Boston Neighborhood News, Inc.

# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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# March 17: thoughts of a patron saint, milestones for Boston's Îrish heritage

#### By Peter F. Stevens BIR Staff

As St. Patrick's Day 2018 nears, the "wearing of the green" will hold sway in Boston and environs. Still, amid all the genuine or faux pride on display in pubs, along parades, and as part of all other manner of rev-elry, it's a sure bet that a great many celebrants are unaware that March 17 teems with uniquely Boston milestones.

# The Big Parade: Landmark Tradition "The Parade." In Bos-

ton, the phrase means one thing—South Boston's annual St. Patrick's Day event. The 2018 march marks the event's latest incarnation in a tradition that began in 1901.

The milestone notwithstanding, the procession that so many enjoy today did not arrive easily for the Boston Irish, who long had to battle prejudice be-fore they could have their celebration. Have their parade, Boston's Irish would, and proudly so.

As Irish-Catholic immigrants landed in Boston in ever-increasing numbers in the 1840s and staked their claim to new lives in America, they were soon thumbing their noses at Yankee antipathy to any commemorations of St. Patrick's Day. 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



Marching along Broadway in 2016.

Jameson's. No one building, however, would long serve to hold the growing numbers of local Irish longing to celebrate the

day in a bigger way.

There was only one
way, Boston Irish leaders decided, to include not just Irish men, but also women and children, in a celebration of St. Patrick. Their solution was a parade. The unofficial St. Patrick's Day marches that wound through every Irish ward in the 1870s, 1880s, and 1890s set the stage for

#### Lynch, Flaherty to 'pinch-hit' as Breakfast hosts US Congressman Stephen Lynch and Boston City

Councillor At-Large Michael Flaherty will share hosting duties at this year's St. Patrick's Day Breakfast in South Boston. The political roast — set for Sun., March 18 before the South Boston parade— will be staged at Ironworkers Local 7 Union Hall, where Lynch, a former ironworker before taking on elected office, has previously hosted the festivities. More, page 3.

the history-making "Big Parade" in 1901.

On March 18, 1901 yes, March 18 - the blare of brass bands and pipers and the stomps of marchers' feet pealed

along and above South Boston's streets. Banners awash with glittering shamrocks, harps, and images of the patron saint himself nodded in the gusts racing in from the

Atlantic. It was the 18th

for a good reason: The 17th had fallen on Sunday and organizers were subject to Boston's strict Blue Laws. So, on Monday, the procession commenced with the rattle of drums, the cries of pipes, and the pounding notes of brass bands.

Cheering throngs greeted the waves of marchers as they streamed along Southie's streets, wound across the bridge, and surged into downtown Boston to the ear-

(Continued on page 8)

### Sinn Fein duo has a tough challenge

By Joe Leary SPECIAL TO THE BIR

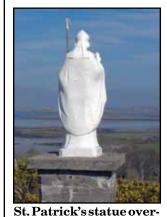
Political parties frequently undergo changes in their leadership, but rarely do they completely reverse the face of their public image. With Martin McGuinness's death and Gerry Adams's resignation as leader of Sinn Fein in Ireland, the party is embarking on a dramatically fresh course in the midst of dangerous

The party's new leaders, two young women in their 40s, will be met in the North by the aging fol-lowers of Ian Paisley, and in the South by competitors who only remember the violent years, not the times of successful peace initiatives. This will be a time of difficulty for them both as they move to solidify their positions in the minds of their constituents while also dealing with serious major

issues facing the island. The Good Friday peace plan, agreed to in 1998 by popular vote in both the North and South, is under attack; a return to complete British control of the North looms a real possibility, and Brexit offers a severe threat to all people, North and South.

Forty-seven-year of Mary Lou McDonald, representing her district in Dublin in the Irish parliament, was elected

(Continued on page 6)



looks Clew Bay from Croagh Patrick in Co. Mayo. Judy Enright surveys the scene, Page 25.

### 'Open the Door for Three' will strut their music at St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn (March 15-17)

By SEAN SMITH SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Open the Door for Three, a trio of Irish musicians whose penchant for scholarship complements their talents for arrangement and performance, will be a featured act in the 13th annual "A St.

Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn" production, which takes place March 15-17 with shows at The Cabot Theatre in Beverly, the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center in New Bedford, and Sanders Theatre at Harvard University.

Also in this year's line-

up is Brenda Castles, a concertina player from County Meath; Scottish harpist/keyboardist/vocalist Maeve Gilchrist; and vocalist/guitarist Keith Murphy, who serves as music director for the show

WGBH-FM broadcaster

Brian O'Donovan is the creator, producer, and host of "A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn," which follows the spirit and format of his long-running radio show, as does his annual "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn" production in December.

Open the Door for Three comprises Maine-based spouses Kieran O'Hare (uilleann pipes, flute, whistle) and Liz Knowles (fiddle) and Dublin-born Pat Broaders (bouzouki, vocals), now a Chicago resident, all of whom have

(Continued on page 16)

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#### James Brett is Eire Society's pick for its 2018 Gold Medal

The Éire Society of Boston has chosen Jim Brett, a Dorchester native who is president and CEO of the New England Council, to receive its Gold Medal  $award \, for \, 2018. \, The \, award \,$ will be presented at a dinner and ceremony on Saturday evening, April 7, at 6 p.m. at the Seaport Boston Hotel.



**James Brett** 2018 Honoree

The Gold Medal is awarded annually to a person or persons who exemplify the best of Irish culture and ideals. It is presented to those who have made significant contributions in their field of expertise that benefit society.

The honoree, a business leader, legislator, and lifelong advocate for public policy issues, will join the list of distinguished Gold Medal recipients. In 2017, the novelist, playwright and journalist Colm Tóibín received

the award, and in 2016, the medal was presented to Mary P. McAleese, the eighth president of

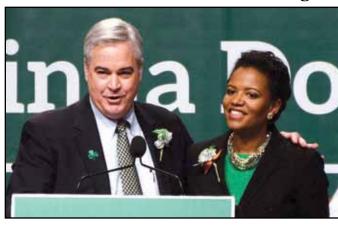
Ireland.
"It is fitting that Jim Brett is being honored with the Gold Medal Award from The Éire Society of Boston, given his tireless work over many decades on behalf of vulnerable members of our community," said Fionnuala Quinlan, Consul General of Ireland in Boston.

Among his many interests and achievements, Brett is a dedicated advocate for the physically and mentally challenged. He served as the chairman of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities and continues to serve as a member. In 2016, Congress appointed him to the National Council on Disability. He is also chairman of the Governor's Commission on Intellectual Disability and serves as the chairperson of the Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission.

For more information on the dinner and award ceremony, contact event chair William J. Smith by email at events@eiresociety.org or call Cornelia Cassidy Koutoujian at 781-899-3140.



shown during the 2016 St. Patrick's Day Breakfast in South Boston. Don West photo



Congressman Stephen F. Lynch (center) is Shown during the 2016 St. Patrick's Day Break-Forry at the 2014 breakfast in South Boston. Chris Lovett photo

### Lynch, Flaherty to take charge of breakfast

By Jennifer Smith REPORTER STAFF

The much-debated question of who would take over the St. Patrick's Day Breakfast, the South Boston tradition helmed for the past few years by former state Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry, now has a two-fold answer. US Congressman Stephen Lynch and City Councillor At-Large Michael Flaherty will share hosting duties this year.

Slated for Sunday, March 18, the breakfast will return to the Ironworkers Local 7 Union Hall, where Lynch, a former ironworker before taking on elected office, has previously hosted the festivities.

"The St. Patrick's Day Breakfast has become a neighborhood tradition, and with the unanticipated resignation of Senator Linda Dorcena Forry, Councilor Mike Flaherty and I have agreed to pinch hit and co-host this year's breakfast," Lynch said in a statement. "Senator Dorcena Forry did a terrific job as host, and I thank her for her work

on behalf of the South Boston com-

Sen. Dorcena Forry— who is the wife of Reporter owner and editor Bill Forry—vacated her seat at the end of January to take a post at Suffolk Construction. Her departure stunned many political observers and left a special election to replace her and the question of breakfast hosting up in the air.

A political staple since the 1930s, the breakfast kicks off St. Patrick's Day festivities in South Boston and precedes the holiday parade through Southie. It is a veritable "who's who" of Massachusetts politics, drawing senators and governors alike to offer chuckle- and groan-inducing takes on the topics of the day, in between the familiar Irish ballad

Lynch served as the breakfast host from 1996 until 2001, when he left the state senate when he was elected to US House of Representatives. He has maintained a high-profile role as a guest and roaster at the breakfast throughout

his tenure in Congress.

The senator for the First Suffolk District traditionally takes on hosting duties. Forry's office staff has been filling the gaps while interim hosts were being considered.

Dorcena Forry, daughter of Haitian-American immigrants, was the first woman of color to host the breakfast, starting in 2014 after winning a 2013 special election to succeed former Sen. Jack Hart.

'We're happy that the tradition of the breakfast is being upheld this year and will continue," said Patrick O'Brien, the legislative and policy director in for the First Suffolk office. "We will continue to work with the hosts this year to ensure that a smooth transition of the breakfast in such a quick time takes place."

Dorcena Forry's former staff will coordinate with Lynch and Flaherty's offices to hand over any necessary materials on the breakfast. Jennifer Smith is the news editor

of the Dorchester Reporter.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MARCH

Friday, March 2: The Irish Cultural Centre in Canton will present a short play about The Legend of St. Brigid's Cloak at 6:30 p.m. Children of all ages are invited to participate in the production. Calling all actors, musicians, artists, and singers to help put the show together. To sign up, email mdooher@irishculture.

org or call 781-821-8291.

March 2-3: Bualadh Boston 2018, an Irish Literary Festival, will take place Friday and Saturday at the Back Bay Harvard Club. Presented by the Irish Writers Centre, Poetry Ireland, and the Consulate General of Ireland, the festival includes three events featuring some of the finest contemporary Irish writers and poets, scheduled for Friday at 5 p.m., Saturday at 3 p.m., and Saturday at 5 p.m. All events will take place at the Harvard Club in the Back Bay. Tickets are free but those interested in attending are encouraged to book them online at eventbrite.com.

Monday, March 12: USA Boxing will kick off its USA vs IRL Northeast Boxing Tour with an event at 7 p.m. at Royale Entertainment Complex in Boston's Theater District. The showdown will feature 12 bouts featuring some of the best amateur boxers from the United States and Ireland. General Admission \$20, ringside \$35. More information at usaboxing.com.

Tuesday, March 13: Dublin Irish Dance will perform a show starting at 7:30 p.m. at Rhode Island College in the Roberts Hall auditorium. In a performance titled "Stepping Out," an all-star cast brings to life the epic tale of Celtic culture, carrying its traditional melodies and steps to the New World with a Gala Celebration of Irish Music and Dance. For tickets visit www.ric. edu/pas or call (401) 456-8144.

Thursday, March 15: The Irish American Partnership will host their annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast from 8-10 a.m. at the Boston Harbor Hotel. This year's breakfast will feature keynote speaker Irish Minister for Rural and Community Development Michael Ring, T.D., as well as guest speaker Dr. Maeve Liston, Coordinator of the Irish American Partnership's STEM Program. Reserve seats online at irishap.org.

Friday, March 16: Irish Network Boston will host their annual St. Patrick's Day party from 6:30-9:30 p.m. inside the State Street Pavilion at Fenway Park. There will be Irish music, dancing and cheer, special guests, hors d'oeuvres, and an open bar throughout the evening. Members only event. Members are welcome to purchase one additional ticket for a guest. Register for the event or become a member at irishnetworkboston.net.

Saturday, March 17

Dorchester's 11th annual St. Patrick's Day Brunch will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish Hall, 800 Columbia Rd., Dorchester. The 2018 Dorchester Hall of Fame Inductees will include Fire Commissioner Joseph E. Finn, Sr. Barbara Gorham, SCH, The Marr Family. Special Guests: Governor Charlie Baker and Mayor Martin Walsh. All proceeds to benefit Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry. \$100 per person.

• New England Irish Harp Orchestra & Friends will present a St. Patrick's Day concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Canadian-American Hall in Watertown. The concert will be followed by a Ceili. Tickets are \$12 advance and \$15 at the door. More information at neiho.org.
The Charitable Irish Society will host their 281st

St. Patrick's Day Anniversary Dinner at 6 p.m. at the Seaport Hotel. This year's dinner will feature guest speaker Hon. Michael John Ring, T.D., Irish Minister for Rural and Community Development. The dinner will also feature music and entertainment by Laurel Martin, Mark Roberts, Kathleen Guilday, and The Boston College Heightsmen. Cocktail reception at 6 p.m., dinner at 7. Black tie optional. RSVP online by March 13th at charitableirishsociety.org.

• Murphy's Boxing presents St. Patrick's Day Clash 3, an event that will include a series of boxing bouts and a special acoustic set from the Dropkick Murphys. House of Blues. Doors open at 8. Featuring WBC Silver International Champion Danny O'Connor (29-3). Tickets and more information at murphysboxing.com.

March 17-18: The Burren Pub in Somerville's Davis Square will host a series of St. Patrick's Day Spectacular Variety Shows. Six performances Saturday at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., and 7 p.m., and one performance Sunday at noon. The show features trad tunes, ballads, stories, dancing, and includes a traditional Irish meal. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at burren.com.

March 17-18: The Reagle Players will perform their production "A Little Bit of Ireland" at Waltham High School. There will be two shows Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and one show Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets available at reaglemusictheatre.com or at (781) 891-5600. Tickets cost \$5.50 online, \$3 by phone, and free at the box office.

March 22-25: The 18th annual Irish Film Festival will showcase the very best of contemporary Irish cinema. This year's festival will feature more than 35 Irish productions. All films will be shown at the historic Somerville Theatre in Davis Square. For more information and to buy tickets visit irishfilmfestival.com.

Friday, April 6: The Gaelic Players Association will host their 2nd annual Boston GPA Dinner on April 6th at the InterContinental Hotel. They are projecting to have over 500 attendees. Registration will be available soon on the GPA website.

Saturday, April 7: The Eire Society will host their annual Gold Medal Dinner on April 7th at 6 p.m. at the Seaport Boston Hotel. This year's Gold Medal Award recipient is Dorchester native and President and CEO of the New England Council, James T. Brett. Brett, a business leader, legislator, and lifelong advocate for public policy issues, has dedicated much of his life to advocating for the physically and mentally challenged. Tickets are \$150 per person. More information available at eiresociety.org/events/gold-medal/ or call 781-801-6316.

Sunday, April 15: Irish Hearts for Orphans will host their annual benefit dance from 3-7 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel in Quincy. The benefit will feature set dancing and local music from the Kenny Academy of Irish Dance, Comhaltas Ceoloiri Eireann, Erin's Melody, and Noel Henry's Irish Showband. This year's honorees include Quincy Mayor Thomas P. Koch and Christine A. Koch, Rev. Daniel J. Finn Paul, and Patricia Mikus. The event will also feature a silent auction, refreshments and light sandwiches, and a cash bar. \$20 suggested donation. Register online at nphusa.org/events/irishhearts.

### The Parades Lineup March 2018

Sunday, the 18th 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 route, parking restrictions, and how to get there.

Saturday, the 10th at 11 a.m. – Cape Cod-Yarmouth. Parade starts at Long Pond Drive and Route 28 in South Yarmouth. Continue west on Route 28, over the Parker's River Bridge, ending at Route 28 and Higgins Crowell Road/Berry Avenue More information at capecodstpatricksparade.com.

Saturday, the 10th at 11 a.m. - City of Lawrence. Parade will start at intersection of Amesbury Street and Common Street, and proceed down Amesbury Street by the Claddagh Pub over the Central Bridge onto Parker Street, turning left onto Salem Street, down Salem Street, turning left onto Market Street past the Reliefs' In ending at Market Street and Osgood Street. More information at lawrencest patsparade.com.

Saturday, the 10th at noon – City of Providence, RI. Parade starts at Smith and Rosebank Streets and ends at the Rhode Island State House. More informa-

tion at providencestpatricksparade.org.

Sunday, the 11th at noon – City of Worcester. Parade begins at Mill Street and Park Avenue and ends at Highland Street. More information at stpatsparade.com.

Saturday, the 17th at 11 a.m. - Newport, RI. Parade starts at City Hall. Rain or shine. More information at newportirish.com.

Sunday, the 18th at noon—City of Holyoke. Parade starts at Kmart Plaza on Northampton Street and ends at High Street and Hampton Street. More information at holyokestpatricksparade.com.

Sunday, the 18th at 1 p.m. – Town of Scituate. Parade begins at Gates Middle School on First Parish Rd and ends at Hatherly Rd by Satuit Tavern. More information at weloveaparade.com.

Sunday, the 18th at 1 p.m. - Town of Abington. Parade starts at St. Patrick's Square (corner of Orange and Washington). More information at eddiebaileysgarage.com.

Information courtesy of Boston Irish Tourism As-

sociation.

#### Mayor of Parkland has deep Boston Irish roots

By Ed Forry
As the grieving residents of Parkland, Florida seek to recover from the tragic Valentine's Day massacre at their high school, the city's government is led by a woman with deep Boston Irish roots. Mayor Christine Hunschofsky is a Boston Latin School graduate who was born and brought up in Roslindale, and holds several degrees from Boston University and Babson College.

She is the 48 year-old daughter of John McGuire, a native of County Mayo and a well-known and respected

leader in Boston's Irish community.
On Feb. 25, McGuire joined with pastor Rev. John Carroll and parishioners at St. John Chrysostom church in West Roxbury after Sunday Mass to create a memorial tableau with photos of the 17 victims of the mass murder. The parish planned to send letters of condolences to the principal of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School as a way to show support to the mayor's grieving city.

The proud father said his



daughter was among the invited attendees at a highly publicized "listening session" at the White House immediately after the massacre. In a broadcast on NPR's Morning Edition, Mayor Hunschofsky spoke about the

"I left that meeting feeling like the president wants to take action, and there seems to be a

resolve. Vice President Pence was also there. He seemed resolved. I think we're just really now at a point where people of all parties and of all areas of the country just want to see some action and some solutions," she said. "So many times, people get so caught up in their own ideals and beliefs, and we forget about what we really need to focus on, and that's to make sure that something like this never happens again."

The whole community is grieving," said Mayor Hunschofsky. "We lost 17 lives from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas community, and for the last week, we've been going to memorials, to funerals. And we live in such a wonderful, close-knit community in Parkland, very family-oriented. Most people have been somehow affected or knew someone. So it really hits home for our residents and makes it very tough.

"So we're definitely going through a grieving process, and it's going to be a long process," she said. "The good news is - if there is good news in this - because we have such a tight-knit, bonded community, we'll get through

Speaking with the Reporter after a Feb. 25 Éire Society event at Doyle's in Jamaica Plain, McGuire said his daughter has always been a leader. "Christine went to Boston Latin School and got a full scholarship to Boston University. She got two degrees from BU and then she did a one-year international entrepreneurial degree at Babson [College]. She won an Ernst & Young accounting award.

"After she finished college she said, 'Dad I'm going over to Austria for a month or two,' which ended up becoming three years. And I'm saying, 'When are you coming back? She got a job with an engineering company there and her husband was an engineering manager there they hit it off and that's the story."

The family settled in Parkland, a small city a halfhour drive from Fort Lauderdale, where Christine became active in community affairs. She was a coach in youth soccer and little league, a member of her parish school board. She has volunteered for many years at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.
"She decided to run for city commissioner in the city

of Parkland and eventually mayor," McGuire says. "And when she ran for mayor in 2016 she got more votes than both of the major candidates, Hillary and Donald."

McGuire said he regularly visits with his Florida

"I have been going there for 17 years. I just spent the month of January there with Christine. When I go down, I'm the handy man. I fix the light bulbs."

He said when he first heard word of the shootings, he immediately recognized the neighborhood.

"It is very bad for the families," he said. "Absolutely

# **BOSTON IRISH**

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> news@bostonirish.com www.bostonirish.com Mary C. Forry, President (1983-2004) Edward W. Forry, Publisher Thomas F. Mulvoy Jr., Managing Editor William P. Forry, Editor Peter F. Stevens, Contributing Editor

News Room: (617) 436-1222 Ads: (617) 436-1222 Fax: (617) 825-5516 news@bostonirish.com

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# RIP Jack Hynes, Hub's longtime news man who played it straight



The Hynes Family, Boston Irish Honors Award recipients in 2010. From left, Barry Hynes, Mark Gallagher, Richard Hynes, Jack Hynes, Marie Hynes Gallagher, Barry Hynes and Susan Gallagher. Margaret Brett Hastings photo

By Ed Forry

For some 70 years, members of the Hynes family gave Dorchester cachet in the worlds of politics and

In 1947, then Boston City Clerk John B. Hynes, a Dorchester resident, became acting mayor when the legendary James Michael Curley was moved from his mayor's seat in City Hall to a cell in federal prison after being convicted of mail fraud while in office. Hynes later defeated Curley for the mayor's seat three times, in 1949, 1951, and 1955, a decade when the so-called New Boston was born and nurtured in its infancy.

As his father wound down his last term, his son, John B. "Jack" Hynes Jr., hoisted the family's flag in the world of broadcast journalism, beginning as a reporter for WBZ radio and television in 1957. For the next 50 years, his face was as familiar as any to the people of greater Boston and beyond as he anchored news programs at a number of stations until he retired after a long run at Channel 56 in Boston in 2006.

Funeral services were held on Monday in Chatham on Cape Cod for Mr. Hynes, who died of heart failure on Feb. 12 at the age of 88.

He was a local boy through and through. Born and raised in Dorchester, he grew up in a home at 31 Druid Street in the Codman Hill/Lower Mills neighborhood, was an altar boy at St. Gregory's church, and attended the parish grammar school and Boston College High School. He took some time away from his home village to earn a degree in journalism from Notre Dame University in 1952, and to serve a three-year stint in the Marines before returning to the city in 1957.

In a 2010 ceremony sponsored by the Boston Irish Reporter, the Hynes family was honored as an "exem-

plary Boston Irish Family." In a lengthy interview with BIR contributor Jack Thomas, Jack Hynes roamed over the landscape of his memory to fill pages and pages with anecdotes of times long gone by, offering up an oral history of Boston journalism that featured, as Thomas wrote, "cops, firemen, gangsters, reprobates, scalawags, and neer-do-wells.

As the decades rolled by, he noted, "The people around me got younger and younger, and I could relate less and less to them. The clincher came at Channel 56. We had a producer, a college graduate who had worked in TV for three years. One night I alerted her that the next day was Dec. 7, and that we should have the morning guy line up an interview with somebody who'd been at Pearl Harbor. Honest to God, she said, 'Pearl Harbor? When was that?' I said, 'Right after the Battle of Gettysburg.' She said, 'Oh, yeah.' I said, 'You've got it confused with Pearl Jam, which is a rock group.' I knew then it was time for me to go, and after that, I just did weekends and commentaries.'

And so he moved on, a living symbol of an earlier time when television news was given to viewers with the assumption that the vast majority of them knew the history of their city, their state, their nation, and

Mr. Hynes was predeceased in 1998 by his wife Marie (Kelly) Hynes. He leaves his sons John III of South Boston and Barry of Beverly; two daughters, Kelly Hynes McDermott of Medfield and Shauna Hynes-Baler of Yarmouth Port; a sister, Marie Hynes Gallagher of Falmouth; and a brother, Barry of South Boston. A second brother, Richard, of Brookline, was found dead of a heart attack on Feb. 17. He also leaves ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

#### **Off the Bench**

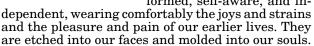
# Looking for authenticity? Visit 'Stan's' on a Marco Island inlet

By James W. Dolan SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

For a person who was not always so fond of Florida, I seem to be spending a lot more time there of late. I expect it has something to do with my lady friend, who just happens to own a home on Marco Island. Neither of us expected to get lucky a second time

following the deaths of our

We both chose to embrace that somewhat shallow but joyful exhortation: "We're not here for a long time; we're here for a good time.' But why should we shrink into the dark recesses of remorse, loss and isolation, particularly now when we have more free time than when we were raising our families? We're now fully formed, self-aware, and in-



We have a history, a perspective that provides insight, awareness, and the comfort of a task well done, for the most part. With experience comes the compassion to understand, forgive, and accept our flawed humanity. Too many seniors flee to Florida seeking a refuge from the problems that beset society. They live and play in private enclaves, insulated from the turmoil of a democracy in crisis.

It's not just the bitter weather they flee. The harshness of winter is a reminder that time is running out. It also serves as a metaphor for the disorder, poverty, violence, and confusion they wish to avoid in their sunset years. What some describe as "heaven's wait-

ing room" also serves as an elaborate refugee camp. That may account for the unease I occasionally feel in this comfortable world apart.

I was there for the last election and I was distressed at the large number of Trump supporters. He received overwhelming support from people who had "made it." They had money, status, and security, and almost nothing in common with Trump's traditional base. Yet they feared some of the same things. Overwhelmingly white, many saw immigration, social welfare programs, and the growing minority population as

There is something artificial about a lifestyle that on weekends drives residents to a joint called "Stan's," a legendary roadhouse on an inlet in a section of Marco known as Goodland. It's stuck away in an isolated corner of the island like an eccentric relative. It's not quite ready for prime time. But on weekends they all come to enjoy the sounds, smells, tastes, and companionship of an authentic southern honky-tonk.

The setting is open, the music country western, loud and brash. The dancing is lively and the food and spirits plentiful, but not overpriced. Unlike much of the rest of the island, it ain't fancy, but it's real. Characters are welcome and add spice to an eclectic mix of fun lovers who revel in the joint's diversity. The playful atmosphere is infectious as young and old, bikers and BMW owners share a laugh.

When Stan Gober, the founder, owner, and impresario, died, they named the second bridge to the island after him. A fitting honor because "Stan's" is a place that bridges differences. Its festive atmosphere brings together folks who might otherwise never appreciate just how alike they are. You would never mistake that roadhouse for a church, but it is a place where people gather to celebrate their common humanity.

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

#### **Point of View**

#### 'YOU WALKED RIGHT IN'

#### 'Illegal' and 'Undocumented' Irish immigrants in historical reality

By Peter F. Stevens BIR STAFF

When it comes to the immigrants of yesteryear-especially Irish immigrants to America's shores -historical distortions and outright lies abound. A huge number of Irish Americans refuse to accept any comparisons between their sacred ancestors from the old sod and the undocumented immigrants of today. Today's Nativists hurl the argument that in the grim years of the Potato Famine, the waves of Irish streaming into America from "coffin ships" or across the Canadian border were not ever officially branded "illegal immigrants."

On the surface, the assertion is accurate. The term "illegal immigrant" did not exist in the American lexicon of the 19th Century. Back in 2014, the  $Boston\ Globe$ 's Johanna Weiss's column posed the question about the phrase to Mae Ngai, a Columbia University historian and expert on immigration. Ngai replied, "People are shocked when I say before World War I, there were no green cards, no visas, no quotas, no passports, even. Really, you just showed up. And if you could walk without a limp, and you had \$30 in your pocket, you walked right in.

'You walked right in" – Does that sound familiar from the Trumpian playbook? Any of us whose pre-World War I ancestors fled famine, oppression, and outright persecution from Ireland and other corners of Europe may well have simply "walked right in" to America. The borders were wide open, so to speak.

No one in his or her right mind believes that the US in 2018 should not have border security and comprehensive immigration reform. If anyone, however, truly believes that the Great Wall of Trump will rise across thousands of miles of our southern border, he or she is either benighted by hate or willingly foolish.

Back to our own Irish and European ancestors who walked right in." They arrived without documents. They faced no quota system and no immigration courts or law enforcement. Like it or not, our pre-war ancestors came to "the Golden Door of America" undocumented. In Boston during the mass immigration of the Great Famine era, about the only thing preventing the Irish from getting in was if they were quarantined at Deer Island due to disease. They did not have to deal with paperwork issues, quotas, or immigration courts.

That was then, this is now!" President Trump and his fellow Nativists bleat today as they profess that



Boston's memorial to the Irish Famine, located near Downtown Crossing, recalls a period when many Irish fled to the United States seeking refuge.

File photo

they want only the "right kind" of immigrants. That's where historical reality shreds the modern Nativists' arguments and exposes either their bigotry or willing ignorance. The waves of Irish, Germans, Italians, and Eastern Europeans who came to America from the onset of the Great Famine into the early 20th century encountered the same prejudice and contempt that immigrants from Mexico, Central and Latin America, Haiti, Africa, and so many other places face today.

Our Irish American forebears—particularly the immigrants of the 1840s and 1850s—were in many ways as reviled by "real Americans" as the Mexicans, the Muslims, and the "dangerous immigrants" who have fueled the hateful rhetoric of Donald Trump and many of his allies and acolytes. The Irish - again, undocumented Irish – of the mid-19th Century in Massachusetts were "the other" when Nativists mounted their most serious previous attempt to seize the presidency. In the spring of 1854, they carried elections in Boston, Salem, and other cities. With the fall Massachusetts

legislative and gubernatorial races looming, the Nativists, or Know-Nothings, had their collective eyes on higher office, where they could enact laws targeting foreigners and Catholics. Across the nation, the movement's ranks swelled to over a million in 1854, their confidence leading them to anoint themselves the "American Party.

What they knew all too well was that they loathed anything Irish, anything Catholic, any immigrant except the right kind, anything they deemed "un-American." They proclaimed that they needed to save the nation from going broke to pay for "Paddy and Bridget," who were arriving in unprecedented waves. Anyone who was not a native-born, Anglo-Protestant was not a real American, but a threat to them. Again, the outsider, the other. In short, the Nativists "wanted their country back." Today, the phrase has an all-too-familiar ring.

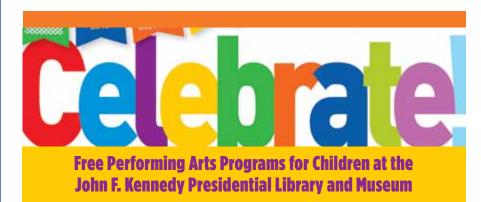
In the 1856 presidential election, the American Party ran former President Millard Fillmore. The party teemed with the haters and the disaffected of the era, and they believed the White House was theirs for the taking.

While many Boston voters cast their ballots for the former president, he captured but one state, Maryland. The onset of the Civil War would shove the Nativists, or Know-Nothings, into history's backwaters. Still, prejudice toward immigrants would endure, but along the way it galvanized the Boston Irish to do what the Know-Nothings had done: seize power through the ballot box. The Irish proved far better at holding onto that clout than had the Know-Nothings.

That is why today's Irish Americans should think long and hard, and remember their own families' history as the debate over borders, quotas, security, and DACA blazes. We do have to control our borders, but do so with sensible and humane - not hateful - im-

As the adage preaches, we ignore the past at our peril. This month, as we celebrate all things Irish on the 17th, one would vainly hope, it seems, that President Trump, his chief of staff, John Kelly (of course, that could end any day now), House Speaker Paul Ryan, and others across the nation might actually think back to last March, when former Irish Taoiseach Enda Kenny reminded the President that "St. Patrick was an immigrant."

# Happening at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum





#### The Irish Balladeers

Saturday, March 11 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, take a musical trip to the Emerald Isle! The Irish Balladeers perform traditional stories and dances with authentic Irish instruments.

The Celebrate! series is appropriate for family audiences and children ages 5 and up. In order to optimize your comfort and enjoyment, reservations are required for all visitors to this free program. Make reservations by visiting ifklibrary.org/celebrate or calling 617-514-1644 and leaving a message. Children are seated on the floor with their caretakers. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Children must be accompanied by an adult. With generous support from the Highland Street Foundation and the Mass Cultural Council

# KENNEDY LIBRARY

#### Nine Irish Lives: The Fighters, Thinkers, & Artists Who Helped Build America

Wednesday, March 14, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Screenwriter and author Mark Bailey, president of the Save the Children Action Network Mark Shriver, and Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post journalists Mary Jordan

and **Kevin Sullivan** discuss their new book, *Nine Irish Lives: The Fighters*, Thinkers, & Artists Who Helped Build America. Dr. Robert Mauro, director of the Boston College Irish Institute and Global Leadership

Institute, moderates.









IRISH

LIVES

#### **RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION:**

All forums are free and open to the public. Reservations are strongly recommended. They guarantee a seat in the building but not the main hall. Doors to the main hall open approximately one hour before the program begins. To make a reservation, you may either call **617-514-1643** or register online at **www.jfklibrary.org/forums**. Please check our website periodically for updates to our upcoming Forums.

Columbia Point, Boston • 617-514-1600 • www.jfklibrary.org

General admission to the Museum is \$14. Admission for seniors over 62 and college students with appropriate ID is \$12 and \$10 for youth ages 13-17. Children 12 and under are always free. Museum Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m

















#### bostonirish.com

### Sinn Fein faces a tough challenge

(Continued from page 1) leader of Sinn Fein last month February. She is a graduate of Trinity College, she has two children, and many years of experience in Irish politics. But she has never had any involvement with the violent side of Sinn Fein/IRA.

Her deputy in the North, Michelle O'Neill, 41, and also a mother of two, is from Dungannon in Co. Tyrone. She was elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2007 at the age of 30. She has been a minister of two portfolios and has been praised for her work with all factions in the North. Her father was involved with the IRA, but she has had no involvement, it is said.

They take over a party that has experienced surprising growth and strength over the last 25 years. Under Adams and McGuinness, the party has become a force in government in both the North and South. In the North, it has elected 27 of the 90 members of the governing assembly, and 19 of the 60 members of the Belfast city council. In the South, the people of the Republic have elected 23 Sinn Fein members in the 118-seat National Parliament.

Few had predicted such growth and popular appeal. Today, Sinn Fein is the only party that has achieved such a mandate

throughout all of Ireland. It is the party these two young women will lead. It won't be easy.

The Brexit problem is hard to quantify. The British and the Europeans are negotiating terms of the withdrawal, and, as in all important negotiations, the sides are regularly issuing self-serving press announcements. Essentially, the British want their complete sovereignty while maintaining the benefits



Mary Lou McDonald Heads up Sinn Fein

they had when they were in the EU.

Ireland's interest is in how the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic will be treated, and what is in the future for business dealings with Britain.

Nothing is yet set in stone. There have been several calls for a second vote, but there is little evidence that will happen. The British ego as master of the commonwealth's fate still prevails. From an Irish standpoint, its leaders must be vigilant in protecting Ireland's interests. Another very difficult problem is the lack of a Northern Ireland Assembly; the government at Stormont has been closed now for more than 13 months, depriving the North of any voice in Brexit negotiations.

In mid-February, Irish Prime Minister Leo Varaker and British Prime Minister Theresa May visited Belfast to dis-

Michelle O'Neill Deputy in the North

cuss the restoration of the Assembly. The talks failed and the Assembly remains closed. It may be that neither side (Sinn Fein and the DUP) want to resolve the issue. For its part, Sinn Fein wants the Irish language used on street signs, public buildings, and government papers as is done in the Republic. This seems to be a bridge too far for the Unionists.

The Unionists feel that because they have given their ten votes in Parliament to Theresa May to keep her party in office, they will be favored in any settlement. Sinn Fein may just be waiting for the next election after they came so close to taking power from the DUP last time.

In any case, the new leaders of Sinn Fein will have to do some heavy thinking if they are to be successful in the coming years.

# Canada puts out a welcome mat for immigrants

While the United States and a number of other countries are moving firmly to narrow down the number of immigrants seeking to make new lives far from their ancestral homes, Canada is out of step with the program, according to an article by Hugo O'Doherty in the *Irish Times*.

Between now and the end of 2020, Canada will welcome around one million new permanent residents, the Times story said, quoting Canadian immigration minister Ahmed Hussen, himselfa Somali immigrant to Canada, as saying the plan would "result in the most

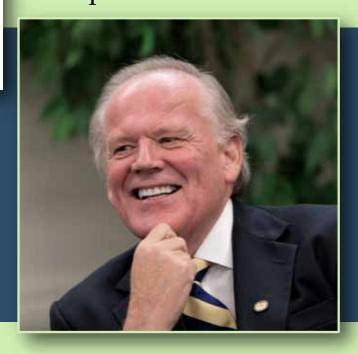
ambitious immigration levels in recent Canadian history, and represents a major investment into Canada's prosperity now and into the future."

Of these newcomers the

Of these newcomers, the story added, the majority will be admitted as economic migrants, chosen for their experience, education level, age, language skills, and employment prospects.

Canada also offers family sponsorship programs, giving Canadian citizens and permanent residents the opportunity to sponsor their foreign spouse or common-law partner, parents, grandparents, or dependent children.

### The Éire Society of Boston 2018 Gold Medal Dinner & Award Ceremony Saturday, April 7, 2018 6pm Seaport Boston Hotel



Honoring 2018 Gold Medal Award Recipient James T. Brett, CEO, The New England Council

Join us for a lively and elegant evening in honor of James T. Brett!

For more information, contact Gold Medal Dinner Committee Members: email William J. Smith at <a href="mailto:events@eiresociety.org">events@eiresociety.org</a> or call Cornelia Cassidy Koutoujian at (781) 899 - 3140

Tickets are \$150.00 per person

eiresociety.org

# A Happy St. Patrick's Day to All!







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Breakfast Celebration

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Minister for Rural & Community Development, Michael Ring, T.D.

**GUEST SPEAKER** 

Dr. Maeve Liston



Mary Immaculate College, Limerick

Coordinator of the Irish American Partnership's STEM Program

All attendees have a chance to win two round-trip tickets to Ireland through:





Our mission is to empower the next generation of Irish leaders by supporting educational initiatives and community development programs in Ireland, North and South.

# March 17: thoughts of a patron saint, milestones for Boston's Irish heritage

(Continued from page 1) throbbing cheers and applause of thousands massed along the route. The outpouring of "Irish Pride" reached a throaty crescendo at Faneuil Hall.

This year, the same sentiments and traditions will fill the route of the Southie parade's 109th procession – as they always do.

Celebrating in Style in 1737: Charitable Irish Society

It was 280 years ago, on March 17, 1737, that

26 men gathered in the heart of Puritan Boston to commemorate a decidedly Improper Bostonian event. They were Irishborn 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.

March 2018

The reason that these men pulled it off was that they were Protestant; however, since some were formerly Roman Catholics who had "embraced" a new faith, their devotion to Protestantism may have been found wanting by some in the citizenry. The religious question aside, the men drew up a charter that professed their pride as sons of the Emerald Isle, and they were meeting on the day dedicated to Ireland's patron saint. The first St. Patrick's Day celebration of the Charitable Irish Society was under way.

To become members, men had to be reasonably successful and "natives of Ireland, or Natives of any other Part of the British Dominions of Irish Extraction, being protestants, and inhabitants of Boston."

Of the first members of the Charitable Irish Society, historian James Bernard Cullen has written: "An important part of the membership of The Charitable Irish Society was the Irish Presbyterian Church, established in Boston in 1727. They first worshipped in a building which had been

a barn on the corner of Berry Street and Long Lane [now Channing and Federal Streets]; and this unpretentious building served them, with the addition of a couple of wings, till 1744."

Despite 18th-century Boston's vehement prejudice toward Catholics, the society began ignoring the religious restriction just 27 years later, in 1764, and formally removed the Presbyterian requirement in 1804.

Today, the tradition that began on that March day 280 years ago remains strong. The Charitable Irish Society holds a unique place in the annals of the Boston Irish and Irish America alike.

Two for One

Whether one calls the day "St. Patrick's Day" or "Evacuation Day," the Irish can lay claim to both celebrations on Mach 17. 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.

Rebels' heavy guns.

Commanding the Patriots was George Washington, who held a deep regard for the Irish-born troops serving in his ranks. On March 17, 1776, Washington was well aware that it was St. Patrick's Day and that many Irishmen had fought at Bunker Hill and had just helped drag those cannon up the Dorchester slopes. Washington proffered a tip of his tricornered hat to Patriots with Irish surnames as the British troops boarded their transports. On that momentous day, he had General John Sullivan countersign the dispatch making "Saint Patrick" the army's official watch-



A few months earlier, Washington had received a letter from Colonel Henry Knox, a Bostonian of Belfast lineage. A bookseller by trade, Knox had been sent by Washington to Fort Ticonderoga, in upstate New York. The fortress, which had been taken by Ethan Allen and his Vermont Green Mountain Boys, contained the heavy artillery so sorely needed by Washington, and it was Knox's mission to get the armaments down to Boston.

According to historian James Bernard Cullen, "Colonel Knox kept his word. With an enterprise and perseverance that elicited the warmest commendations, be brought, over frozen lakes and almost impassable snows, more than 50 cannons and mortars, [and other material]. With this train Washington was enabled to strengthen his position, and to make a more decisive move against the enemy."

Once the cannons were brought up to Dorchester Heights and trained on the British in Boston, the Redcoats had no choice but to evacuate their exposed positions. The "lobsterbacks" never returned.

One look at the muster rolls of the Continental Army proves the Irish presence not only on March 17 at Dorchester Heights but throughout the Revolutionary War. They witnessed what their countrymen on the "old sod" could only dream of: the British in full flight.

This month, 241 years later, March 17 fittingly marks both St. Patrick's Day and Evacuation Day – a dual celebration of Ireland's venerated saint and the day the Redcoats were forced out of Boston for good.

# 'The Peacemaker' called 'fascinating portrait that is, if anything, too brief' Word is in from New York City

James Demos's documentary on Padraig O'Malley's life and times as a man bent on conflict resolution opened in New York last month and received an upbeat review from the Times's critic, Glenn Kenny, who called O'Malley "a scholar and what one might call an amateur diplomet"

amateur diplomat."

Of the 'Peacemaker' himself, the critic's essay concludes, "it's his peculiar detachment, perhaps, that makes him good at what he does, even when the summits he hosts — he spent years in Iraq and in South Africa — yield nothing more than agreements on bilingual street

"The movie is a fasci-



Padraig O'Malley nating portrait that is, if anything, too brief."

# 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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Please come and celebrate

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

Saturday, March 17, 2018, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish Hall 800 Columbia Road, Dorchester

2018 Dorchester Hall of Fame Inductees



Fire Commissioner Joseph E. Finn Sr. Barbara Gorham, SCH The Marr Family Special Guests Governor Charlie Baker Mayor Martin Walsh All proceeds to benefit Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry

\$100 per person Reservations will be held at door Dr. Larry Ronan and Jim Brett Co-Chairs

### "Pathways to Our Past" sets tone for Celtic Connections Conference

Interested in researching your Celtic roots? You can do that and so much more when you attend the Celtic Connections Conference 2018 "Pathways to Our Past" on Aug. 10 and 11 at the Marriott in Newton..

TIARA (The Irish Ancestral Research Association) together with IGSI (Irish Genealogical Society International) will join forces once again to co-sponsor the conference where presenters from Ireland, Scotland, and England will be presenting lectures in the areas of Irish, Scots Irish, Scottish and Welsh genealogy, culture, DNA and exciting new ways to interpret and discover your ancestral roots.

Audrey Collins, Dr. Bruce Durie, Fiona Fitzsimons, Maurice Gleeson, John Grenham and Christine Woodcock are all internationally known genealogists. Also making presentations will be ten family history experts from around the United States.

Conference participantswillbehardpressed to choose between four tracks of lectures that will include such topics as "Strategies for Finding the Origins of Your Irish Ancestors"; "Adding DNA to Your Genealogical Toolkit"; and "Mapping Your Ancestral Home in Ireland

Using Google Earth."
A full listing of the

two days of programs is available at celticconnections.org.

Offerings outside the classroom will be equally engaging. The Aug. 10 luncheon speaker will be Kate Chadbourne, a harpist and storyteller who will present "Fairy Paths & Ancient Ways: Songs and Stories of Roads and Remember-ing." Saturday's luncheon will have a local flavor when storyteller Sharon Kennedy, tells of "The Strike for Bread and Roses, Lawrence,

A preconference bus trip to Lowell will continue the story of Irish and Scottish millworkers. Participants will tour the Boot Cotton Mill, hear a lecture on the Irish in mill history, and view the "Mill Girls and Immigrants" exhibit.

Kate Chadbourne will join Katie O'Neill, Mike Kerr and Greg Bacon in the musical group "Katie and Friends" to entertain at the Friday night banquet with "Songs from Both Sides of the Atlantic." The conference will end on Saturday evening with a lively Celtic-themed pub quiz.

Specially priced lodg-ing for conference-goers is available at the conference site. Discounted registration fee is available

until June 4, 2018. Conthe conference brochure, link to hotel lodging / available at celtic connecterence details including online registration and conference venue are tions.org.



# Happy St. Patrick's Day



Congressman Michael Capuano 7th Congressional District

www.mikecapuano.com



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)

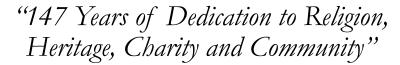
# Mayor Martin J. Walsh

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### The Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division Eight



# Ancient Order of Hibernians Lawrence, Massachusetts





# Irish Heritage Month March 2018 Lawrence, Massachusetts

Preserving and Fostering our Heritage and Culture

Thursday, March 1, 2018 IRISH FLAG RAISING Across from City Hall – Common St. @11 a.m.

#### Saturday, March 3, 2018

THE 147th ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BANQUET AND DANCE at the Reliefs' In, One Market Street, 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 contact Charles Breen at 508 328 0323. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH – Handicap Accessible

#### Sunday, March 4, 2018

**25th ANNUAL CLADDAGH PUB 4 MILER ROAD RACE** 11 a.m. (rain or shine) - For more information: runthecladdagh.com

#### Sunday, March 4, 2018

**OPENING RECEPTION and EXHIBIT** "The Irish of Massachusetts" and – **WHITE FUND LECTURE** - with Professor Christine Kinealy, Author, Professor and founding Director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University Hamden CT who will talk about her upcoming book on Frederick Douglas "How Ireland changed Frederick Douglass" - at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA @ 2:00 pm Sponsored by Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

#### Wednesday, March 7, 2018

LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY - South Lawrence Branch, 135 Parker Street, Lawrence, MA: OPEN HOUSE 10:30 am - 1 pm Showcase of Irish Books, CD's and DVD's - Sponsored by Division 8 (FREE) - Handicap Accessible

#### Saturday, March 10, 2018

**SAINT PATRICKS DAY PARADE** 1:00 pm For more information visit their website www.lawrencestpatsparade. com

#### **Sunday, March 11, 2018**

**PENN RHODEEN**, will discuss his book, "<u>Peacerunner</u>" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm Sponsored by Division 8 AOH (FREE) - Handicap Accessible

#### **Friday, March 16, 2018**

**49th ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON** at the Reliefs' In, One Market Street, 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 contact Jack Lahey @ 603 560 8192 Sponsored by Division 8 AOH – Handicap Accessible

#### Wednesday, March 21, 2018

**LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY** - South Lawrence Branch, 135 Parker Street, Lawrence, MA: **OPEN HOUSE** 10:30 am – 1 pm Showcase of Irish Books, CD's and DVD's - Sponsored by Division 8 (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

#### Saturday, March 24, 2018

**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 25, 2018**

CELTIC MELODIES -FROM ANCIENT GAELIC AIRES TO CURRENT SONGS - performed by Vocalist, Bill Donelan and Pianist Terri Kelley at the Lawrence Public Library, Sargent Auditorium, 51 Lawrence St., Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm Presented by Division 8 (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

#### Wednesday, March 28, 2018

LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY - South Lawrence Branch, 135 Parker Street, Lawrence, MA: OPEN HOUSE 10:30 am – 12 Noon 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

#### Irish International Immigrant Center



An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

One State Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02109 (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655 Website:iiicenter.org Email: immigration@iiicenter.org

#### Kildare grad explores the Pacific Northwest

For Co. Kildare native Cliodhna Carthy, the mountains of the Pacific Northwest called to her. Cliodhna previously resided in Vancouver, British Columbia, and upon recommendation from a friend, she decided to move to Portland, Oregon, through the Boston-based Irish International Immigrant Center's J-1 visa. Says Cliodhna: "I was hooked on the Pacific Northwest. The access to the mountains, with their great hiking and running trails [...] was a hook for me. An Irish friend had lived in Portland and spoke highly of it. He said it had great access to the outdoors, great local food, a strong culture of recycling and reusing, and it is also one of the top cities in the US for cycling".

The digital marketing graduate obtained a development coordinator internship position at Incight, an organization that delivers key programs for people with disabilities. "After two interviews I landed the job... I was over the moon," she recalled. Utilizing her background in fundraising, Cliodhna coordinated various projects including, "the planning and implementation of a gala ball, a golf event, and a small individual giving campaign at Christmas." Cliodhna enjoyed her workplace, "My coworkers were the best. They extended the hand of hospitality and friendship to me every day.

During her free time, she participated in numerous different activities, "I joined a running group and enjoyed some fantastic trail runs in Forest Park and great track workouts. I also connected



Cliodhna Carthy, IIIC J-1 Intern, enjoyed her time outdoors in the Pacific Northwest!

with a hiking group and with them I did some amazing and challenging hikes. My favorite hikes were Larch Mountain and North Lake." She discovered an expat meet-up group called InternNations, and quickly became friends with people from all over the world. Cliodhna enjoyed living with five local roommates, and "two gorgeous dogs," and felt at home in Portland.

Following the completion of her visa, Cliodhna secured a position as a fundraising coordinator for a charity that works with the homeless back home in Ireland. She praised her experience in the US for contributing to her quick employment upon her return home. Although she has her "feet firmly planted back in Ireland," she looks forward to visiting the US again soon, saying, "the world just has so much to offer!"

Congratulations, Cliodhna, on your exciting and successful year in the US!

If anyone is interested in hiring an Irish J-1 student or graduate for a 12-month internship position here in Boston, please contact Paul Pelan at ppelan@iiicenter.org or 617-542-7654.

#### **Immigration Q&A**

#### Key dates for legal permanent residence

**Q.** I have an interview scheduled with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on my application for permanent residence. Assuming the interview goes well, what happens next?

**A.** In cases where the interview is successful, the  $USCIS\, of ficer\, has\, the\, authority\, to\, grant\, you\, permanent$ residence immediately. Your new status will begin on the very same day as the interview, and for most people will be valid for ten years. People applying through a US citizen spouse who have been married for less than two years at the time of approval receive "conditional permanent residence" that is valid for two years.

After the interview, the officer will order production

of your permanent resident card (I-551, or "green card"). In cases where no interview is required, a notice of a favorable decision is mailed to the applicant. In both types of cases, the actual card will be sent to the mailing address on record with USCIS – so make sure to inform USCIS, not just the Post Office, right away if you change your address. The easiest way to report your change of address is online at uscis.gov.

New permanent residents should be aware of the

(1) "Conditional" permanent residents (those who were granted permanent residence based on marriage to a US citizen) need to petition to have the conditions removed before the two-year green card expires. Petitions must be filed within the 90-day period preceding the expiration date. Once the petition is approved, the applicant will receive a new green card valid for

10 years.
(2) Once conditional permanent residents have their conditions removed, they are eligible to become naturalized US citizens three years after the date that their first application for permanent residence was approved. Naturalization applications may be filed as early as 90 days before the end of this three-year period.

(3) With certain exceptions (involving military service, for example), all other green card holders are eligible to become naturalized US citizens five years after the grant of permanent residence. Again, naturalization applications may be filed as early as 90 days

before the five years have expired.

Remember that eligibility for US citizenship involves other criteria in addition to the length of permanent residence – good moral character, English language proficiency, physical presence in the US, etc.

IIIC can advise you on your eligibility for permanent residence or naturalization at one of our weekly legal clinics. You can find out IIIC's clinic schedule by checking the notice in each month's Boston Irish Reporter, the calling 617-542-7654, or by visiting iiicenter.org.

**Disclaimer:** These articles are published to inform generally, not to provide advice in specific cases. Immigration laws are subject to change, and US Citizenship and Immigration Services and the US Department of State frequently amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of IIIC immigration legal staff.

#### Business Leaders Breakfast set for May 11 at Boston Harbor Hotel

We will be joined by Congresswoman Katherine Clark and other speakers for an engaging discussion of current immigration issues at our 8th Annual Business Leaders Breakfast on May 11 at the Boston Harbor Hotel.

If you or your company would like to participate in this year's Breakfast, please contact Megan Miller at mmiller@iiicenter.org, 617-695-1554. Thank you.

### Matters of Substance Celebrating all that is Irish this St. Patrick's Day

The air is a bit warmer, the evenings a bit lighter, and spring and St. Patrick's Day are on the horizon. Cities around the world from Dublin to Belfast, Boston to Chicago, and Sydney to Shanghai celebrate a beloved people and culture worldwide. As one of the "most Irish cities in America," Boston will see parades, festivals, trad sessions and drinking, a lot of drinking! This is what marketers and the alcohol industry will continue to tell us means to be Irish.

The first celebrations of Ireland's patron saint, Patrick, began in the 10th century in ireland, rolled onto the shores over here in NY and Boston in the 1700s and grew further during the huge waves of immigration in the 19th century. It was the 1970s, however, that seem to herald a celebration that primarily involved binge drinking as the most visible – and valid – way to celebrate all that's Irish.

For a culture celebrated and known for its music, arts, literature, and humor, the "craic" has become defined primarily with green beer, Irish whiskey, and hangovers. For many, it overshadows the many ways to take pride in our heritage, to be Irish" on a day when worldwide we proudly encourage everyone to become Irish! Could March 2018, perhaps, be a year for you to think about, and enjoy, St. Patrick's day a



dent Social Worker, and Siobhan Kelly, Wellness Program Associate, are here to talk.

little differently?

With alcohol as the third leading cause of prevent-88,000 die every year due to alcohol issues), and the most significant financial burden on Irish society, a holiday promoted as a day for binge drinking can leave us questioning what exactly we are celebrating.
Among the millions of

Irish around the world, and the thousands back home in Ireland, and those who love Ireland everywhere, many have started to seek a less alcohol-saturated holiday that honors the island of

Ireland's patron saint. The Alcohol Forum in Donegal has aptly named the "invisible fifth" as the "estimated one in five adults who abstain from alcohol in Ireland" and who celebrate their Irish heritage without the pints of green beer, shots of whisky, and the sore head the next day.

As ambassadors of Irish culture worldwide, many Irish are proclaiming their their sobriety. Cities such as Dublin, Belfast, New York, and Philadelphia have formal Sober St. Patrick's Day events, and, it is hoped, Boston will follow soon.

Staying alcohol-free on St. Patrick's Day doesn't mean there isn't a lot to do during this most celebrated day for the Irish. Many are creating celebratory plans for the day that involve alcoholfree activities such as walking the Irish Heritage Trail, watching a great Irish film or attending the Irish Film Festival, the Saint Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn, or walking or running the St. Patrick's Day 5k Road Race., Remember, too, all the great Irish music, movies, books and food that can be shared with friends, sober and for free!

If you need ideas as the St. Patrick's Day season kicks off, or if you just want to explore your use of alcohol with someone, reach out to us for a free, confidential chat.

Happy St. Patrick's Day from Wellness Services at the IIIC!

Rachel Reisman, LIC-SW rreisman@iiicenter. org; 617-542-7654, Ext. 14

Facebook: Irish Outreach & Wellness Boston-

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#### IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER **IMMIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

The Irish International Immigrant Center's immigration attorneys and social workers are available for all immigrants during this time of uncertainty and concern in our community. We are closely following the changes in immigration policies, and are available for confidential, legal consultations, and case representation. At weekly legal clinics, you can receive a free and confidential consultation with staff and volunteer attornevs. For information, or if you or anyone you know would like to speak to an immigration attorney, please call us at (617) 542-7654.

#### **Upcoming Clinic Schedule**

Clinics are in the evening – please do not arrive more than 30 minutes before the clinic begins.

#### **Downtown Boston**

IIIC, One State Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston MA 02109 Tuesdays, March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm

#### Brighton

The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton, MA 02135 Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

#### Dorchester

St. Mark's Parish, 1725 Dorchester Avenue, Dorcester, MA 02124 Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

#### Citizenship Clinics

IIIC, One State Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston MA 02109 Recommencing every Wednesday after March 21<sup>st</sup> From 10am-1pm Walk-ins are welcome!

Our Downtown Boston location is fully accessible by public transportation. Phone: 617.542.7654 | Fax: 617.542.7655 | www.iiicenter.org



#### By R. J. Donovan SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Frank McCourt is perhaps best known for his gripping 1996 memoir, "Angela's Ashes." Detailing the harshness of his upbringing in Limerick, the book remained on the New York Times bestseller list for 100 weeks and was honored with multiple awards, including a Pulitzer Prize.

The following year, McCourt created the book for the musical "The Irish...And How They Got That Way," celebrating the Irish-American humor, determination, and struggles over the previous century and a half.

The exuberant revue premiered off-Broadway at The Irish Repertory Theatre and was described as an ""irreverent but affectionate history of the Irish in America that mingles laughter and sentiment in a tapestry of classical songs and stories. The production encapsulates the most tumultuous times of the past century with the vibrant humor and bitter irony that had become the trademark of the author."

The Greater Boston Stage Company (formerly Stoneham Theatre) is presenting "The Irish...And How They Got that Way" from March 8 to March 25. The cast includes William Gardiner, Nile Hawver, Michael Levesque, Kirsten Salpini, Nicole VanderLaan, and Ceit M. Zweil.

Although the show profiles a specific time and place in Irish history, the inherent prejudice and disrespect remain timely, with immigration as explosive a topic

Dawn Simmons directs the production. BIR readers may recall that Dawn is a Buffalo native who traces her Irish roots through her mother's grandfather. She studied at Boston University, went home to Buffalo to work for the Irish Classical Theater Company, and then

returned to Boston to pursue her career in the theater. For the past 14 years she has worked as a director, playwright, and arts administrator. She is currently Director of Performing Arts at the Boston Center for

The musical numbers in the show range from "Danny Boy" and "Mother Machree" to "Galway Bay," "No Irish Need Apply" and "The Rose of Tralee," among others. "For me," Dawn has said, "music drives the storytell-

ing in this piece. It was clear early on that I wanted to create a band [for the production], something that calls on Irish tradition, but puts a modern spin on it. Kirsten Salpini, the Music Director, has been an incredible collaborator, drawing out the connections between traditional Irish music and American Folk music." With one exception, all of the actors play an instrument in the show.

We spoke at length about the production during a break in Dawn's busy day. Here's a condensed look at our conversation.

**Q.** What drew you to the production?

A. (GBSC Producing Artistic Director) Weylin Symes came to me . . . There was all this talk about what was going to happen with immigration, with immigrants, with dreamers, all of that. It was just after Trump had been elected. And Weylin pitched the project in a way that really made sense to me. This is a really great way to get people to remember their own immigrant experience . . . We're all coming here, or we are here, in hopes of making a better life for ourselves.

Q. Frank McCourt stands as an iconic Irish voice. How familiar were you with his work before taking on this project?

A. "Angela's Ashes" is a pretty popular piece. It sort

of set a tone for me to understand a little more of his tone with this show . . . It gave me a sense of how these characters should be speaking and the way they attack language and attack storytelling . . . Having a sense of his voice and his humor and some of the darkness in his humor was really helpful.

Q. Is it important for audiences to have a familiarity with the Irish journey?

**A.** It's a really interesting question . . . There's a lot of history in the song; there's a lot of storytelling in the music . . . You're going to have those people who come in and who know the stuff cold and who will be looking for us to tell the story authentically. And we're going

to give them a little twist, so I hope they go with us.

Dawn Simmons is the director of Frank McCourt's "The Irish...And How They Got That Way."

think there is enough in the script and in the music for people to understand and follow along . . . I think we're in a good place.

**Q.** While we clearly know of the bigotry experienced by the Irish many decades ago, it's impossible not to see it reflected, yet again, in the current political climate. Finger pointing just seems to get shifted from one target to another.

A. Without a doubt. It's always, who's in the spotlight at the moment . . . It very well could be you . . . We're all quietly minding our business and then suddenly, Oh, we're Enemy Number One. It gets crazy...I hope that a show like this holds that mirror up to nature so we can all say, wait, we're in it again. Instead of treating each other like enemies again, find the commonality, find the hope and work through it.

**Q.** What do you hope the take-away is for audiences? A. I think that shared commonalty, that shared humanity...Remembering that we're all immigrants.. That we all are pulling pieces from each culture that comes here to make up this really amazing American culture . . . If we can see it in the story of the Irish people, then we can see it in the story of the Italian people that come here, and we can see it in the story of Africans that come here, and the Latinos that come here . . . If we can just find a way to embrace it instead of being afraid of it.

R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of onstagebos-

"The Irish...And How They Got that Way," March 8 – March 25, Greater Boston Stage Company, 395 Main Street, Stoneham, MA. Info: 781-279-2200 or greaterbostonstage.org.



#### CALENDAR OF MUSIC AND DANCE EVENTS MARCH 2018

March, Greater Boston and Eastern Massachusetts will have plenty of Irish/Celtic-related events going on. Here's a look at some of the highlights (you may want to get a snack to eat while you read).

-SEAN SMITH

• The First Parish Church in Harvard Square will host a powerful double-header on March at 8 p.m. featuring Matt and Shannon Heaton and Dervish. The Heatons (Shannon on flute, whistle and accordion, Matt on guitar and bouzouki) are one of Boston's most popular and high-profile Irish music acts. Dervish, led by singer Cathy Jordan, has garnered widespread praise for their musicianship and artistry, as well as the quality of their recordings. Go to bit. ly/2sBxYT1 for tickets.

• We Banjo 3, which has built a dedicated fan base on both sides of the Atlantic with its "Celtgrass" music, comes to The Rockwell in Somerville for two shows on March 4. Wielding fiddle, guitar and mandolin along with banjo – sometimes more than one – the Galway quartet of brothers Enda and Fergal Scahill and Martin and David Howley find common ground be-tween Old World tradition and authentic Americana with their hard-driving instrumental sets and enchanting vocal harmonies. Tickets, information at therockwell.org.
• On March 22, the

Boston College Gaelic Roots series will present a concert in the Cadigan Alumni Center on BC's Brighton Campus by the trio Open the Door for Three. Maine-based spouses Kieran O'Hare (uilleann pipes, flute, whistle) and Liz Knowles (fiddle) have lengthy resumes that include collaborations with, among others, "Riverdance," Cherishthe Ladies, Danú, Robbie O'Connell and the String Sisters. Pat Broaders (bouzouki, vocals) is a solid accompanist and singer with a vast repertoire. [Open the Door for Three also will be a featured act in this year's "ASt. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn." See elsewhere in this issue for more information.

Go to bc.edu/gaelicroots for information.

Altan, which has been a force in Irish music since emerging from the traditional hotbed of Donegal three decades ago, will play at Boston's City Winery on March 13 and 14. The band is led by co-founder Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, a principal exponent of the Donegal fiddle style and a singer in both Gaelic and English, and includes the talents of Ciarán Curran (bouzouki), Dáithí Sproule (guitar), Mark Kelly (guitar) and Martin Tourish (accordion). Altan has toured around the world while collaborating with such luminaries as Dolly Parton, The Chieftains and Enya, and recently completed its 13th studio album, "The Gap of Dreams." For tickets and other details, see citywinery.com/boston.

• The New England



Night Tree, March 28, Burren Backroom series, Somerville

Harp Orchestra will make two area appearances this month: at the Westwood Public Library on March 10 at 2 p.m.; and the Canadian American Club in Watertown on March 17 at 7:30 p.m. Led by Regina Delaney, the group plays traditional and contemporary music arranged for the full orchestra as well as various smaller combinations. For more information, see

neiho.org.
• The Canadian American Club, meanwhile, also will host a dance and concert with Andrea Beaton and Troy MacGillivray, who are among the foremost Cape Breton musicians of their generation. Beaton, a fiddler, composer and step dancer, and MacGillivray, a multi-instrumentalist. songwriter, composer and dancer, both hail from notable musical families, and have helped promote and contribute to the history and evolution of their Celtic and Gaelic musical traditions. See canadiana-

mericanclub.com. • The Burren Backroom series will have a full schedule this month, beginning on March 7 at 7:30 p.m. with Celtic roots quintet RUNA, which has gained a strong regional following in New England while earning critical approval, winning two firstplace honors in the Irish Music Awards and four Independent Music Awards. The international line-up of Shannon Lambert-Ryan (vocals, step-dancing), Fionán de Barra (guitar), Cheryl Prashker (percussion), Zach White (guitar, vocals, mandolin), and mandolin) combine the music of Ireland and Scotland with the harmonies and rhythms of jazz, bluegrass, flamenco and blues.

Karan Casey, one of Ireland's most accomplished female singers of the past couple of decades, comes to the Backroom on March 11 at 4 p.m. Rising to prominence in the 1990s as lead singer for supergroup Solas, Waterfordborn Casey then pursued a successful solo career as well as an occasional partnership with former Solas bandmate John Doyle - she also reunited with Solas for its 10th and 20th anniversary commemorations. Her sixth and most recent album, "Two More Hours" (2014), contained all her own compositions and drew on jazz, R&B and blues as well as folk and rock styles.

On March 14 at 7:30 p.m., another former Solas member brings his new collaboration to the Burren, the Seamus **Egan Project**. Egan is a prize-winning multiinstrumentalist (flute, mandolin, banjo, whistle, guitar) and a highly regarded composer and arranger, including for the annual "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn" show. In this recently formed band, he is joined by Moira Smiley (vocals, banjo), Kyle Sanna (guitar), and Owen Marshall (bouzouki), in revisiting some of the multifaceted music from earlier in his career.

April Verch will give a Sunday matinee performance at 4 p.m. on March 25. Verch is a fiddler, singer and stepdancer from the Ottawa Valley and its rich Franco-Celtic music traditions who over the years has extended her interest to bluegrass, old-timey, and other folk music. Last year, she released "The April Verch Anthology," an 18-track collection celebrating her musical career.

Making a return to the Backroom after their Seamus Egan-produced CD release concert last October will be **Night Tree**, on March 28 at 7:30 p.m. This sextet of New England Conservatory musicians (Lily Honigberg, violin; Chris Overholser, violin, viola, and mandolin; Zach Mayer, saxophones, vocals; Sunniva Brynnel, accordion, vocals; McKinley James, cello: Julian Loida. percussion) that pulls together Irish and Scandinavian music with classical, jazz, klezmer and playing in ensemble style while also leaving room for individual improvisation.

Opening will be **Jenna** Moynihan, a Bostonbased Scottish-style fiddler whose music fuses tradition with a contemporary, explorative approach. Moynihan, who plays with harpist Mairi Chambeul (the two will perform this month at Club Passim; see below) and as part of Laura Cortese and the Dance Cards, performed at this past year's "Christmas Celtic Sojourn."

For information on the Burren Backroom series, go to burren.com/backroom series.html.

• The Burren also will host a WUMB-FM showcase on March 15 at 7 p.m. with local Afro-Celtic ensemble Soulsha. Led by Neil Pearlman (keyboards, mandolin, vocals) and Elias Alexander (lead vocals, pipes, low whistle), the band flavors traditional Scottish and contemporary Celtic music with West African funk fusion and occasional flashes of New Orleans jazz. Details at burren.com. • The fiddle-harp duo

of Jenna Moynihan and Mairi Chaimbeul will play at Club Passim on March 16 at 8 p.m. The pair met while attending Berklee College of Music and launched a collaboration that builds on Scottish and other music traditions while incorporating improvisatory, explorative contemporary styles, making for a sound that is mesmerizing and bold. Moynihan and Chaimbeul released their album, "One Two," last year. See passim.org for ticket information and other details.

• The Irish Cultural Centre of New England will present some special musical events this month, beginning March 3 at 7 p.m. with a concert by Irish tenor Paul Byrom. Byrom was an original member of the international singing group Celtic Thunder, with whom he performed for three years until leaving at the end of 2010 to pursue his solo career. He has since released two albums, "This Is the Moment" and "Thinking of Home," recorded a PBS special and more recently, played the role of Gaston in a Dublin production of "Beauty And The Beast."

**Téada**, one of the most acclaimed traditional Irish bands to emerge this century, will come to the ICC on March 11 for a 2 p.m. performance. The quintet of Oisín Mac Diarmada (fiddle), Paul Finn (accordion), Damien Stenson (flute), Tristan Rosenstock (bodhran) and Seán McElwain (guitar), also joined by Séamus Begley (vocals, accordion), has appeared at major music festivals throughout the US, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Africa, Russia, the Middle East, and Australia. Their expressive playing sits comfortably on the line between tradition and innovation.

The center's St. Patrick's Day festivities will feature music by Sheila Falls, Torrin Ryan and Sean Kane at 7 p.m. Falls has played in various collaborations, including as part of the fiddle ensemble Childsplay; Ryan has won several competitions, including

in the All-Ireland Fleadh, for his uilleann pipes and whistle playing; Kane is a singer-songwriter whose work has been inspired by his many travels between the US and Ireland.

The Joshua Tree, Boston's own premier U2 tribute band, visits the ICC on March 31 at 8 p.m. The group has developed a national reputation for its ability to capture the magic and majesty of the Irish rockers who have become a world phenomenon, and prides itself on reproducing the distinct sound of U2 — covering the very early years up to the present — while maintaining artistic integrity.

• A new Celtic Nights theatrical production, "Oceans of Hope," will have its Massachusetts premiere on March 24 at 8 p.m. in Beverly's Cabot Theatre. The show-building on past Celtic Nights productions like "Spirit of Freedom" and "Gaelforce Dane" – combines music, song, dance, folklore and storytelling, drawn from the Irish tradition, to tell the history of Irish emigration to the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and other parts of the world. For more information, see thecabot.org.

• The Linden Tree Coffeehouse in Wakefield will present the New England Celtic band Mist Covered Mountains on March 10 at 8 p.m. At the group's core is Donna Hébert, a fixture in the New England folk dance world whose repertoire draws on Irish, Scottish, Quebecois, and other traditions, and her daughter Molly Hébert-Wilson, a powerful vocalist who sings in English and Irish. Guitarist Max Cohen and mandolinist-banjoistvocalist Noam Berg add further heft to the band's dynamic. Go to www.lindentreecoffeehouse.org.

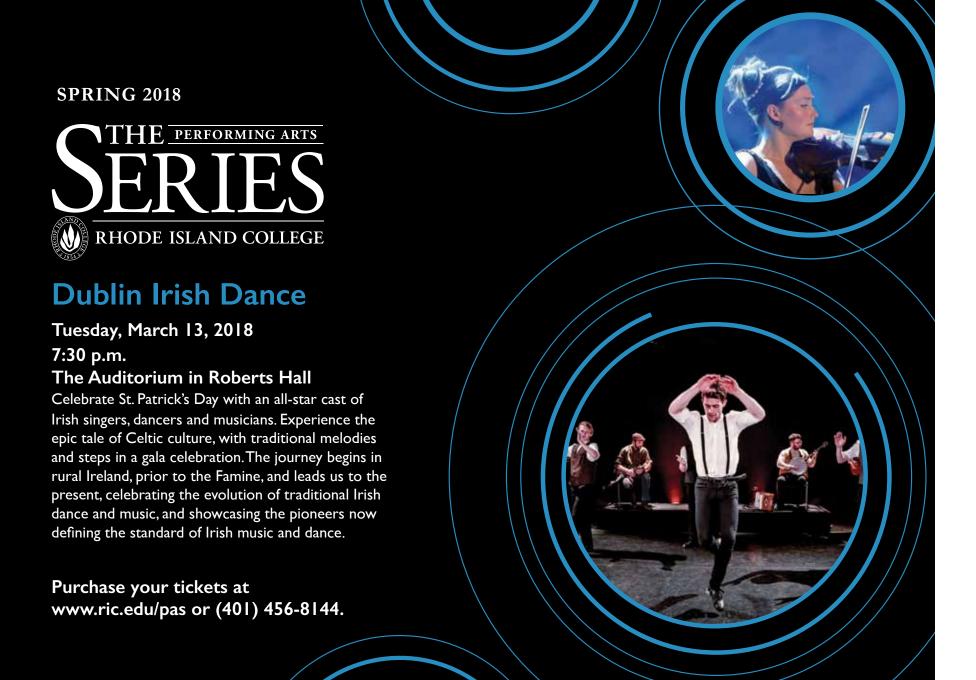
• Hanneke Cassel, who has become an irresistible force in Boston's Celtic fiddle community and beyond, will perform with her band at the Me & Thee Coffeehouse in Marblehead on March 16 at 8 p.m. Cassel is one of the most high-profile and influential exemplars of the American-Scottish fiddle style, with seven solo albums to her credit, including last year's "Trip to Walden Pond." Opening for her will be her husband and bandmate, Mike Block, an innovator himself who has cultivated a distinctive style on cello that encompasses classical, folk and other genres. For details, see meandthee.org.

• The irrepressible Katie McDonnell, better known as **Katie McD**, and her Cross County **Band** will perform on St. Patrick's Day at the Coffeehouse Off the Square in Hingham on March 17 at 8 p.m. A singer-songwriter from Galway, McDonnell's music encompasses traditional, contemporary and original, steeped in the Irish/Celtic groove. Her bandmates include Tipperary native Martin Butler, a fine singer and bodhran player known for his humorous and friendly stage presence. More information at oldshipchurch.org.

• Somewhat farther afield, at Rhode Island College in Providence, the journey from Old Ireland to the New World is retold in the Dublin Irish Dance production of "Stepping **Out"** on March 13 at 7:30  $p.m.\,at\,The\,Auditorium\,in$ Roberts Hall. Music, song, and dance convey the tale of the historic immigration from rural Ireland west across the Atlantic Ocean to cities like New York and onward to the Appalachians and beyond. "Stepping Out" goes all the way up to modern times, where Celtic culture is a worldwide phenomenon. For information, see ric. edu/pas.











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April 5

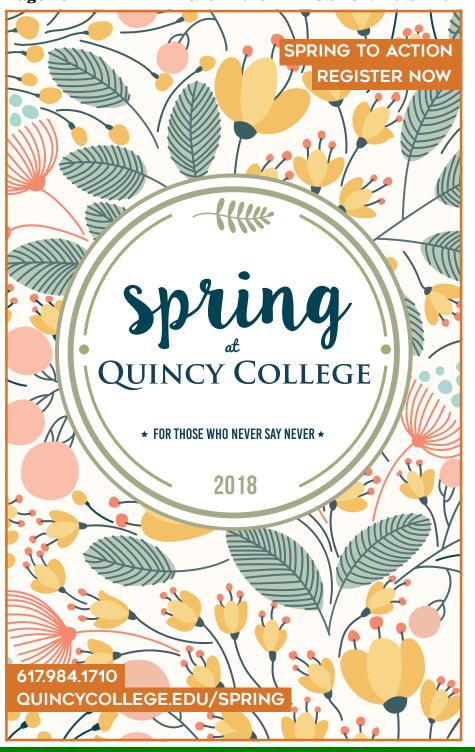




Somerville Theatre, Davis Square



#irishfilmfest18





# Open the Door for Three will strut their music at St. Patrick's Celtic Sojourn

(Continued from page 1)

extensive experience in the music scene. Knowles, for example, has played in "Riverdance" and as a member of Cherish the Ladies and the String Sisters, while also working in more contemporary circles with Tim O'Brien, Paul Cole, and Don Henley, among others. O'Hare has performed, toured, or recorded with Mick Moloney and The Greenfields of America and fiddlers Liz Carroll and Jerry Holland, as well as baroque performers Ensemble Galilei and singer-songwriter Bonnie Raitt. In addition to his long-time stint as a member of bohola, Broaders's collaborations include Dennis Cahill, Liz Carroll, Martin Hayes, John Doyle, Paddy O'Brien, Robbie O'Connell, and Danú.

The three are also known for their diligent research, digging into books, collections, recordings, and other sources, and for the harmonies and well-crafted arrangements that typify their sound. They have recorded three albums, including the recently released "The Joyful Hours."

Castles grew up in a musical family, and earned All-Ireland Fleadh titles in solo and group competitions. She learned tin whistle and concertina from Rena Crotty Traynor, and later with Mícheál Ó'Raghallaigh, one of the most respected concertina players today. She has recorded a solo album, "Indeedin You Needn't Bother," which includes

her own compositions as well as tunes from distinguished musician/composers like Ed Reavy, Vincent Broderick, and Charlie Lennon.

Gilchrist, a onetime Boston resident who studied at the Berklee College of Music, has fashioned a unique approach to Celtic harp that draws upon contemporary influences, incorporating bits of jazz and world music. She has appeared regularly in the Boston area, including as part of "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn," for which she is now assistant music director.

Murphy, who grew up in Newfoundland, also is familiar to Boston-area audiences through not only "St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn" but as a member of the Childsplay ensemble, and as a frequent accompanist for local Scottish fiddler Hanneke Cassel. He has also played with prominent Irish performers like fiddler Liz Carroll and vocalist Karan Casey, among others. For nearly two decades, Murphy was part of Nightingale, the groundbreaking trio he founded with his fiddle-playing wife, Becky Tracy, and accordionist/pianist Jeremiah McLane. Besides his prowess on guitar, Murphy is widely praised for his cogent, expressive singing, in both English and French; he's just released his second solo album, "Lond of Fish and Scale."

"Land of Fish and Seals."

Other performers have yet to be confirmed, and updates and details about the show are available at wgbh.org/celtic.

# St. Patrick's Day Celebrations at Irish Cultural Centre



#### MARCH 17TH ADMISSION \$10 FROM 5PM ONWARDS

We will show the GAA games at 9am & 11am (Admission \$20 to Setanta) 9am - Noon: A CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY (UPSTAIRS)

11:15: Performance by the Dunlewy Boyle Bremer Academy of Irish dance

11:30: Open for lunch, music by musical duo YOKESHIRE

12:30: Performance by the Greene O'Leary Irish dance school

3pm: Performance by the Kenny Academy of Irish dance

3:30: A celebration of Irish music with Denis Galvin and the Westwood School of Music

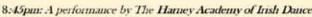
5pm: Performance by the Haley School of Irish dance

5:30pm: Irish Session in the Pub led by Natasha Sheehy

6:30pm: Performance by the Hansen Keohane School of Irish dance

7pm-10:30pm: An evening of dancing & traditional Irish music with

Sheila Falls on fiddle, Torrin Ryan on Uillean pipes and Sean Kane on guitar/vocals





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From 9am-12 noon

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH

9:30am: Sean nos dancing & workshop with Jackie O'Reilly

10:15: 'Irish Fairy Grandmother's Magic show' with Debbie O'Carroll

11:15 An Irish dance performance by the Dunleavy Boyle Bremer Academy

Ongoing activities: Arts & Crafts - plant your own shamrocks / Face Painting

Hay ride around the fields and through the woods/ Singalong in the ICC Cottage / Irish

candy bingo /knitting demons ration / Irish language worksheets

\$7 pp includes baked goods/ tea & coffee and all children's activities.
Everyone welcome. Reservations not required

www.irishculture.org



200 New Boston Drive, Canton, MA 781-821-8291 www.irishculture.org

### Presenting Bualadh Boston 2018, a Back Bay literary fest (March 2-3)



Writers Centre, Poetry Ireland, and the Consulate General of Ireland will present Bualadh Boston 2018, a mini-Irish literary festival featuring a stellar lineup of some of the finest contemporary Irish writers and poets. The word "bualadh" can be translated to mean "cheering," or a "round of applause," according to

The first event, on Friday at 5 p.m., will feature

On Fri., March 2, and Pulitzer Prize-winning Sat., March 3, the Irish poet Paul Muldoon and poet Paul Muldoon and former Poet Laureate of the United States Robert Pinsky. Born in County Armagh, Muldoon was awarded the Pulitzer in 2003 for his collection "Moy Sand and Gravel." He was the poetry editor at the New Yorker until last November. Pinsky, one of America's foremost poets and critics, teaches at Boston University.

> The festival will continue on Saturday at 3 p.m. with a conversation

between Boston Globe columnist Kevin Cullen and historian Alvin Jackson about Jackson's new book on John Redmond and Edward Carson, who famously represented the Nationalist and Unionist causes in British Parliament during the early 20th century. Bualadh Boston 2018

will conclude with an event at 5 p.m. on Saturday featuring Irish fiction writers Mary Costello, author of 2014's Irish Novel of the Year "Academy

Street," and Sally Rooney, winner of the 2017 Sunday Times Young Writer Award. They will be introduced by American author Molly McCloskey, who spent 25 years of her adult life in Ireland.
All events will take

place at the Harvard Club of Boston at 374 Commonwealth Ave. in the Back Bay. Tickets are free. Those interested in attending are encouraged to book tickets in advance at eventbrite.com.

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Concertina player Brenda Castles will be a new face at this year's "A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn."

> May the leprechauns be near you, To spread luck along your way. And may all the Irish angels, Smile upon you St. Patrick's Day.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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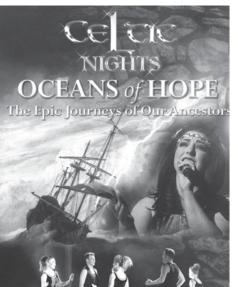
Thursday, March 15, 8pm A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn

& Brenda Castles

with Brian O'Donovan Open The Door for Three, Keith Murphy, Maeve Gilchrist







Saturday, March 24, 8pm

Celtic Nights –

Oceans of Hope

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# 'Victory at Arnot' – where Mother Jones and her 'pot-and-pan brigade won the day for the miners

SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Irish-born Mary "Mother" Jones, one of America's most famous labor activists, is the subject of a production featuring Tony nominee Maureen Brennan, with a score by Berklee College of Music faculty member Eleanor Aversa, to be presented this month at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England and at Berklee.

Victory at Arnot" relates the story of how Mother Jones and her "pot-and-pan brigade" of women helped Pennsylvania miners in their efforts to seek safer working conditions and a living wage. Brennan provides the narrative, occasionally assuming the voice of Jones or other key figures; Aversa's accompanying score is played by the sextet What Is Noise, whose members play flute, clarinet, piano, violin, cello, and percussion.

Aversa has received national awards such as the Northridge Composition Prize and fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, the I-Park Foundation, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Other honors include the Brian M. Israel Prize from the New York Federation of Music Clubs, as well as awards and grants from ASCAP, the Queens Council on the Arts, and the American Composers Forum. Her work has been performed in the United States and abroad, including venues such as the Boston Conservatory, the Bowdoin International Music Festival, June in Buffalo, Symphony Space, and Tanglewood.

The inspiration for "Victory at Arnot," as Aversa describes it, is an example of free-association thinking in action: Listening to a piece she wrote for a flute choir, Aversa was struck by how much the instruments' combined sound resembled a train whistle. "And thinking of the train somehow got me thinking of steel work, which in turn got me thinking of coal, and coal mining," says Aversa, who joined the Berklee faculty in 2016.

This train of thought led Aversa to look at coal mining labor history, and eventually to the tale of Jones (1837-1930), a native of Cork who along with her family fled the Great Famine to Canada, and later the US. An organizer for the Knights of Labor and the United Mine Workers, she was once called "the most dangerous woman in America." One of her most famous feats was to organize a children's march in 1903 from Philadelphia to the New York City home of President Theodore Roosevelt, in protest of lax enforcement of child labor laws.

Jones was renowned



Mother Jones and her adherents.

for her passionate, earthy style of oratory, with her prominent Cork brogue. She cultivated her "Mother" image by wearing out-of-fashion black dresses and referring to the male workers she championed as her "boys." But Jones differed from many other female activists of the era by opposing women's suffrage, stating her belief that women's involvement in politics resulted in a neglect of motherhood and thus contributed to juvenile delinquency.

As Aversa points, out, Jones' activism was born of personal tragedy. "She lost her husband [labor organizer George Jones] and four children to yellow fever; and then four years after that, her home and dress shop were destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Most people would wither from devastating events like these, but she fought for things she could change. She helped rebuild Chicago, and then became a force for the labor

movement."
In 1899, Jones went to Arnot, Pa., to lend moral support to miners who had been on strike for several months. Hearing that the mining company was going to bring in "scabs," Jones assembled an army of miners' wives and other local women and told them to gather near the mine with pots, pans, mops, and brooms, and make a ruckus when the replacement workers and mine mules drew near. Jones, along with the local union president, William Wilson – later to be the first US Secretary of Labor-helped maintain the solidarity among the miners and their families, and in February 1890, the company met their demands. In the midst of a raging snowstorm, a great celebration took place.

Researching and composing "Victory at Arnot" proved to be an enlightening experience for Aversa. "Nowadays, we've come to take for granted things like worker's compensation, overtime pay, and so on, but it was very, very different back in the time of Mother Jones. Reading the history, I was so inspired by her strength and determination, and that of William Wilson - that's why I included him in the piece, too – in helping improve the lives of workers.

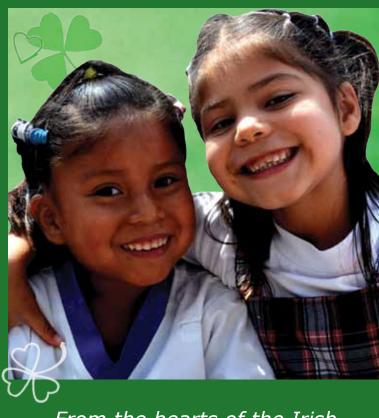
Aversa says the music in "Arnot" is in the style of a film or opera score, with some themes recurring throughout, such as "an expression of the striving and energy of the miners. As part of her research, Aversa also listened to Irish and American folk music, and incorporated some of those elements into the music, such as the victory dance at the end.

The opportunity to work with Brennan – a faculty member of the Boston Conservatory at Berklee-has been another enjoyable part of making "Victory at Arnot," says Aversa. Brennan was nominated for a Tony Award and won a Theatre World Award for her professional debut in the 1974 revival of "Candide" on Broadway. She has also appeared on Broadway in "Going Up," "Knickerbocker Holiday," "Little Johnny Jones," and "Stardust" and toured nationally as Mabel in New York Shakespeare Festival's "The Pirates of Penzance" and has appeared off Broadway in 'Shakespeare's Cabaret." She was nominated for Best Supporting Actress by the Independent Re-viewers of New England for her performance in  ${}^{\iota}Mame.{}^{\circ}$ 

"I was quite impressed by Maureen's stage presence, and so I was very pleased that she liked the text of the story I sent to her," says Aversa. "Her words will really comple-

ment the music."
"Victory Arnot" will be presented on March 15 at 7 p.m. in Berklee College's Oliver Colvin Hall, 1140 Boylston Street [see berklee.edu/events/victory-arnot], and on March 16, 7:30 p.m., at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England [irishculture.org].





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Pete's Posse

HE CONEKSATION

#### **CD Reviews**

By SEAN SMITH
The Jeremiahs, "The Femme Fatale of
Maine" • As the folk revival has gone on, there has been a gradual proliferation, especially in more recent years, of bands that utilize the architecture of traditional music in presenting their original music – close to the tradition yet at a certain remove. The list is extensive, and would certainly be open to argument (Kila? Enter the Haggis? LAU? RUNA?), but Dublin's The Jeremiahs is a solid, and quite

creative, entry.



Formerly a quartet, this trio's mark of distinction begins with lead vocalist Joe Gibney, whose voice has a Sean Tyrelllike gravitas to it: an edge with a hint of portent ("The Wild Barrow Road," John Spillane's "Passage West"

or "The Plough and Stars"), but also a capacity for tenderness, such as on "This Boy" or the title track. Complementing Gibney are James Ryan (guitar, bouzouki, harmonica) and Jean-Christophe Morel (fiddle, bouzouki), as well as guest (or perhaps "auxiliary member" is more appropriate) Julien Bruneteau on flute and whistle.

If Gibney provides the impetus, then Ryan, Morel and Bruneteau provide the continuity – Ryan with crisp rhythm, Morel and Bruneteau with their superbly delivered fills and breaks, as well as flat-out gorgeous harmonizing. The songs, most of which are written by the band, have a reticent charm and wisdom about them: "Wild Barrow Road" is a different take on the our-crazy-band-adventures theme, setting the frenzy of traveling alongside the serenity and mystery of the landscape ("As we drive through this valley/we rise and we fall/like this tune with no top or no bottom at all"); "Femme Fatale of Maine" visits another familiar subject, temptation and ruination ("Every stage of a poor man's life/should at least inform the other/But a lady fair will leave men cold/and take all they can give her"), while "This Boy" juxtaposes an upbeat melody and tempo with the painful, inevitable realization of love gone wrong.

Of a more iconoclastic nature, perhaps, is "Plough and Stars," which the band's liner notes describe as an "anti-rebel song" that, even as it touches on Ireland's troubled history, endorses the modern "put down the gun" mindset: "And come the morning we'll rise again/and break the chains from the

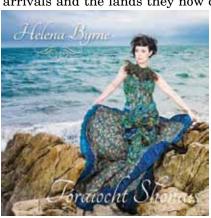
plough and stars.'

Ryan, Morel, and Bruneteau are at the forefront on the album's three instrumental tracks, the best of which is "Croix-Rousse," highlighted by a nifty, slow-building transition from leisurely to full-tilt pace, girded by Ryan's fine guitar work.

The concluding track, "Derry Gaol," is not a band original—it was penned by Dublin singer-songwriter Alan Burke with Tim Potts—but fits very well into The Jeremiahs' oeuvre: a jailhouse ballad along the lines of Jez Lowe's more sardonic "Durham Gaol," expressing lamentation, solidarity, and defiance. Don't be surprised if you hear the repeating riff by Morel and Bruneteau in your head long afterwards, along with some of the other words and music you'll

hear on this album. [thejeremiahs.ie]

Helena Byrne, "Tóraíocht Shonais (Pursuit
of Happiness)" • Byrne has pursued a multifaceted career as singer, songwriter, storyteller, and actress that includes appearances with James Taylor, Moya Brennan, and Bob Geldof, and numerous theatrical projects. This album builds on her previous effort "Scéal" – a collection of stories and reminiscences of Ireland – to recall and evoke the experience of Irish immigration to the US and Canada from the mid-19th century on, and the social, political, and economic impacts that resulted – both for the new arrivals and the lands they now called home. By-



rne's historical narrative is mixed with traditional songs (including a nice medley of "Dowie Dens of Yarrow" and "Wayfaring Stranger" to compare and contrast Irish and American traditions) and her own compositions.

On the one hand, the ground here isn't exactly unbroken: There are sections on the Great Famine, anti-Irish prejudice, "American wakes," and JFK. But Byrne also touches on some fascinating sidebars, like the tragic story of Michael Considine, an Irish immigrant (and briefly a Boston resident) who penned that vivid remembrance of his native Clare, "Spancil Hill," or the donation made to Irish famine

relief by the impoverished Choctaw Nation – one of the more improbable but profound bonds between America and Ireland.

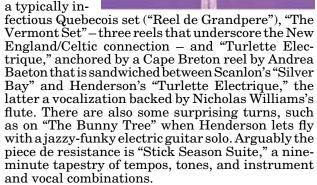
The best feature of the album is the excerpts of interviews with immigrants and their descendants, which grounds the artistic and dramatic content in a folksy authenticity. And you'll hear a few references to Boston and other Massachusetts communities, which is hardly surprising but does underscore the Bay State's ties with Ireland.

Sure, sentimentality and pathos are readily found in "Tóraíocht Shonais," but history isn't supposed to be an entirely academic, dry-eyed affair. Byrne does an effective job of personalizing the thousands upon millions of stories born of the journey from the Old World to the New. [helenabyrne.com]

Pete's Posse, "The Conversation" "Pete" in question is Vermont's Pete Sutherland, a mainstay in New England folk/traditional music for decades, playing in bands like Woods Tea Company, the Clayfoot Strutters, and Metamora. Sutherland was among a vanguard of musicians a few decades ago who pulled together the various strands of music traditions found in New England - Irish, Scottish, Canadian maritime, Quebecois, Americana – and located them in a contemporary milieu: crossing genres sometimes within one song or tune set, devising thoughtful, elaborate arrangements, and adding their own compositions, which fit snugly into the mix.

On "The Conversation," Sutherland (fiddle, fivestring banjo, keyboards) and his "posse" of the past four years, Oliver Scanlon (fiddle, mandolin, viola, foot percussion) and Tristan Henderson (guitars, mandolin, bass, jaw harp, foot percussion), present this kaleidoscope of sounds and styles with equal parts amiability and energy. Kicking off the album - their third – is a medley of Irish reels ("The Brocca Set") that begins with a flourish of experimental sounds, until a fiddle slowly and steadily builds up a 4/4 rhythm, and the trio is off and running.

Other instrumental tracks include a typically in-



While joviality is apparent throughout the album, a couple of songs by Sutherland strike a more serious note: "Up and Blow Away" is a homespun but sincere reflection on mortality, while "The Sap Ain't Running" is a literal on-the-ground commentary on the effect of climate change. "Don't Let Me Go," another Sutherland piece, has a subtle pop dynamic to it, complete with a sweetly earnest three-part harmony. "The Conversation" is a very eloquent piece of work indeed. [petespossevt.com]





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**March 2018** 

# Enjoying Longueville House in Cork near Mallow; Elegance, comfort now; turbulence in the long ago

By Ed Forry BIR Publisher

Our ten-day motor tour of the south coast of Ireland last summer included two wonderful days in County Cork, the ancestral county of my mother's family. Eleanor Toomey Forry's father, Timothy Toomey, was born in Macroom, and her mother, Norah (Downing), came to America from Skibbereen. I had been in Cork just once before, fully 25 years ago, but it was only for a quick sixhour drive through Kerry and Cork, with a brief stop at Blarney Castle before returning to my hotel outside Limerick.

For this trip, we made arrangements through Ireland's Blue Book (.irelands-blue-book.ie) to spend two days and nights just outside Mallow, and made day trips, including a drive to the coastal town of Kinsale.

We made our base at the Longueville House, a listed stately Georgian Country House just north of Mallow town, and about a 40-minute drive north from Cork city. The tour book describes the property this way:



Jane O'Callaghan first opened Longueville to a bed & breakfast, with a limited menu; today it's a gourmet attraction across Ireland's south coast, She is pictured with the BIR's Ed Forry & Della Costello.

"Longueville's beautiful view of the Blackwater Valley belies a turbulent history. The oldest section of this house was built in 1720 by the Longfield family, who always maintained they were of French extraction and not Cromwellians. Current day proprietor William

O'Callaghan is a descendant of original owner Donough O'Callaghan. Donough fought beside the Catholics after the collapse of the 1641 Rebellion and forfeited the land to Cromwell. At this time, when Richard Longfield was created Baron Longueville in 1795, the

family changed the name of the estate to Longueville. "Architecturally Longueville is typically late Georgian, of five bays and three storeys over a basement. The central doorway retains its original door and a large fanlight beneath a Doric portico. On the

East side, you'll find a fine Victorian conservatory of curved ironwork added in 1862, one of the last drawn up by Richard Turner, the greatest ironmaster and designer of glasshouses of the Victorian era. At the rear of the main house lies a large double courtyard, neo-classical in style, containing a number of fine two-storey buildings; some have been converted into living quarters. Inside, the house is embellished with ornate Italian-designed ceilings, a marble diningroom mantelpiece featuring a relief of Neptune in his chariot, rare, inlaid mahogany doors, and an unusual, full-height bifurcating staircase.

"Today, Longueville House is back in the hands of the O'Callaghan clan whose forebears were originally deprived of it by Cromwell in 1650. It was returned to the family in 1938, when the Longfields sold the property to Senator William O'Callaghan. Then, in 1969, Michael O'Callaghan (son of the senator) and his wife Jane opened Longueville's doors to the public as a simple bed & breakfast."

simple bed & breakfast." Eschewing any guide-books and roadmaps, we used our IPhone Google-map app to find our way to the northeast Cork town of Mallow. Driving through the town we soon found the entrance to the 500-acre estate. A two-minute drive through woods and up a winding private road led to the hill's crest where we found the late Georgian building, which overlooks the green valley.

Once inside, we were met by Jane O'Callaghan, the family's "queen bee," a gracious and friendly woman who became our hostess in the main dining room and told us about the history of the estate during our stay. Herself a native of Limerick, Jane said she had married Michael in 1953 and moved there. "When I moved in here, my parent-inlaws were in here with my husband. They were living in one side of the house and we were living in the other side." Her then-new husband was a farmer, she said,

and worked the property as a farm. "Even though it was a Georgian house, the decor was Victorian, everything was brown and yellow and green. Oh god! They loved the house and wanted to keep the house, so I said I'll do a bed and breakfast- no business plan, nothing, just a very kind bank manager" to assist her in making the change.

The early days as a B&B saw her making a light breakfast for guests- tea, coffee, scones, full Irish breakfasts- and later, she says, she started high tea, but "high tea was a nightmare. So I decided to do a leg of lamb- whether they liked it or lumped it. That went fine for a week or two and then somebody said they didn't like lamb, so then I said I'll give you salmon."

Just as the decade of the 1960s turned, Michael and Jane opened the doors to the public and Jane launched The Presidents' Restaurant at Longueville in the early 1970s.

As the menu expanded, their reputation for excellent food and fine dining became widespread. Most of the produce they served was home grown. "My husband was a farmer, everything came fresh from the garden." Eventually, she decided to take two weeks every November to go on "working vacations," learning from chefs in London and Paris.

The management of the house has now passed to the third generation, and it is now operated by her chef son William and his wife Aisling. They met when they attended hotel management school at the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) in the late 1980s.

"William went off to work in the UK and France," she said, "and I go away for two weeks to take a cordon bleu course. Over the decades, Jane has furnished the house with Irish wares acquired from around the country. "I bought decorations at auctions and antique shops," she says. "Have you seen the basement? Just come down with me for a second." She led us revealed an extensive wine cellar and room after room of function and storage space.

A good sign of the quality of the meals that comes out of the Longueville kitchen occurred on our second evening there, when we were joined at the adjacent table by a group of three Irish sisters who were enjoying a "girl's night out." They had come from their homes in different towns outside of Cork, they told us, just to treat themselves to the delicious gourmet food and exquisite décor of the Presidents' Restaurant. It was something they do once or twice a year, they said.

We agreed with their judgment, and we certainly plan to visit with Jane and her family again the next time we're in Cork.

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Bruce Durkey photo

#### Longueville House: The Details

It is elegantly situated in undulating parkland and is approached from the east by a curving avenue over an arched limestone bridge. The majestic group of oak trees on the front field of the house was planted in 1815 to celebrate Wellington's victory at the Battle of Waterloo. The estate also contains a 25-acre cider apple orchard used to produce on site an artisan cider, some which is double distilled into an apple brandy.

There are 20 sumptuous guest bedrooms and suites, all individually furnished and tastefully decorated in the country house style. Every comfort is assured with fluffy cotton towels, luxury toiletries from The White Company, fresh flowers, and lots of interesting books and glossies to read.

The "piece de resistance" has to be the stunning south facing views of the Blackwater Valley. All bedrooms and suites are located on the first and second floor, taking complete advantage of the surrounding sylvan setting.

The rear of the house, with equally charming vistas, overlooks our Palladian Courtyard with Topiary Centrepiece and Walled Garden to the side. Longueville House is all about relaxing and unwinding. You will undoubtedly find yourself tuning into the calming sound of native songbird or bleating sheep outside your bedroom window.

Longueville, a listed heritage house, does not have an elevator. Access to guest bedrooms is via the central staircase, generous and wide with a gradient not too steep. Free Wifi is available throughout the house although it has to be said some areas experience stronger signal than others due to location and thickness of the walls - it is after all a 300-year-old building.

Longueville is really about 'switching off' so all our bedrooms are free from the intrusion of televisions though we do have a roving TV which can be set up in your bedroom by prior arrangement. Otherwise, guests are welcome to watch TV with other patrons in the comfort of the Mount Hillary Room located on the ground floor.

Source: Longuevillehouse.ie.



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

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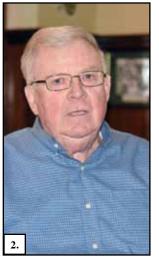
# BRETT'S BOSTON

**March 2018** 

By Harry Brett Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

erry Burke, longtime owner of Doyle's Cafe, hosted a gathering of members of the Éire Society of Boston on Sunday Feb 25. Calling the program "The Way it Was-Pols, Pals, Rogues, Rascals and Relatives," Burke told the audience a number of stories about the legendary Boston Mayor James Michael Curley. The event was held in the Curley Room at the legendary Doyle's establishment on Washington Street in Jamaica Plain.

1.) The Sunday afternoon session of contemporary American folk music at Doyle's; 2.) Gerry Burke; 3.) John McGuire, Roslindale; 4.) Holly and John Mara, Concord; 5.) Gerry Burke shows off the Dorchester Riding Clun Trophy won by Mayor Curley; 6.) Cate McGrail, Belmont, Mary Ann Burke, Canton; 7.) Bill Smith West Roxbury, Barbara Fitzgerald, Milton; 8.) Judy and Emmett Goggin, Jamaica Plain; 9.) Margaret Stapleton Scituate, Rose Anne Concannon, Sheila Gagnon, Marshfield; 10.) Sheila Gagnon, Edris Kelley, Marshfield, Ed Forry, Dorchester.





















#### **Traveling People**

### You can't beat March if you're thinking of visiting Ireland

By Judy Enright SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It's that time of year again when Ireland and the Irish hop into the world's limelight to celebrate St. Patrick and his special day.

In March, everyone is Irish, as you know, regardless of surname or heritage. Each of us shares equally in the good times, the festivities, and the wondrous fact that mid-month is almost April and that spring is nearly here! (The spring equinox, in case you wonder, occurs this year on March 20 at 12:15 p.m.)

THE GOOD SAINT

In looking for some interesting facts about St. Patrick, I found, in a 2008 edition of Christianity Today, an article that made me laugh. Ted Olsen writes, "Tis the season for parades, green beer, shamrocks, and articles talking about why St. Patrick's day isn't all about parades, green beer, and shamrocks." Ted is correct in a way, and incorrect in another.

The parades and celebrations are great fun, but I find Patrick's history a lot more interesting. Was there really just one St. Patrick or were there several? If there was only one, he was very well traveled in an age without cars or other modern modes of transport.

Many of us already know quite a lot about Ireland's patron saint – real or mythical – from reading about him, especially if we've visited the St. Patrick Centre in Northern Ireland, which boasts that it is the only place in the world solely dedicated to him. For details, visit saintpatrickcentre.com

Briefly, the Centre's Patrick narrative begins in 405 A.D., when, as a 16-year-old native of what is now Scotland, he was captured in a raid and taken to pagan Ireland as a slave. He eventually escaped, went home, then returned in his 40s to deal with those Irish heathens.

CROAGH PATRICK

There are many other aspects of Patrick's tale, but I especially like his connection with Ireland's Holy Mountain, Croagh (pronounced "crow") Patrick, the 2,500-foot tall cone-shaped mountain in Murrisk, Co. Mayo, near Westport. Legend has it that it was on Croagh Patrick, or The Reek as it's known locally, that Patrick completed a 40-day Lenten ritual of fasting and penance in 441 A.D. And, it was there, legend adds, that he drove snakes out of Ireland. For his part, Olsen writes in Christianity Today that "Patrick couldn't have driven the snakes out of Ireland because there were never any snakes there to begin with." It's hard to say if that's true or not, but why ruin a great and enduring legend with facts, right?

Croagh Patrick today is an immensely popular tourist site



Centuries of pilgrimages have carved a path up to a chapel at the top of Ireland's holy mountain, Croagh Patrick in Co. Mayo. Judy Enright photos



Croagh Patrick in the background as you approach the holy mountain from Westport, Co. Mayo.

that draws visitors from all over the world, many of whom come to attempt the hefty climb to the top. I've actually never tried to make it to the peak, which is about a two-hour hike from the car park. I only climbed as far as the large statue of St. Patrick that was erected in 1928 by Rev. Father Patterson with funds collected in America to rebuild Saint Mary's Church in Westport.

The tradition of pilgrimage to this holy mountain dates back more than 5,000 years from the Stone Age to the present without interruption, and its religious significance to the pagans, when people gathered there to celebrate the beginning of the harvest season. Over the centuries, untold thousands of visitors and pilgrims have carved a trail into the side of the mountain up to a small chapel at the summit.

If you're in the area, Croagh Patrick is well worth a visit, especially on a beautiful day when you can enjoy the gorgeous vista across Clew Bay. The Croagh Patrick Visitor Center has a restaurant, coffee shop, and a great gift shop offering many cards and locally made gifts. Climbing sticks are also available there.

And, if you're in Mayo at the end of July, you might want to join other pilgrims for Reek Sunday, an annual hike up the mountain on the last Sunday of that month. Thousands participate in the climb and many do the last part barefoot and on their knees as penance.

There are lots of other fun things to do in the Greater Westport area, too.

#### **DUBLIN FESTIVITIES**

Dublin pulls out all the stops annually when it comes to celebrating the country's patron

From March 15-19 this year, the five-day St. Patrick's Festival will brighten and enliven the streets of the city. The Festival annually attracts more than 100,000 foreign visitors who come to see thousands of performers. This year, more than 30 events are scheduled over five days and nights, including music, dancing, storytelling, and more.

"HOME, the exploration of my home, your home, our home" is the theme for this year's festival and it has inspired an artistic program that includes a film commission project, streettheatre, talks, walks, spoken word, literature, music, Irish language, visual art, and more. It all sounds like great fun.

Of course there are St. Patrick's Day festivities, parades and assorted celebrations in

many other cities and towns across the isle, including Galway City (parade on the 17th and charity cycle on the 18th), Cork City parade and events (March 16-18), Limerick City (parade March 17 and marching band championship March 18 with musicians from Ireland, Europe and America) and Donegal, with Ardara's renowned Walking Festival on March 17 and 18. This is just a sampling. For more, check out Ireland. com and plug in the area you'll be visiting.

MOOREHALL

We read recently that the Mayo County Council has purchased historic Moorehall near the village of Carnacon, and will develop the property, house, courtyard, walled garden, and 80 acres of the woodland estate overlooking Lough Carra, in collaboration with The National Parks and Wildlife Service of the  $Department of Culture \\ Heritage$ and the Gaeltacht.

Moorehall is the ancestral home of John Moore, the first president of the Republic of Connaught. The history of the family and house is linked with Irish history and includes the 1798 French invasion, the Irish literary renaissance of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the Civil War.

The county council plans to develop the estate as a nature preserve and tourist attraction. A master plan, to be written with input from the local community, will include development of a recreational park, conservation measures, and restoration of the walled garden.

Moorehall is near Ballintubber Abbey and the historic market town of Ballinrobe. It's sonice to see historic Irish places saved, restored, and opened to

KNOCK AIRPORT

Knock Airport (also known as Ireland West Airport) is booming, having recorded its highest figures ever last year as 750,000 passengers checked in at its gates. The previous highest number was in 2016, when 734,000 passengers were recorded.

This airport is a real boon to the west of Ireland and is currently served by three major international airlines, Aer Lingus, Flybe, and Ryanair.

Last year, the airport invested 15 million euro in a project that will result in new passenger facilities, terminal upgrades, and infrastructural works across the airport and runway. Knock has flights to nine UK airports as well as to continental and mainland Europe. Maybe someday they'll offer flights to and from Logan!
TRAVEL

Enjoy your trip to Ireland whenever and wherever you go. This is a lovely time of year to visit.

## Where does St. Patrick lie at rest?

#### By Peter F. Stevens BIR STAFF

Even in death, mystery shrouds St. Patrick. Myriad accounts of varying reliability claim that he died at Saul the dates range from 461 A.D. to 493 A.D. – and was buried close by at Downpatrick, Co. Down. In other parts of Ireland, however, claims on Patrick's final resting place surfaced soon after his demise. Typical of these claims is an ancient Christian marker near Lough Corrib, in Co. Mayo, where Latin crosses are carved deeply into the gray stone memorial; the spot is known simply as "St. Patrick's Grave.

Tradition, as well as tourism

to Northern Ireland, holds that Ireland's patron saint reposes beneath a giant and ancient stone atop his grave near the south wall of Downpatrick Cathedral. Local religious historians assert that it's close to 100 percent certain that Patrick was laid to rest there, and the site has become something of a pilgrimage for those who want to connect with, and honor, him.

It wasn't until the 7th century, some 200 years after his death, that the first biographies of Patrick appeared. In 807 A.D. they were compiled in the "Book of Armagh" (now a prized part of the collections at Trinity College, Dublin). According to the tome, "Patrick's

grave was chosen by two oxen that were allowed to wander where they would, pulling a cart bearing the body." Various scholars have speculated that even if Patrick's remains rest elsewhere than the turf of Downpatrick Cathedral, his remains do lie within a two-mile radius of Saul and the church.

Common belief or tradition places the saint's death on March 17, 461, or so; some historians say it was in 493. The Annals of Ulster relate that Patrick died "in the 120th [or 122d] year of his age, in the 60th year after he had come to Ireland to baptize the Irish."

A major reason for the historical fog swirling around his

final resting place is that Ireland's clans reportedly fought each other for the privilege of burying the saint on their own lands. The "Annals of the Four Masters" describe the legend- ${\rm ary}\, Cath\, Coirp\, Naomh\, Padraic$ - "the Battle for the Body of St. Patrick" – allegedly erupting immediately after his death.

The clans of Ireland began to bicker over who should receive the honor of burying him on their land. To avoid this sacrilegious end to his life, the "Annals" relate, his friends secreted the body away after his death: "There was a rising of battle, and a cause of dissension in the province contending for the body of Patrick after

his death. The Ui Neill and the Oirghialla attempting to bring it to Armagh; the Ulta to keep it with themselves.... The body of Patrick was afterwards interred at Dun Da Lethglas [probably Downpatrick] with great honour and veneration.' This account has elicited scholarly skepticism, with numerous historians dismissing the "battle" as a myth added to the Annals long after Patrick's death.

So was the saint buried at Downpatrick? No one can say with complete certainty, but the site – within a possible two-mile radius -- remains the likeliest spot.

### About the 1968 fire at Blinstrub's and my sweet deal

By DICK FLAVIN

Fifty years ago one of the sweetest deals that I- or anyone else, for that matter - ever had went up in flames. Literally

On Feb. 7, 1968, the Boston Fire Department was summoned to the corner of West Broadway and D Street in South Boston. The response was rapid, but it was already too late. Blinstrub's Village, the last of Boston's big-time nightclubs, was already engulfed in flames. It would be an overstatement to say that it burned to the ground because by the time the fire was out, its outer walls were still standing. Everything inside, however, was destroyed, only the charred shell remained. Blinstrub's was history, out of business.

For most Bostonians it marked the end of an era, a time when they could see famous entertainers like Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis, Jr., or Dianna Ross and the Supremes, in a relatively intimate setting for a relatively moderate price. For me, it meant the end of that sweet deal.

I was lucky enough

in those days to know Chester Blinstrub, the nephew of Stanley Blinstrub, the club's owner. Chester was a bartender in the cocktail lounge that was located just outside the showroom. A couple of other guys and I would show up at the lounge, order a beer from Chester, and when we heard Michael Gaylord's orchestra (the house band) strike up the music, we'd quietly slip into the showroom through a side door while Chester pretended to looktheotherway.We'dfind an empty table and watch whoever was performing that night for the price of the beer we'd bought at the lounge bar, which in those days was fifty cents, as I remember. I'd say that was pretty sweet, wouldn't you?

On weeks when particularly strong acts were playing - say, Sammy Davis, Jr., or Jimmy Durante - I would be in Blinnies's, as we called the place, sev-



The scene at Blinstrub's in South Boston after the destructive fire on Feb. 7, 1968.

Boston Fire Department photo

en nights a week, two shows a night. I even got to know the guy who ran the lights and would occasionally watchfromhisbooth, which hung from the ceiling high above the stage. All for fifty cents a beer.

I came to appreciate the talent of the great performers and how they paced their acts, never, for example, placing two slow ballads back to back - they were always separated by an up-tempo crowd pleaser. Durante's act would build to his breaking up the piano in mock frustration and tossing its various parts around the stage. It appeared to be absolute mayhem, totally out of control - until you watched him do the same thing in the second show, and every show for as long as the engagement lasted. Then you realized that he'd been doing variations of that for more than 40 years. It was a carefully choreographed bit – and his genius was that he made it look fresh and funny every single time.

I never did meet Durante or any of the other stars who played Blinnies. They never came around the lounge area; but the opening acts, often wizenedoldcomedians who had bounced around the circuit for years — some of them had even been on Ed Sullivan a few times — would often be at the bar between shows for a scotch, or three.

The truth is that even then Blinstrub's was an anachronism, the last of a dying breed. The nightclub business, save for places like Las Vegas, was all but extinct. Costs were out of control. It was getting more and more expensive to hire the big acts. Plus, those acts were discovering that they could play an arena or even an outdoor stadium for a show or two on a weekend rather than two shows a night every night of the week and make far more money. And they didn't have to put up with any drunks who were sitting ringside.

Blinstrub's was kept afloat largely through the banquet business. It was a barn of a place with a seating capacity of 1,700, which made it ideal for big charity fund-raisers — with a floor show to top it off. Stanley Blinstrub had become close to Cardinal Richard J. Cushing, who was a prince of the Roman Catholic Church and in those days the undisputed king of Boston. He threw a lot of business Stanley's way. If you belonged to a parish anywhere in greater Boston back then, and that parish had a big affair, such as an anniversary, chances are that the time was held in Blinstrub's. I remember one big dinner that the cardinal held there. I think for Catholic Charities, and the show's headliner was the Jewish comedian. Myron Cohen. He was an ecumenical smash hit.

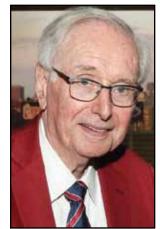
When word of the 1968 fire first got around, there were whispers that maybe it was one of those deals that happened "accidentally on purpose," you know, for the insurance money. That might have been plausible except for the fact that the place had no insurance on it. It was a total loss.

Yes, it was the end of a sweet deal for me, but it was a deal that was running out anyway. When I started going there I was in my early twenties, freshoutofcollege, working unhappily in the real estate and insurance business. By the time the fire struck I had the beginnings of a career going. I had already built a bit of a reputation as a speechwriter for politicians. Kevin White had been mayor of Boston for only five weeks and I was his press secretary. It meant working long hours and many nights. I was still a bachelor but I didn't want to be known

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Dick Flavin: Dealmaker

as a guy who hung around bars every night. Plus, the bar scene — even in the lounge at Blinnies — was getting old. I went there less and less often.

But as I stood next to the mayor that morning on the sidewalk of West Broadway in South Boston watching Blinstrub's Village burn down, I couldn't help but think that it was great while it lasted. Fifty years later I still think that it was.

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