gasúr an bainne.** “She *cleaned* the floor after her child *spilled* the milk.” Both of these verbs are in the **Definite Past** since it was a one-time accident.

By now you should be able to recognize the **Habitual Past** when you see it written

D’ólainn	/DAWL-een/	“I used to drink”
D’óltá	/DAW-tah/	“You used to drink”
D’óladh	/DAWL-uh/	“He, she, it, you-all used to drink”
D’ólaimis	/DAWL-uhmeesh/	“We used to drink”
D’ólaidis	/DAWL-uhjeesh/	“They used to drink”

Verbs of two syllables drop the second syllable in the **Past Habitual** tense. If the second syllable ends in a **consonant**, the **vowel(s)** of that syllable is/ are dropped but the **consonant** remains. An example is the verb **imir**, “play” a game or with a toy. English “play a musical instrument or composition” uses a different **verb** in Irish, synonymous with “sing”.

The “root” of **imir** becomes **imr-**. Similarly a **verb** like “open”, **oscail**, becomes **oscl-**. Remember that the “third person” singular (“he, she, it”) ending for two syllable verbs is **–(a)iodh** pronounced /eek/.

Verbs that begin with **vowels** do as they did in the **Definite Past**, **lenite** artificially with **D’** and then attach the proper endings as in the example of **ól**. The **Habitual Past** is sometimes called the “Imperfect” because it is never ending, has no definite end in terms of time, therefore it is not “perfected”.

Now recall the **Conditional Verb Tense**. This is one which can be used as the second part of a two clause sentence – one which has two verbs and usually, but not always, begins with “if”, **dá**. **Dá** is always followed by the **Conditional** or the **Habitual Past** tenses.

Dá implies uncertainty, either in future time with the **Conditional** tense or in the past with the **Habitual Past**:

“I will go if you will go with me” will use the **Conditional**; “I used to go to town if she would go with me” will use the **Habitual Past**.

Another word for “if” is **má** and must be followed by the **Present** or **Definite Past Tenses**. “He drank the beer if she drank it” would use **má** while “He will drink the beer if she will drink it” would use **dá** since the speaker is not too sure she would drink the beer or she hasn’t yet drunk it.

Here is the **Conditional** tense preceded by **dá**. The **Conditional** will **lenite** or “artificially **lenite**” by using **D’** if the word begins with a **vowel** or **F-**. The endings vary so I chose two verbs to illustrate. The “dummy vowels” are underlined and italicized:

Cuir, “put” or “plant”:		Ceannaigh, “buy” or “purchase”	
... dá chuirfinn	“... if I put”	... dá cheannóinn	“... if I buy”
... dá chuirfeá	“... if you put”	... dá cheannófá	“... if you buy
... dá chuirfeadh	“... if he puts”	... dá cheannódh	“...if she buys”
... dá chuirfimis	“... if we put”	...dá cheannóimis	“...if we buy”
... dá chuirfeadh sibh	“...if you”	...dá cheannódh sibh	“...if you buy”
... dá chuirfeadis	“...if they put”	...dá cheannóidis	“...if they buy”

Verbs on the left are traditionally called “Type 1”; verbs on the right are “Type 2”. Good dictionaries will tell you which they are. Most of the verbs in this course are “Type 1”, including the important verb, **bí**. We will see more of the verb **bí** in the **Conditional** in next month’s Irish column.

Other than **ceannaigh** “buy” or “purchase” you have **bailigh** “collect”, “pick” or “gather” and **imir** “play” as “Type 2” verbs – and that will be all in this course. You will have no use for “stab” or other Type 2 verbs.

Your “clue” as to the when you hear or see the **Conditional** is that it will (1) almost always follow **dá**, more rarely “when” **cén uair** or **cá huair**, and (2) when you hear or see an **–f-** in the verb ending . The English version of the **Conditional** often adds the auxiliary “will” such as in an exasperated husband telling his wife, “I will go shopping with you *if you will* only *buy* something.”



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March 11	Co. Roscommon Annual St. Patrick’s Dinner - \$45. Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton. Delicious Family-Style Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. Boston Fire Commissioner Joe Finn to be honored with Person of the Year Award. Co. Roscommon Mayor Tony Ward to attend along with other dignitaries. Call Richie Gormley at 617-327-7777 for ticket and table reservations. No tickets sold at the door.	April 2	Andy Healy
March 12	Wild Rovers	April 9	Fintan Stanley
March 17	St. Patrick’s Day at the Irish Social Club with Noel Henry’s Irish Show Band. \$20. Ballaghdere Special Needs Preschool in Letterkenny Fundraiser. Outstanding door prizes and music by Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton. Call Billy Higgins at 617-201-6077.	April 16	Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton
March 18		April 23	Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton
March 19	Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton	April 30	Noel Henry and last day to renew membership for continuous service
March 23	Members Meeting 7:30 pm		MAY 2017
March 26	Kathy and the Irish Americans	May 7	Andy Healy
		May 14	Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton
		May 21	Silver Spears
		May 25	Members Meeting 7:30 pm
		May 28	Denis Curtin
			JUNE 2017
		June 2	SMA Father Annual Fundraising Dance
		June 4	Noel Henry’s Irish Show Band
		June 11	Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton
		June 18	Andy Healy

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