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SOARING LIKE AN EAGLE



The Boston College Irish Dance Club gave its annual performance at BC's Robsham Theater on March 21. The show, titled "Treble," included an appearance by members of the Boston-based O'Shea-Chaplin Irish Academy of Dance. Additional photo Page 13. *Christopher Huang photo for Boston College*

Boston mourns two men who did their duty

BIR STAFF

The wind gusts reaching 40 mph wouldn't quit, and neither did Boston Fire Department Lt. Edward J. Walsh Jr. and firefighter Michael R. Kennedy, who were among the first on the scene on Wed., March 26, as they and their brothers and sisters battled a nine-alarm fire that had engulfed a brownstone on Beacon Street in Boston.

Tragically, after just a few minutes' time inside the building, Walsh, 43, of West Roxbury and the father of three children under age ten, and Kennedy, 33, of Hyde Park, a US Marine who had served in Iraq, were dead, killed in action trying to make sure that others would live. Thirteen other firefighters were taken to the hospital for treatment of injuries.

"In difficult times like these, I am so proud to be mayor of a city that comes together to help our neighbors in need," said Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh. "Since the tragic



Department Lt. Edward J. Walsh Jr., above, and firefighter Michael R. Kennedy who were among the first on the scene to battle a fire that had engulfed a brownstone on Beacon Street.



events, we've experienced an outpouring of support from across the city, state, (Continued on page 3)

For the Taoiseach, a whirlwind of a weekend

St. Patrick's Day weekend surely was a bit of a blur for Ireland's prime minister, Enda Kenny, who started with breakfast on Friday at the home of US Vice President Joseph Biden, where immigration reform was on the menu, and ended with a sit-down with New York Mayor Bill DeBlasio on Monday after had walked in that city's St. Patrick's Day parade with members of the local Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA).

Kenny and Biden each used the time to make the case for immigration reform, with the visitor saying, "It is the frustration of people who look at elected representatives who say, 'why can't you do these things?' We've got 50,000 here in America, undocumented. And what we want is a process of legalization, where they pay their taxes, pay their way, raise their families, travel home and travel back," Kenny said. "To do that, in terms of the numbers that are in this country, is what's going to make America. Is what's going to regenerate it from generation to generation."

Between those events, the Taoiseach found time for a quick chat with President Obama in the Oval Office, for the annual holiday luncheon in the US Capitol



Dancers from the Harney School of Irish Dance and Enda Kenny.

Photo by Dan Hallissey

building, where the host was US House Speaker John Boehner, and for a White House reception that night where the president and the prime minister exchanged shamrocks.

Come Sunday morning, Kenny was in Boston beginning a day when he met privately with Mayor Martin J. Walsh, joined in the festivities at State Sen. Linda Dorcea Forry's breakfast party in South Boston, where he took serious note of the deep ties between his nation and the Boston region, then dropped in on the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton, where he mingled with members and guests and greeted dancers from the Harney School of Irish Dance (see photo at left).

The holiday itself, Monday the 17th, found him in New York where he marched in that city's traditional parade honoring his country's patron saint (to some controversy when members of gay groups who had been excluded from marching protested his actions) and later stopped to talk to New York's Cardinal Timothy Dolan before sitting down with the mayor.

Related stories and photos, Pages 3, 9-11.

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IMMIGRATION Q & A

How you can avoid abandoning your legal permanent residence

Q. I'm a US legal permanent resident, but I've been staying in Ireland for the past nine months and I'm concerned that I may have a problem getting back into the US. I didn't intend to stay here so long, but after I arrived home my mother was diagnosed with cancer and I needed to take care of her. Could I have difficulty returning to the US as a permanent resident?

A. There are a number of ways in which a legal permanent resident (LPR) can lose US immigration status, and leaving the US for extended periods is one of them. Once lost, LPR status can be regained only by beginning the LPR application process all over again.

After you become a legal permanent resident, you must demonstrate if questioned at the time of re-entry that your trip outside the US was temporary and that you have not abandoned your primary residence in the US. If you remain outside the US for more than six months or engage in activities that indicate that your permanent residence is no longer in the US, the US immigration inspectors may decide that you have voluntarily abandoned your US residency and deny your re-entry.

Many people believe that they can retain their LPR status by brief trips into the US each year. That is not correct. If your actual permanent residence is not in the US, you have abandoned your US immigration status. The factors that may determine the temporary nature of trips outside the US include the following:

Are your actual home and place of employment still in the US?

Did you have a definite temporary reason to travel abroad, such as study or a short-term employment assignment?

Did you expect to return to the US within a relatively short time?

Are you returning to the US when expected? If not, what circumstances caused you to spend additional time abroad? Were these circumstances within your control?

Where are your family ties, property, business affiliations, etc.?

Have you filed US resident tax returns?

In your particular case, it seems you did not intend to abandon your US LPR status. You should obtain evidence of your mother's diagnosis to illustrate to US immigration inspectors why you remained away for nine months. Evidence could include letters from her doctors and records from the hospital. You also should assemble evidence to address the points outlined above. You should return to the US as a LPR sooner rather than later and certainly within a year of your departure. *An absence from the US of more than one year very likely would result in the loss of your LPR status.* There is a reentry permit that can be applied for if one anticipates being outside of the US for more than one year, but the application must be submitted prior to departure, while the LPR is still in the US. (See reentry permit application Form I-131 at uscis.gov.)

For a free, confidential consultation about this or any other aspect of immigration law, visit one of our legal clinics as advertised each month in the Boston Irish Reporter.

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



IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER
IMMIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The Irish International Immigrant Center provides free legal support and representation to the Irish immigrant community. Weekly legal clinics where you can receive a free and confidential consultation with staff and volunteer attorneys are held throughout the Greater Boston area. For information, call us at (617) 542-7654.

Upcoming Clinic Schedule

Tuesday, April 1st
IIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston
Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street

Monday, April 14th
Green Briar Pub
304 Washington Street, Brighton

Tuesday, April 22nd
IIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston
Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street

Tuesday, April 29th
South Boston Labour Center
275 West Broadway, South Boston

Phone: 617.542.7654 | Fax: 617.542.7655 | www.iicenter.org

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At last year's Business Breakfast, from left, Lee Brody, Susan O'Connor and Karl Walsh.

Boston Mayor Walsh will speak at IIC's Business Leaders Breakfast

On Thurs., April 24, the Seaport World Trade Center will be the host site for the Irish International Immigrant Center's 5th annual Business Leaders Breakfast where the guest speaker will be Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh. His Honor has been an outspoken supporter of immigrants throughout his years of public service,

and has recently promoted the idea of a "Boston Integration Agenda" to support Boston's immigrant communities.

This breakfast gathering brings together leaders for an engaging discussion on immigration, the economy, and other issues facing Boston. In recognizing how important it is to support

immigrants as they work to build new lives in the United States, the IIC has proudly assisted immigrants from Ireland and around the world for the past 25 years. They, their children, and their grandchildren are America's future leaders.

All proceeds from the Business Leaders Breakfast will support IIC's

legal, wellness, and education programs from immigrants from 120 nations, and its exchange programs for young people from the island of Ireland. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To register or for more information, please contact Mary at 617-695-1554 or mkerr@iicenter.org.

Matters Of Substance
A world without suicide

BY DANIELLE OWEN
IIC COUNSELOR

So often during IIC's suicide prevention workshops, participants try to imagine a world where suicide doesn't exist. Is it really possible? When it comes to other public health concerns like smoking, TB, polio and the flu

virus, health services and governments approach each issue with education and practical suggestions. These are based on medical research and empower families and communities to protect themselves.

The IIC believes a similar approach is needed here in Massachusetts, in Ireland, and around

the world to reduce and eventually eliminate suicide, one step at a time.

What does a world without suicide look like?

- It is a world where people who are suffering, who are in a great deal of emotional and psychological pain, or who struggle with addiction know where to go to help.
- It is a world where friends and family know the clues of the emotional pain, (behavior, verbal, situational), that can lead to suicide and have phone numbers and websites to connect their loved one to help.
- It is a world where we use language about suicide that clearly sends a message to loved ones that "we don't judge" and will gladly help if asked.
- It is a world where



we remember those we have lost to suicide and take steps to make sure that funds are available to make sure services are there so it doesn't happen again.

What steps can we take?

- Put these numbers somewhere where they are always in reach: IIC Counselor, Danielle Owen (617-542-7654, Ext.14); The Samaritans Helplines (24 hours at 617-247-0220 / 508-875-4500.

• Attend one of IIC's suicide prevention community trainings, where you will learn the key signs that indicate when someone may be considering suicide and the skills to help you ask the questions, persuade them to not harm themselves, and refer them to the help they need (QPR).

Call Ciara at 617-542-7654, Ext. 32 for more information about our Wellness and Education events and workshops. Call Danielle if you or someone you know may be considering suicide.

A world without suicide is possible, one step at a time. Let us help! IIC – Together For Hope!

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20th Annual Black & Green Celebration

The Faces of Change in Boston: Our Community Challenges and Improvements



Featuring special guests State Senator Linda Dorcea Fory & author/activist Michael Patrick MacDonald.

Sunday, April 6th, 2:00 - 5:00 PM
Montserrat Aspirers Hall
358 Washington Street | Dorchester, MA

This annual collaboration between the IIC and Montserrat Aspirers builds bridges of trust, healing, and friendship between Boston's diverse communities. We hope you can join us for an afternoon of great food, music, and a thoughtful discussion looking back 20 years, and looking forward to the future we'd like to build together.

Suggested donation of \$10. To RSVP or for more information, contact Johanne at jmeleance@iicenter.org or 617-542-7654 ext. 13.

Support mounts to help Galway’s Katie O’Halloran

BY JORDAN FRIAS
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

“They say the closest city to Galway is Boston,” said Rosario Sullivan of Ireland.

Sullivan was present at Mayor Marty Walsh’s Community Luncheon in West Roxbury at the Irish Social Club of Boston on Saturday, passing out fliers and talking to guests about her friend Katie O’Halloran.

Sullivan has been in Boston for almost two weeks to help spread the word about the Katie O’Halloran Benefit that will be held here in Boston.

O’Halloran was born with Femur Fibula Ulna Syndrome which has left her with no arms and a short deformed right leg. She is currently getting her Master’s Degree in Public Law at the National University of Ireland and works for the law firm McDermott and Allen in Galway City.

Sullivan is one of many people who are trying to get O’Halloran Bebionic3 prosthetic arms through fundraisers and benefits. One will be held at the IBEW Hall on April 19 at 7 p.m. on Freeport Street in Dorchester.

“She’s so proactive and so inspirational. These arms will allow her to maintain her independence and flexibility,” Sullivan said.

O’Halloran is currently able to write and type using her feet, but is worried that she won’t be able to do so as she gets older. She was able to learn about the Bebionic3 prosthetics while doing research at her University.

Sullivan, who went to school with O’Halloran’s mom Catherine, said that O’Halloran needs \$400,000 to pay for her procedure, including the Bebionic3 arms and the physiotherapy and occupational therapy before, after, and during the procedure.

A 14 person committee has been formed to help her pay for the prosthetics. Gabriel Mannion, owner of Twelve Ben’s Irish Pub on Adams Street, led the charge and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh serves as the honorary chairman. The “Katie Born to Run” committee has already raised \$300,000 for O’Halloran and is looking to collect the last \$100,000 in Boston.

“We are at the end of the road, not the beginning [in fundraising],” Sullivan said.

O’Halloran is also being sponsored by neighbor and Carna Bey Hotel owner Michael Cloherty from Galway. He is getting sponsors for her as he runs in three marathons: the Connemara Marthon in Ireland, the London City Marathon in England, and the Boston Marathon on April 21.

O’Halloran will be arriving in Boston on April 16 and is planning to attend the Boston Marathon with her family. This will be O’Halloran’s second time in the country since 2006 when she competed in the New York Games for the Physically Challenged.

Sullivan said O’Halloran is looking forward to coming to Boston and is overwhelmed by the support she has received.

“People are very eager to help. They seem genuinely interested in the benefit and they seem committed to helping on their own, she said.

Sullivan is hoping that the IBEW Hall will be packed on the night of the benefit. She is looking to share O’Halloran’s story with anyone who is willing to listen in the meantime.

“Katie wasn’t supposed to walk, she wasn’t supposed to succeed,” Sullivan said. “We are hoping to get the Irish community to reach out as they have before.”

Sullivan is also hoping to get non-Irish people interested in the cause, hoping that people who don’t have limbs can also identify with O’Halloran.

“This is a grassroots effort. It’s about family, it’s about heritage and culture. It’s this unbreakable connection between Ireland and the US ... another example of Boston strong,” she said.

Boston mourns two who did their duty

(Continued from page 1)

and country. So many people have expressed a willingness to help, in some way, as we grieve the loss of Lieutenant Walsh and Firefighter Kennedy.”

The funerals were set for April’s first week: Lt. Walsh’s at 10:30 a.m. on Wed., April 2, at St. Patrick’s Church in Watertown after a wake at the church the night before; and Kennedy’s the following day at 11 a.m. from Holy Name Church in West Roxbury after a wake the day before from 2:30-8p.m. at the P.E. Murray Funeral Home in West Roxbury.

The Boston Firefighter’s Credit Union has created a fund to help support the families of Lieutenant Walsh and Firefighter Kennedy. Donations to the Lieutenant Walsh-Firefighter Kennedy Memorial Fund can be made by visiting the website of the Boston Firefighter’s Credit Union at bosfirecu.com. Donations can also be made by mailing checks to the Fund, care of the Boston Firefighter’s Credit Union, 60 Hallet St., Dorchester, MA 02124.

Irish Cultural Centre welcomes the Taoiseach



Bill and Ann McNally of the ICC Board with Taoiseach Enda Kenny on Sunday, March 16.



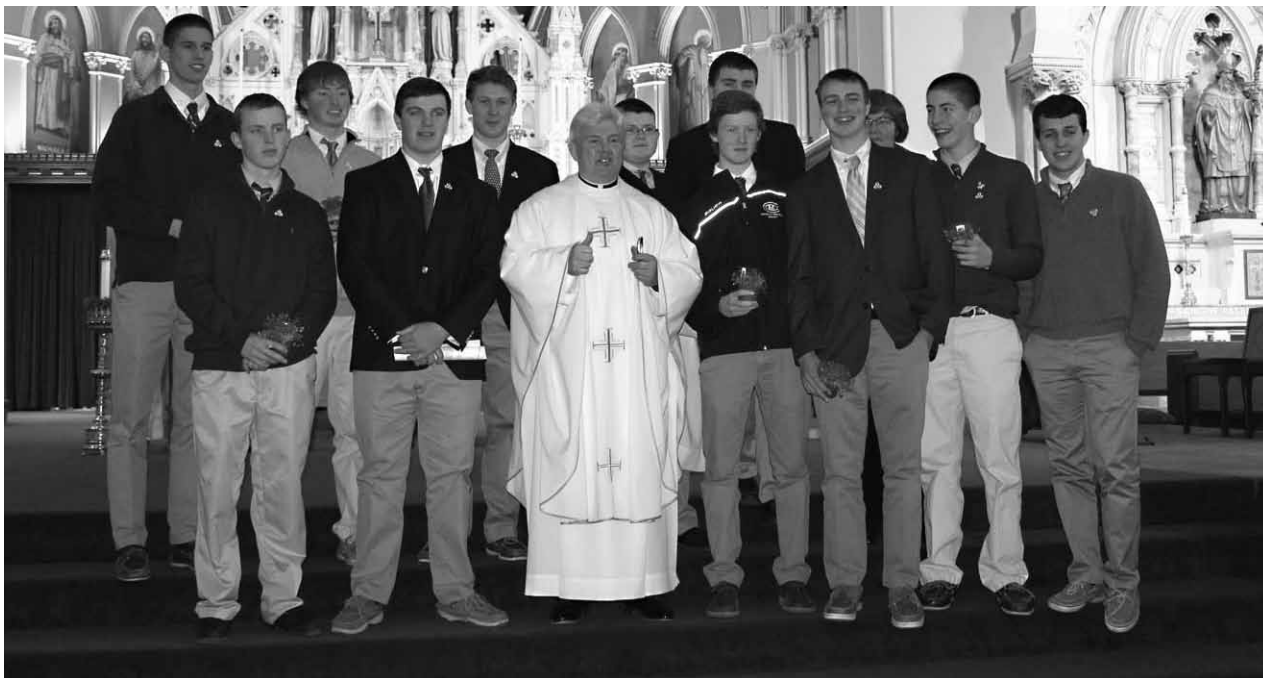
Mike and Liz O’Connor of the ICC Board with Taoiseach Kenny.



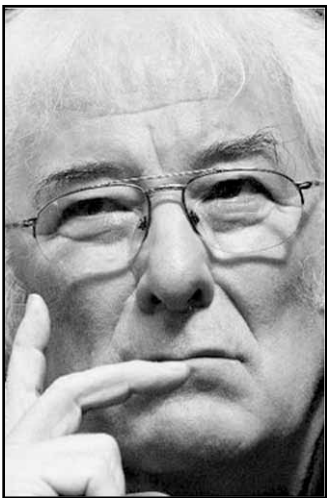
Thomas Gallagher, Ambassador Ann Anderson, the Taoiseach, Mary McTigue, Breandan Ó Caollaí, Irish Consul General in Boston.



The Taoiseach with representatives from Cumann na Gaeil, Boston. Photos by Dan Hallissey



These students from Catholic Memorial High School in WR are learning Gaelic at school and delivered the Prayer of the Faithful in the Irish language at the Mass for St. Patrick Day at the Cathedral. Fr. Kevin O’Leary, 1969 graduate of CM joined in a photo.



ALL ARE WELCOME

CELEBRATE THE LIFE AND GENIUS OF NOBEL LAUREATE AND IRISH POET SEAMUS HEANEY

BRIDGEWATER STATE COLLEGE

1:30 pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Bridgewater State University will host a party on Sunday, April 13 to honor the 75th birthday of Nobel Prize-winning Irish poet Seamus Heaney who died last August.

This special free celebration will include Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and author Kevin Cullen of the *Boston Globe*, author and professor at UMass Boston Shaun O’Connell, former Boston firefighter Bobby Breen who was immortalized by his friend Seamus Heaney in his poem *Helmet*, with music by Mairead Doherty, and personal stories and recollections by former Bridgewater students and friends of Heaney.

A free reception will follow on the Bridgewater State campus in the Conant Science Building Auditorium. There will be displays of Heaney’s letters and work from special collections provided by long time friends of the internationally honored Nobel Laureate, and readings from Heaney’s poems. Reception will feature live Irish music, Irish-themed food & drink.

Free Parking at back of Conant Building.

Bridgewater State’s campus is south of Boston, near Rtes. 138, 24, Mass. 28. Rte 93 south from Boston area.

Publisher's Notebook

Irish universities head to Boston to tout opportunities

At BC High on Sun., April 6

By Ed Forry

Admissions officials from five Irish universities will be in Boston early this month to hold an open house to market the opportunities the schools offer to American students.



Education in Ireland will host a free admissions information event for students, parents, and high school college counselors from the greater Boston area, according to Kevin O'Brien of Enterprise Ireland, who said the event will provide "all you need to know" about studying at an

Irish university."

The session is set for 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. this coming Sunday, April 6, at BC High on Morrissey Blvd. The admissions representatives will hail from Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, University of Limerick, Dublin City University, and University College Cork.

O'Brien said the program is targeting prospective students for full-time admission as well as for graduate-level studies and semester-abroad programs

Caela Provost, a young woman from Winchendon, MA, who took her degree at Marist College in New York and as an undergrad spent a semester abroad at the University of Limerick, chose to return to Limerick to earn a master's in English. She wrote an online blog posting about her experience:

"You'd think after spending a full six months in Ireland when I was 21, and then coming back for my postgraduate education, that I'd be able to quickly and eloquently give a definitive reason telling you why I chose to attend university in Ireland. The truth is – I can't. However, this inability to give you a straightforward reason for studying here should by no means tell you that I can't think of something good to say about my education, and has little to do with the fact that my mind may or may not be swimming with the content of three research papers due in two weeks or so.

"No... the reason I am struggling is because I really can't seem to put into words how incredibly ecstatic I am to have been afforded the opportunity to study here. I could tell you I chose to come here because of the unbelievably breathtaking landscapes and views. Even on rainy days (which do occur here from time to time), everything is green, vibrant, and full of life. I could tell you I chose to come here because of Ireland's rich history. How whenever I walk down the streets of Limerick I discover something different and interesting, or how every day I learn something new even when I'm not in class. I could tell you that I chose to come here for the amazing education offered at my school. I get to not only heighten my knowledge and love of literature, but also broaden it by reading and writing about new ideas from a different culture. I could tell you that I chose to come here because for some reason, a reason not even I can put my finger on, I feel safe here in Ireland. I feel welcomed by everyone I meet, and I feel at home.

"I could tell you all these things and I'd still feel like I'm missing something. I guess the best thing I can say to all of you is this: I knew I was taking a risk in coming to Ireland to study. What I didn't know was that the risk I took in coming here would turn into one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life. Ireland has been an adventure – my adventure, and that choice is one I wouldn't change for the world."

Caela was named an "Education in Ireland Student Ambassador" in 2013. (educationinireland.com). The program is sponsored by Enterprise Ireland, the Irish state agency responsible for the international marketing and promotion of Irish higher education institutions. The agency is responsible for promoting, developing, and branding Ireland's international higher education offerings.

Commentary

All in all, it was a good March

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It was exciting, exhausting, and troubling at the same time!

For most of us who were born in Ireland or whose families emigrated from Ireland, much of each March has been the focused of the many events celebrating our heritage. Formal dinners, Mass at the Cathedral, parades, visitors from Ireland, and even a bit of controversy enlivened the whole month.



Joe Leary

Despite the fact that Irish Americans achieved leadership positions throughout our society many years ago, some still rely on exaggerated stereotypical images to profit from Saint Patrick's Feast Day celebrations.

Those trying to sell newspapers or television advertising time fell to concentrating on a few curmudgeons who think they own the "Southie" Parade. But they don't - the Irish families of

South Boston and the rest of Boston do. Some in the media should take the advice of Pope Francis, "Who am I to judge?"

Additionally, a few money-hungry retailers and manufacturers create and sell insulting merchandise they think is funny. The insulting prize winner this year was the "drunken Jesus T-shirt" sold by Urban Outfitters at its three stores in the Boston area (Allston, Cambridge and Boston). They deserve an equal measure of scorn.

Then there are the big beer companies, who consider Saint Patrick's Day the perfect opportunity to sell their product. Their marketing departments invest thousands of dollars in various promotions to promote as much drinking as possible. And the pub owners are more than willing conspirators.

Mountains of freely distributed green hats, shirts, and jewelry magically appear on the streets around parade time each year. This year a flash-mob-type party was organized on Boston's Broad Street, nine days before the 17th, with hundreds of young people dressed in green going from pub to pub. They were seen and heard loudly tramping around the financial district at 3 o'clock that Saturday afternoon. The big beer companies played the Pied Piper role.

Despite all that, the real story is the growing pride all Boston Irish have in our heritage and in the changing diversity within our city. Illustrating the latter was the appearance of an impressive new politician at this year's traditional breakfast before the parade: State Sen. Linda Dorcea Forry of Dorchester, a Boston College graduate with a master's diploma from Harvard pending this spring, and a mother of two boys and two girls who is married to Bill Forry, the editor of this newspaper.

She emerged a new Boston hero with her amazing performance as the host of the event which was made famous by Bill Bulger, longtime president of the Massachusetts Senate. As a compliment to her and the rest



The Irish American Partnership presented donations to schools in Connemara, birth place of the parents of Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, at the IAP's annual St Patrick's breakfast March 17 at the Boston Harbor Hotel. Pictured are: Kevin Kelley, CEO of Ironshore, the principal sponsor of the breakfast; Mary Walsh, the Mayor's mother; Mary McAleer, IAP vice President; and Mayor Marty Walsh.

Photo by Harry Brett, Image Photo Service

of Boston, Ireland's Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, travelled to Boston from Washington to attend the breakfast and celebrate along with the rest of us. He had left Dublin a few days before to meet with President Obama at the White House. The prime minister then paid a much deserved visit to the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton to greet and encourage their members and supporters.

And Boston's new mayor, Marty Walsh, now almost three months in office, was everywhere. His lifelong loyalty to his city drove his efforts to change the minds of the narrow-thinking organizers of the parade leaders. Maybe next year. For all that, there were many other parades to enjoy, most notably in Holyoke and the relatively unknown Cape Cod extravaganza in Yarmouth.

The parties were large and small. One of the best is in Dorchester at Blessed Mother Teresa's Parish on behalf of the Brett family's food pantry, a must stop for politicians. One of the most elegant is the annual Charitable Irish formal dance, which was a big success this year. Boston was honored by visits from many Irish leaders in addition to Enda Kenny. The hard working Mayor of Belfast, Martin O'Muilleoir was here promoting business exchanges between our cities.

The 300 attendees at the Irish American Partnership breakfast on Saint Patrick's Day heard the president of the University of Limerick, Don Barry, and Ireland's Consul General, Brendan O'Caollai, discuss the improving economic situation in Ireland and the unique excellence of the university. President Barry and University of Massachusetts Provost Winston Langley signed a memo of understanding between the campuses at the breakfast. Mayor Walsh, a frequent participant in the past, welcomed all to the breakfast and received Partnership grants for several schools in Galway that his parents once attended.

All in all, Boston had a good time.

Off the Bench

Of truth and justice, and the great escape



James W. Dolan

By James W. Dolan

To escape into oblivion and thereby avoid being accountable for our lives may be comforting for some, but it defies truth and justice. These virtues would then be only human inventions to promote order and security, easily avoided and often unenforceable standards that expire with us.

If that's all there is, we can more easily justify war, suicide, mercy killing, and abortion. If truth and justice are merely fluid operating principles that can be adapted to any situation, then why discourage people from ending their lives, people who, for whatever reason, no longer wish to exist. They didn't choose existence so why should they be required to extend it? After all, we didn't miss existence before it happened and we will not miss it when we're gone.

To exist forever is a frightening thought, particularly in light of the history of mankind. If it is to be a reward, it would have to be in a form and under circumstances far beyond my capacity to imagine. But if earth with all its beauty is a pale shadow of an afterlife, I will be more than happy to make the adjustment.

If death is the great escape, then all our worries are over. While some remaining may miss us, we cannot miss them. All the worry, uncertainty, joy, and pain of life will be over. Whether we were good or bad, cruel or merciful, honorable or corrupt will not matter. If Hitler and Mother Teresa meet the same fate, where is love, where is truth, where is justice?

Those who view love, truth, and justice as transcendental values that are well beyond mankind's flawed efforts to either define or apply will see accountability as

an essential component. Otherwise existence becomes an absurd joke, in Shakespeare's words: "A tale told by an idiot; full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

For many, oblivion would be a tolerable end; no pain, guilt, sorrow, or retribution. The prodigal and righteous share in their last reward – extinction. Is virtue only its own reward and, if so, why do the wicked reap so many benefits? If leading a virtuous life, or at least trying to, means anything, there must be an accounting.

Within the context of our individual lives, and in light of our capacity to do good or evil, truth and justice demands that we be answerable for our behavior. Such a judgment requires wisdom far beyond the capability of human beings. It requires ultimate or transcendent truth, justice, and love.

I do not wish to be judged, but as a judge I understand it is necessary for life to have meaning and purpose. I know that our efforts to achieve justice are necessary, noble, and well intentioned, but I also know how feeble the system is and always will be. Strive as we must, we will not achieve absolute justice. We often fail in ascertaining truth, which is so essential to justice, and the law is a narrow tool within which to determine one's capacity to do good or evil.

Beyond the more traditional arguments for a belief in God, I find the justice argument compelling. I believe love, truth, and justice are inextricably linked, a second holy trinity that humans value but too often distort. Our efforts to achieve them are a distant echo of virtues triumphant that for me serve to explain creation.

While it does not prove the premise, it is further evidence to buttress faith for those inclined to look beyond. At my death, if wrong, I complete my escape. If not, the glow in the distance will not come as a complete surprise.

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



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Musings from the Marliave and a Marathon mystery

Post- “March Madness” reflections and a Celtic twist to the BAA’s race

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

To step into the Marliave Restaurant at 10 Bosworth Street is to step back into Boston’s past, and its Boston Irish past. If John Boyle O’Reilly were to enter Marliave today, much of it would look the same as when he ate lunch there nearly every workday when he was editing the nearby *Boston Pilot*. In a dark corner just past the restaurant’s long bar, a large antique photo of a handsome young man in a convict’s garb and a haunted but defiant stare hangs above “O’Reilly’s booth.” It was there that John Boyle O’Reilly met with John Devoy, “the Father of the IRA,” to plot the audacious and successful *Catalpa* Expedition, the rescue of six Irish rebels from the same hellish Australian prison from which O’Reilly himself had escaped years earlier.

First sentenced to hang for rebellion against the Crown and then to “penal servitude” in western Australia, he escaped aboard a New Bedford whaling ship to America and became one of the nation’s foremost journalists, editors, poets, and authors with a reputation for being “the first Irishman to win total acceptance by America’s Protestant powerbrokers.” Fenian firebrand, family man, and devout Catholic – John Boyle O’Reilly was all of these. This man who frequented Marliave’s was also something else – ahead of his time in his views on everyone’s right to freedom and full acceptance in all walks of life (in his era’s traditional views of women as “guardians of hearth and home,” though, O’Reilly was typical of the 19th century), regardless of race, religion, or nationality.

O’Reilly elbowed his way into Americans’ acceptance though his talent, his tenacity, and the moral compass that guided everything he did. A victim of brutal oppression by the British, he embraced the cause of those who were similarly oppressed – from African Americans to Jews, Native Americans, and immigrants. To say that he swam against his era’s cultural tide does not tell the half of it.

All of this comes to mind in the wake of last month’s furor over both the St. Patrick’s Day breakfast and the parade in South Boston. An admirer of O’Reilly – warts and all – I could not help wonder what he, of whom Oliver Wendell Holmes said, “This man was truly the first Irish American,” would have thought about the March 2014 doings in Boston.

Some might say that O’Reilly’s staunch Catholicism

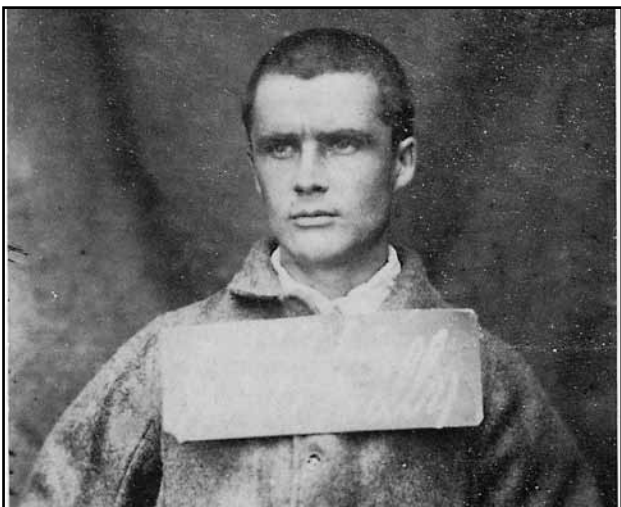


Image of 1897 Boston Marathon Champion John J. McDermott (first-ever winner)

would have led him to side with those who continued to block or restrict gay presence in the parade. In my opinion – yes, it’s *opinion* – O’Reilly’s core aversion to discrimination would have trumped all. So, too, the opposition that swirled around State Sen. Linda Dorcea Forry’s debut as host of the holiday breakfast. Again, some might contend that in his day, O’Reilly was not an overt proponent of women’s rights. It must be borne in mind, however, that he died tragically young, aged 46 in 1890, as the fight for women’s rights was really starting to gain momentum. I would point out that as editor and publisher of the *Pilot*, O’Reilly opened his paper to talented women poets and essayists, seeking out the strongest and most gifted female voices in Boston and beyond. I believe that he would eventually have embraced the burgeoning push for women’s rights at the ballot box, at home, and in the workplace. His sense of right and of fairness would have prodded him in that direction. I daresay he would have reveled in Dorcea Forry’s historic turn at the breakfast.

Perhaps the best measure of what O’Reilly’s take on recent events would have been resonates in his own words:

*There are no classes or races,
But one human brotherhood.*

*There are no creeds to outlaw,
No colors of skin debarred.
Mankind is one in its rights and wrongs.
One right, one hope, one guard.
The right to be free, the hope to be just,
and the guard against selfish greed.*

I can’t resist one more observation regarding O’Reilly and the current political landscape. He might well have leveled his phrase “selfish greed” at current Irish-American Congressman Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and his acolytes. A great proponent of economic fairness and a believer in the Catholic Church’s mission to help the poor, O’Reilly would likely have had some choice words for those seeking to cut school lunches, pre-school programs, daycare, public-school budgets, and food stamps, all of which help society’s most helpless – the children of the poor. If it were possible for Mr. Ryan and his Ayn Rand ilk to come face to face with the man in the convict photo at Marliave’s, let’s just say that Ryan’s preening visage, the one his Congressional gym pix highlighted during his 2012 turn with Mitt, would quickly wilt.

One thing that has not wilted on the local landscape is Boston’s determination to make the 2014 Marathon both a commemoration of last year’s tragedy and a celebration of the region’s resilience and defiance. In 1897, the very first Boston Marathon had a decidedly “green” hue – the first winner was a man named John J. McDermott, who ran for the Pastime Athletic Club of New York City. He has been hailed in most quarters as an Irish American and did possess Celtic bloodlines. Still, he remains something of an enigma. Nova Scotia claims him as a native who might have been either Irish or Scottish, a Cape Breton newspaper recently stating that “John McDermott (perhaps also known as John J. MacDermid) was born either in Ireland or Scotland or Cape Breton, Canada, between 1868 and 1871.”

Despite this little “Marathon Mystery,” it is indisputable that the first winner of the grand Boston race was a runner named McDermott. He also provided one of the all-time great post-Marathon quotes. After dropping nine pounds during his victory, he told a *Boston Globe* reporter, “This will probably be my last long race...look at my feet.” McDermott came back to run the Marathon in 1898, finished fourth, never competed in the contest again, and dropped off of history’s stage.



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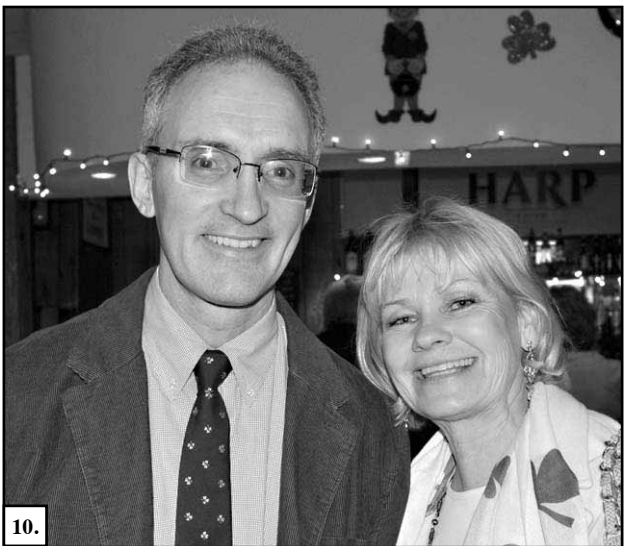
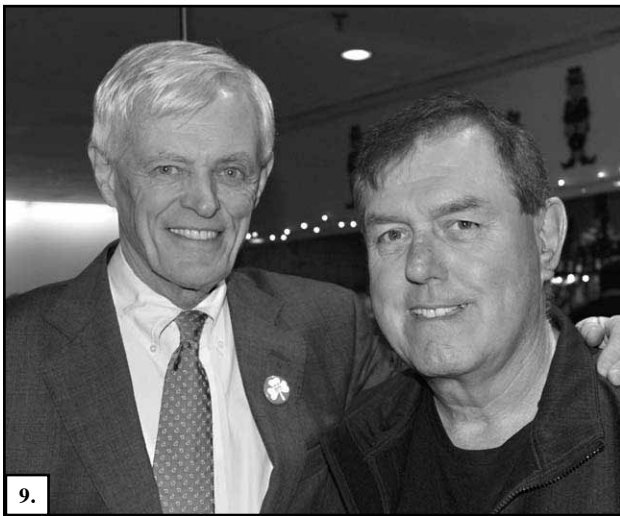
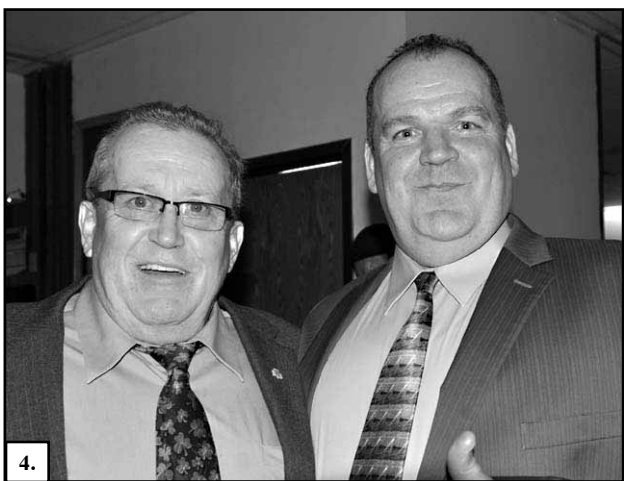
BRETT'S BOSTON

By Margaret Brett Hastings

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The County Roscommon Association of Boston held its annual St. Patrick's Dinner on Sat., March 15, at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury. Club president Richie Gormley, the "Lord Mayor of West Roxbury," played host to a large group of club members and friends who enjoyed a corned beef and cabbage dinner and music by Erin's Melody with Margaret Dalton. The special guest of honor was Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh.

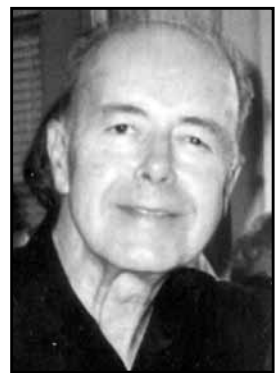
1.) Nessa Oates, Richard Gormley, W. Roxbury; Maria Kelly, Chris O'Connor, all of Quincy; 2.) Margaret Dalton, Milton; 3.) Tricia and Brian Senior, Melrose; Bridget Hussey, Malden; 4.) Pat Brennan, Mike O'Connell, W. Roxbury; 5.) Richard Gormley; 6.) Nessa Oates, Chris O'Connor, Maria Kelly, all of Quincy; 7.) Mattie Kelly, W. Roxbury, Noreen O'Connell, Cambridge; 8.) Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tomkins, Richard Gormley; 9.) Gov. Councillor Robert Jubinville, Kenny Jameson, Walpole 10.) Brian O'Malley, Janice Samsen, W. Roxbury; 11.) Ed Coppinger, Ann Carbone W. Roxbury; 12.) Ellen Fay, Dor; Paddy Sullivan, Milton; 13.) Pamela and Martin Keogh, W. Roxbury, Carol O'Connor, Roslindale; 14.) Boston Police Commissioner Bill Evans; Thomas Creavin, Roslindale; Richard Gormley, W. Roxbury.



Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

Loyalist Killer Hutchinson's Remarks Offend – In a recent Belfast newspaper interview, **Billy Hutchinson**, leader of the Progressive Unionist Party in the North who killed two innocent (non-IRA) Catholics in 1974, justified the cold-blooded shooting



Bill O'Donnell

of the two brothers as having “contributed to preventing a united Ireland.” Hutchinson made it clear that he has no regrets some 40 years later. These horrendous comments by the unionist political leader in post-Troubles-Northern Ireland have triggered angry words from nationalist political figures who have served with him in local government.

Hutchinson and **Alex Atwood** of the SDLP came to Boston in the late 1990s to run as a symbolic team in the Boston Marathon. My memory recalls it was in 1996, the 100th anniversary of the famed Boston Athletic Association race. During his time in Boston, I and others who were supportive of peaceful links between longtime foes welcomed the pair and hosted Hutchinson at an office we kept in Boston.

There was, understandably, no mention of Hutchinson's earlier trial and conviction as a UVF killer, and in the spirit of the times that inconvenient, ugly slice of history remained unexplored.

However, now almost two decades later, reading the hard-line comments by Billy Hutchinson, I am repelled by the memory of our hospitality in the face of his later trumped-up defense of murdering two young men, unaffiliated with any paramilitary organizations, while they were walking to work. And to add insult to injury, Hutchinson claims the killings were “based on intelligence,” somehow (wink and a nod) suggesting that the two Catholics were IRA. What staggering dishonesty! One thing is sure, Hutchinson is no **David Irvine**.

Ireland Tops Out on Quality Of Life – It isn't all peaches and cream as we know in looking at life on the green isle with unemployment far too high and the homicide rate discomfiting. However, when all is said and done, the Irish are happier than most of their European neighbors.

According to polling on United Nations International Day, the Irish are “more content” than most of Europe despite the economic difficulties the country has had to deal with in recent years. Ireland leads the European Union average in overall experience of life, per capita GDP, life expectancy, and air pollution. The happiest among the Irish citizenry are those over 65. There has been no firm focus on gender attitudes, but Ireland is still behind the male counterparts with women earning 14 per cent less than men, which is still better than most of Europe.

Christy Brown Archive Will Remain in Ireland – **Christy Brown**, author and painter who despite his cerebral palsy became an international best-selling author and movie subject in “My Left Foot,” didn't live to see it, but his memorabilia and papers have been purchased and will remain in Ireland. There had been discussions with several universities in the US about the disposition of the Brown papers and artifacts, including Boston College for one, but the archive has now been jointly bought by the Little Museum of Dublin (noted here in past columns) and the National Library of Ireland. Born and raised in the Kimmage section of inner city Dublin, Christy was a close friend until he died. He was a true “Dub” who would be delighted to have his life's work and related materials on public view in his beloved Dublin.

I have a swatch of personal letters from Christy, the IBM typewriter he used to write many of his novels and his poetry, and other items that I amassed during our 12-year friendship. I am planning to donate these as a gift to the Little Museum and the National Library. One item in particular is of keen interest to collectors: the last letter that Christy ever wrote to anyone several days before he died and received by me just hours before we got the phone call from his wife Mary telling us of his death. It is an extraordinary letter, typed as usual by that famous left foot on foolscap, and one that is so painful I have not been able to re-read it in years. I am donating that and other material as a tribute to the courageous Brown family – Anne and her brothers and sisters – and as a posthumous thank you to Christy in Glasnevin for the pleasure of his company during those final years of his tumultuous life.

Veteran IRA Leader Arrested in McConville Murder – The murder of **Jean McConville**, 37, a widowed mother of ten has been the subject of countless newspaper stories and TV programs since she was abducted and killed in 1972 by the IRA as an informer. The interest in McConville has intensified since her buried body was discovered on a beach in Co. Louth in 2003. The Northern Ireland police (PSNI) arrested **Ivor Bell**, a veteran IRA commander, shortly after St. Patrick's Day, and following several days of questioning, he was remanded and is being held without bail. This is the latest development in the long simmering case that has gone unsolved for more than 40 years. **Gerry Adams**, Sinn Fein president and member of

Dail Eireanne for Co. Louth in the Republic, has been a prime target of Northern police after being named by former colleagues as the Provo leader who ordered McConville's death. Adams denies any involvement.

It is widely believed that the subpoena initiated by British law enforcement officials thru the US Attorney in Boston, and the source of lengthy federal court litigation between Boston College, and involving **Ed Moloney**, the oral history project, and the federal attorney's office is a new and vigorous attempt by the British to make a case against Adams, who has avoided any charges or prison time in the years since his Long Kesh days. There is no statute of limitation in murder cases in the UK. How the recent arrest of Ivor Bell plays out in the British effort to bring charges against Adams is unknown.

Updates On Past BIR Column Items – I wrote several years ago in this space about the huge payments expected following claims by RUC police officers of hearing loss suffered by RUC personnel during firearms training. The police trainees, numbering as many as 20,000, were never provided with adequate protection by the Ministry of Defence, and claims to date, and those expected, have affected 8,500 officers. The total damages paid and in the pipeline over the five remaining years of the court decision amounts to a quarter of a billion British pounds or some \$400 million to satisfy all claims. Additionally, with retirements and mandated redundancy compensation, the total costs to the British taxpayers for the hearing losses is expected to be upwards of \$1.1 billion.

An item in the September 2013 column reported on an emerging new online funeral service that will, for a fee, provide a real time website allowing mourning families to pay their respects from distant points via the internet. The service also will allow relatives and friends in hospitals and nursing homes to tune in and “attend” the funeral via the internet. The service, for the moment is the only website of its kind in Ireland or the UK, and has set fees between \$500 and \$1,000, depending on live streaming or delayed videos. The owner of the company, ‘Funerals Live’ is **Alan Foudy**, and presumably more information will be forthcoming.

Upscale Castle Hotels Are Struggling – The castle hotels of Ireland, including the regal pair, Dromoland in Clare and Ashford Castle in Mayo, have had to struggle in recent years to appeal to a traveling public that seems willing to cater to their pocket books as they book into bed&breakfast lodgings, and leave the big houses for special times. Ashford Castle Resort was sold last year to Red Carnation Hotels for somewhat in excess of 20 million euros after emerging from receivership. The hotel has undergone extensive refurbishment and re-opened last month in all its splendor.

Dromoland in Co. Clare is a similarly enchanting hotel set against a lush and expansive landscape. We honeymooned there eons ago and have returned for quick, enjoyable visits since. It remains among my favorite spots to visit when in Ireland. And I always suggest to friends who usually select B&Bs and are hesitant to book into hotels with lofty tariffs to stop by the luxe landmarks and drop in for a meal, or maybe a breakfast at Dromoland or tea at Ashford. Leave the horses outside and you'll be fine.

President Obama Target Of The ‘Foxy Set’ – The Grand Old Party is stirring and up to their usual agenda priority – ‘Let's Get the Kenyan.’ Only fooling. The Right Regiment has had smiles on their faces since the flawed Obamacare rollout debacle. And for some it's Benghazi, or Obama's supposed timidity on the Crimea land grab where some senior GOPers want an invasion. Yes.

Tom Foley, ambassador to Ireland under **George W. Bush** a few years ago and currently a candidate for governor of Connecticut. has some caustic advice for the President. A fairly undistinguished Irish envoy, Foley castigated Obama with, “It's too much golf and not enough work. ... If he knocked off one round of golf he could take care of it.” He was talking about the delay in naming an ambassador to Ireland.

The one question I have for the Bushite retainer Foley is this: Who set the record for the most days away from the White House on vacation? (Hint: Think Crawford, Texas) Answer: George W., by a leisure landslide.

Irish Smoking Ban Is Ten Years Old – It's a slow and arduous process to persuade people to give up smoking. I know; I smoked cigarettes for 30 years until I quit and that was long before the cost went viral. The leaders of the successful 2004 law when Ireland became the first country to ban smoking in all workplaces call the prohibition an “astounding success.” Smoking is down from 29 percent to 21 percent and thousands of people have been saved who would have died from passive smoking alone.

I recall my reaction when the ban was announced. I thought then, and still believe, that Ireland was courageous and deserving of praise. Once again it showed it was a leader, punching above its weight.

A quick story: My favorite pub in Dublin, on Dame Court in the Liberties, is the Stags Head. Terrific food, first rate Guinness, great fish and chips or sandwiches and a perfect place to step into for a lazy lunch. Except or one thing: Before the ban, the tobacco smoke was ultra bad, vile, really. So I had to move a few blocks away, to the Boxity or the Joyce pub. But I missed the Stags Head. And it's about time for the next visit.

A Taxing Situation – “It is beginning to be an old story. Either German Chancellor **Angela Merkel**

talks with Taoiseach **Enda Kenny** about “leveling the corporate tax field,” or the *Irish Times* does one of its periodic pieces on Apple or a similar low-tax-paying multinational and soon, Kenny or the Irish Finance Minister has to pull out the crib sheet and try to explain to an envious Europe that there is something like “stateless companies” or that criticisms are based on “a flawed premise.” And then the corporate defender moves on, swiftly citing the “global rate” or the “blended rate.” Glossy-eyed reporters soon head for the exits, promising not to get hooked again asking about the 12.5 corporate tax rate.

Grandparents Newest Target of Tax Collector – Grandparents minding their offspring's children are facing stiff new Irish tax forms of two dozen pages or more, while others could become new taxpayers under rules freshly adopted by the revenue department.

At present, those grandparent child-minders tending to children in their family are exempt from taxes on the first \$20,000 of income annually. But the new rules would now force formerly exempt minders to fill out an onerous 26-page form. Critics of the new revenue rules suggest that the new guidelines will drive many minders into the black economy and they will avoid filing at all.

Odd Timing by First Minister Robinson – It was March 8, just hours before DUP honcho **Peter Robinson** and Deputy First Minister **Martin McGuinness** were scheduled to fly out together to America to sing Ireland's song of recovery and bright futures. But the two leaders of the band in the North were having a fight, at least Peter Robinson clearly was primed for a round or two. He took off at McGuinness about the former IRA commander shaking hands with the queen, then voting to restrict displays of the Union Flag at Belfast City Hall. Next came an attack on McGuinness for his attitude toward the on-the-runs and an IRA commemoration in Castlederg, and then further gripes from the mercurial Robinson who took a couple of weeks hiatus during his difficult days and came back to his power office filled with relatives and declared himself cured or ready for leadership or whatever. This is the same Peter Robinson, DUP leader and First Minister of the Realm, who professes to be eager for nationalist/Catholic vote support. Get thee, Peter, to **Dale Carnegie** or to anger Management. The sooner the better.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

The *Boston Herald*, where **Howie Carr** hangs out, has lost another libel lawsuit, this one for over half-a-million. They had to give Judge Murphy \$2.1 million nine years ago. ... Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund's **Jimmy Gustafson** are memorialized in a handsome bronze statue outside D-F's Smith Research Labs. ... Big Mouth phone-tapper chieftain **Rupert Murdoch** in error in claiming that gay groups “bullied” Guinness to pull out of the NY St. Pat's Parade. ... Galway area members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are being charged for being “asleep at the switch” losing millions in EU grants. ... The United Nations is warning Ireland and other neighbors to beware of British plans to build a new nuclear power plant. ... April 27 is the date for a twin canonization when Popes **John Paul II** and the beloved **John XXIII** take a step up into the Vatican's saintly hierarchy. ... Lawrence's O'Reilly Division AOH March lineup of events reminds me just how much I miss the legendary **Dave Burke**.

The SDLP Leader **Alasdair McDonnell** told the New York parade people that “he was “very proud to march alongside the men and women of both the police service of Northern Ireland and An Garda Siochana.” ... With Ryanair out of the Aer Lingus bidding wars, expect the Abu Dhabi airline Etihad to intensify its links to Aer Lingus. ... Russia's Ambassador to Ireland is warning Ireland (that's economic coercion) that it will pay dearly if it supports EU sanctions against Putin and company. ... Scotland's vote on independence from the UK is close and set for a referendum on Sept. 18. ... It was a relatively tough journey and meeting for the two Stormont leaders and Enda Kenny in Washington on the St. Pat's trip: no **Richard Haass** breakthrough, likely no immigration reform, and a bit of a snub by Obama. Not the North's best day in DC. ... Ireland is on the way back. Its stock index beat most European and US indexes in 2013. ... A shout-out to The **Connollys** at their Aisling Galleries in Hingham, picked by the *Globe* as one of the top 8 spots that “feel like home.” ... Great book just out by my pal **Jimmy Murphy** in Falmouth. It's called “The Green Box” and it's a charmer with heft & heart.

Congratulations to **Mary Mulvey** for all she does in West Roxbury, and the same to **Brian O'Donovan**, who is this year's Eire Society of Boston's Gold Medal honoree. Silver anniversary kudos to the Irish Cultural Centre on No. 25. ... There are still far too many suicides in Galway. Eleven this year so far, and 30 tragedies last year. ... It seems that that **Trina Vargo** and the US-Ireland Alliance is having trouble getting our State Department to re-instate \$485,000 for this first rate program. ... **Bob Ballard**, who discovered the sunken Titanic, recently opened a new nautical attraction at the Titanic exhibit in Belfast. ... Not surprised that Brother **Thomas Dalton** pulled his band and float from marching in the South Boston parade. He belongs to an order and a center founded in 1949 by Father **Leonard Feeney**, whom some seniors might remember.

Where commerce, conscience, and compassion meet

One of the world’s foremost money managers, John Hailer campaigns for social compassion

**By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF**

By any financial measurement, John Hailer (pronounced “high-lur”) ranks as a proverbial captain of commerce. President and CEO of Natixis Global Asset Management (NGAM) for North America and Asia, he oversees a Paris- and Boston-based fund management with assets of some \$785 billion. In short, he ranks as one of the most prominent money managers across the globe. He also ranks as one of the corporate world’s foremost figures at “giving back” – using his clout to help those too often left behind by society.

Numerous men and women of the so-called “one percent” practice give-back from afar. They laudably write enormous checks to charity or finance foundations and good works. Under Hailer’s tutelage, Natixis has donated millions to charities in and around Boston, but what sets Hailer’s approach apart from so many other tycoons and corporations is his “call to arms” for Natixis’s employees donate not only money, but also their *time*. Years ago, he began to do just that with Boston Children’s Services, now part of The Home for Little Wanderers group.

There is no doubt that Hailer’s advocacy for children comes from his own life experience. While he points out that his own upbringing was middle class, his father’s political career familiarized Hailer with just how hard life was for others – through no fault of their own. He was born in Roslindale, the eighth of Mary Gilson’s and Frederick Hailer’s ten children. Mr. Hailer served on the Boston City Council and worked for the federal government under Democratic and Republican administrations throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Required by his

father’s work assignments to move a number of times between Boston and Virginia, John attended ten different schools. In Newport News, Virginia, he learned firsthand that luck and geography play a pivotal role in any child’s public education. His first school there lacked desks and textbooks, and many of the teachers were simply going through the motions. The bulk of the students came from poor families and were falling further and further behind. John Hailer became one of them – until the area was redistricted and he was assigned to a brand-new school in the suburbs. He recalls, “While I got to leave the other school, the rest of the other kids were still stuck there.”

The lesson Hailer took from the experience was, and is, one that is anathema to so many Americans who believe in the “pick-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps, wherever-you-are-in-life-is-where-you-deserve-to-be” philosophy that so many see as infecting the nation. Says Hailer: “When people talk about hard work, I think that’s a crock. Life is full of hard-working people, and some get luckier than others. Kids that are falling behind now – they’re never going to catch up.”

A good athlete, Hailer went to Beloit College in Wisconsin on a basketball scholarship. While there, he volunteered in the campaign of Harold Washington, Chicago’s first black mayor, and also for Jimmy Carter’s 1980 reelection campaign against Ronald Reagan. He attributes much of his understanding of politics and of life to his father. The last words he ever heard from his father still resonate no matter how much success he achieves. They came during a school break on the night Frederick Hailer passed away: “Always realize you may not know everything, no matter how old you get.”

The most important lesson Hailer took from his father was that while monetary success was important, what you do with that success to help others improve their lives is the true measure of success. With that credo, he joined the board of Boston Children’s Services in 1992, and in 2005 was named chairman of The Home for Little Wanderers.



John Hailer

In a recent interview with the BIR, Hailer discussed his life, his career, and his work in the community.

BIR: Where do you think your sense of giving back to the community took root?

Hailer: I have no doubt that it came from my parents and our family. I grew up in a family of ten, and we were pretty lucky. The necessity and value of hard work were always emphasized, but, that said, we were made aware that fate and luck play a huge role in how anyone turns out. We were imbued with that.

BIR: As you were rising in the corporate world, was there a moment or event that drove you use your success to help those struggling through no fault of their own?

Hailer: In the early 1980s, I got my first bonus check and was thinking about how to spend it – everything from catching up on some bills to buying a new suit at Filene’s Basement. One of the firm’s older executives – a man I really respected – came by my desk, and as we got to talking, suggested I give some of my bonus to charity. I joked that I was the charity, but took his advice. It was a defining moment for me.

BIR: How would you describe your personal approach to giving back?

Hailer: I try to focus in on parts of the community that simply don’t get enough help. Helping the community means helping individuals. That is my – as well as those I work with at Natixis and

elsewhere – mission. Things that can seem small, such as helping a single mom learn to balance a checkbook and handle her own finances, or placing a homeless man or woman in a job that offers not only a check but also a way up and out of their situation, can have a huge impact. There are different measures of success than climbing to the top of a corporation.

BIR: How do you deal with many in the business world who believe that hard work alone is enough for anyone to succeed? Do you get a great deal of pushback from your boardroom peers?

Hailer: I always emphasize the reality, the sheer truth that hard work alone is not enough. Everyone needs some measure of luck, help, or both. It’s luck, not hard work, to be born into wealth. In the corporate world, there has been pushback, but the message does eventually get through. At our company, over 75 percent give to charity. More importantly, perhaps, most of our employees give their time to the community. We believe in *engagement* and in getting people involved in the community early in their careers so that they continue for their entire careers. The younger employees in a company need to see those at the top involved.

I wish more companies would do what we’re doing. We can bring a lot of practical expertise to social services to benefit society as a whole. Some social service organizations and nonprofits are pretty sophisticated, but others do need more organizational help, and that’s an area where we in the corporate world can help in both a bottom-line and hands-on way.

BIR: What would you like to impress upon companies and top executives who have lagged behind in what you have done with Natixis?

Hailer: I would urge them to realize that it is incumbent upon us to help. By getting involved with kids and others who need help, we improve lives now, and we will save in the long run on taxes and social services and medical costs that all arise from ignoring problems now. Getting involved not only makes you feel good, but it is good for the entire community.

As Jim Brett says, “There’s always a chance to influence people for the greater good.”



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This April, Education in Ireland will host a free admissions information event for students, parents and High School College Counselors from the greater Boston area. This event will provide all you need to know about studying at an Irish university.

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THE 2014 ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST IN SOUTH BOSTON



With Boston Mayor Walsh and Gov. Patrick as bookends, State Sen. Linda Dorcea Forry beams at the podium where she served as breakfast host. *AP photo*

Barbs, with a side of Dorchester

BY GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
NEWS EDITOR

Linda Dorcea Forry took the microphone on Sunday morning, March 16, and looked out into the crowd at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center where some 700 residents from Dorchester, South Boston, and Mattapan were dining on eggs, hash, and sausages. "Last year I got eight seconds," she quipped.

This year, it was two hours and a half. She is the First Suffolk District's state senator now, instead of a candidate, and with the position comes the job of hosting the annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast, where politicians traditionally have traded light barbs with one another.

Last year's host, City Council President Bill Linehan, was thousands of miles away, in Limerick, Ireland, for that city's St. Patrick's Day parade. His absence provided much of the podium fodder, as did Republicans, like former Sen. Scott Brown and Republican candidate for governor Charlie Baker, on a stage overflowing with Democrats.

In the opening video, Dorcea Forry alluded to her Haitian heritage, leaning into a taxicab window as a man playing Linehan sat in the back seat. Take him for a "long,



Mayor Martin J. Walsh reviewed his notes, foreground, as Senator Linda Dorcea Forry made final preparations with her cousin Carolyn Brunis before the St. Patrick's Day Breakfast in South Boston. *Photo Copyright Don West*

long ride," she told the driver in Haitian Creole. A later video showed her training with two past breakfast hosts, Congressman Stephen Lynch and former state Sen. Jack Hart, both South Boston residents, in an effort to "get her Southie on."

The history of the senator taking over hosting duties was a constant theme, as Deval Patrick, happily making his last appearance at the break-

fast as governor, embraced the host at center stage and noted, "this is what a Forry and a Patrick look like these days."

Baker, who ran against Patrick in 2010 and is running again this year, also pointed to the crowd embracing the idea of Dorcea Forry as host. "Just maybe they're ready to think about voting for a Republican for governor," Baker said, prompting her to respond, "Not yet,

Charlie."

Dorcea Forry is the first woman, first person of color and the first person from Dorchester to host the breakfast. She is married to Bill Forry, an Irish-American who is the editor of the *Reporter* newspaper group.

The breakfast was dedicated to former Mayor Thomas Menino, who revealed to the *Boston Globe* on Saturday that he had been diagnosed with a seri-

ous form of cancer. "I'm a firm believer in the power of laughter," Dorcea Forry told the crowd. For his part, Menino, appearing to soak in sun rays near a pool, showed up in a video chat with Patrick. The governor called Menino for help with shortage of Duck Boats and Menino, with subtitles under him, said he wasn't the mayor of Boston anymore. "But your name is still on everything," Patrick responded.

Mayor Marty Walsh, making his first appearance behind the podium after years of sitting on the stage as a Dorchester state representative, said he had spoken with Menino on Saturday night and relayed to him that he is praying for him and his wife Angela. Walsh also labored over a joke about the *Globe* as an "absentee landlord" that is expected to eventually decamp from its Morrissey Boulevard headquarters. The newspaper's editorial board endorsed his opponent in last year's election.

Bill Bulger, the former Senate president and longtime host of the breakfast, made his first appearance at the breakfast in years, filming a short video with Dorcea Forry that had her asking for advice. "Keep 'em laughing, keep 'em smiling," he said.

In another first for the breakfast, the prime minister of Ireland, Enda Kenny, attended and said a few words about the historic ties between Ireland and the United States as well as with Haiti. In keeping with one breakfast theme, Kenny said, "Your man Linehan sends his regards as well." Fired back Dorcea Forry: "Maybe, just maybe you can keep him."



Jim Braude and Alison King of New England Cable News. *NECN photo*



Familiar faces, including Dorchester's Marie Marshall, take in the breakfast. *Photo © Don West*



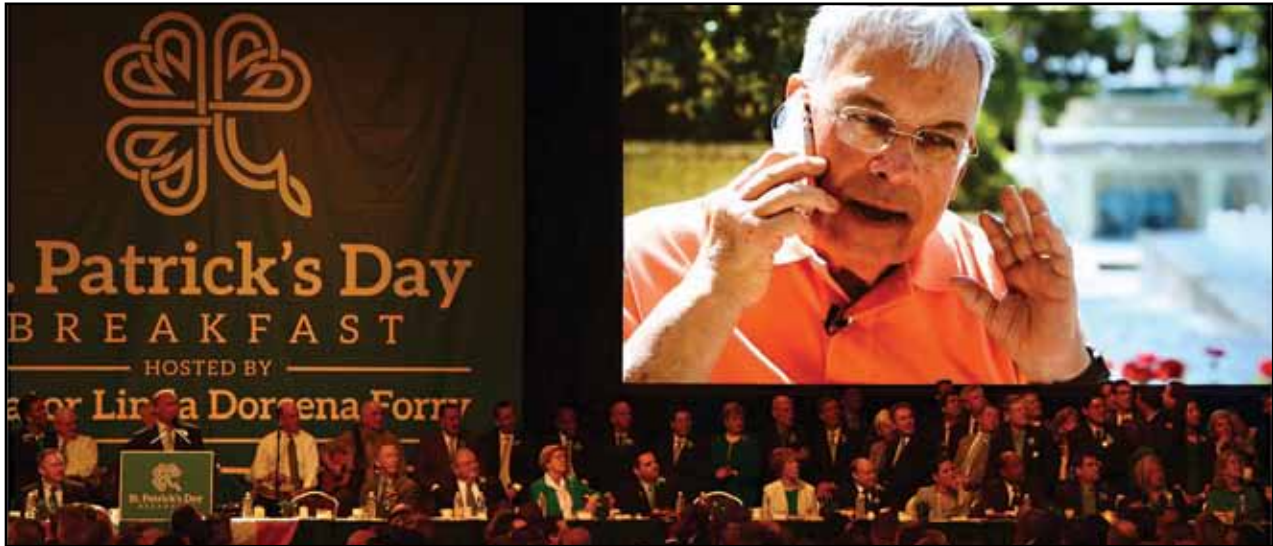
SOUTHIE IS MY HOMETOWN!— City Councillor Michael Flaherty, State Rep. Nick Collins and Congressman Stephen F. Lynch (l-r) joined Senator Linda Dorcea Forry in a rendition of the South Boston anthem during Sunday’s St. Patrick’s Breakfast. Seated is Sen. Michael Rush. *Photo Copyright Don West*



Charlie Baker, a Republican candidate for governor, joined Sen. Forry at the podium. *Photo by Margaret Brett*



US Senator Elizabeth Warren joined in on the fun, going right after former rival Scott Brown. *Photo Copyright Don West*



Mayor Tom Menino made a cameo in a video that also featured Governor Deval Patrick and Dorchester’s Rosemary Powers. *Photo Copyright Don West*



Aidan Browne enjoyed the sights and sounds. *Photo Copyright Don West*



Massachusetts House Speaker Robert DeLeo gathered head table guests for a “selfie.” *NECN photo*



Former Speaker Thomas M. Finneran, left, attended the breakfast, as did City Councillor Tito Jackson of Dorchester. *Photo by Margaret Brett*

‘Whoever you are, you’re one of us.’

Observations from breakfast ‘green room’

By BILL FORRY
PUBLISHER/EDITOR

I don’t typically write about events involving my wife, state Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry. But Sunday’s St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast in South Boston, it seems to me, merits some comment from this space.

I’ll leave it to other journalists – those unencumbered by a certificate of marriage – to weigh in on my spouse’s performance. Instead, here are some observations from the “green room” offered up in the spirit of historic preservation.

First, a little background: I’ve been going to the Southie breakfast since the mid-1980s when Bill Bulger – the legendary Senate president – was at the height of his power. I remember being about the age of my oldest son John (10) and climbing the old fire escape at the Bayside Club to get a coveted corner perch near the stage. My father, Ed Forry, had worked for Bulger briefly in the 1970s and had helped him and others organize the breakfast.

Our family’s connection to the roast dated back even further than the Bulger era: My father’s aunt, Kathleen Forry, was a South Boston native who for decades served as the Boston secretary and chief gatekeeper for US Rep. John W. McCormack, who finished a lengthy Congressional career as Speaker of the House. She kept the Dorchester side of the family plugged into all things political – Southie included. So, three generations of Forrys made the yearly trek to the waterside slope of Dorchester Heights for what became known – in my youth – as the Bulger breakfast.

In those days, the event was held in a noisy, frenetic sweatbox that was built for 250 people; somehow at least twice that number crammed in each year. The fire escape was the only way that dignitaries could access the stage once the crowd had packed into the Bayside. I liked to stay close to the fire door because it offered a chance to gulp some fresh air and a close-up look at the political stars of the day.

Later, now Congressman Steve Lynch wisely moved the event to the Ironworkers Hall on Old Colony Boulevard where he could welcome a larger crowd more comfortably and have room for more television cameras. Sen. Jack Hart eventually re-located the festivities to its present home, the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

I expected last Sunday’s whole experience to be surreal. But, mostly it just



Members of the Forry and Dorcena families— along with some close friends in attendance— were pictured on the stage of the St. Patrick’s Breakfast after Sunday’s event.
Photo Copyright Don West

felt familiar. As others have noted, there was a continuity to the event that was carefully choreographed. The salute to veterans, the wonderful house band Curragh’s Fancy, the prayers offered up by Fr. Joe White, and the Irish and American national anthems sung by Pauline Wells. The traditions of the breakfast, for better or for worse, were left intact. The cooperation of Southie’s political leadership was critical, up to and including the first-ever cameo (on video) of former host Bill Bulger. Even Council President Bill Linehan – the frequent target of one-liners, including several zingers by Linda – sent in a funny video featuring comedian Steve Sweeney that fit in just right.

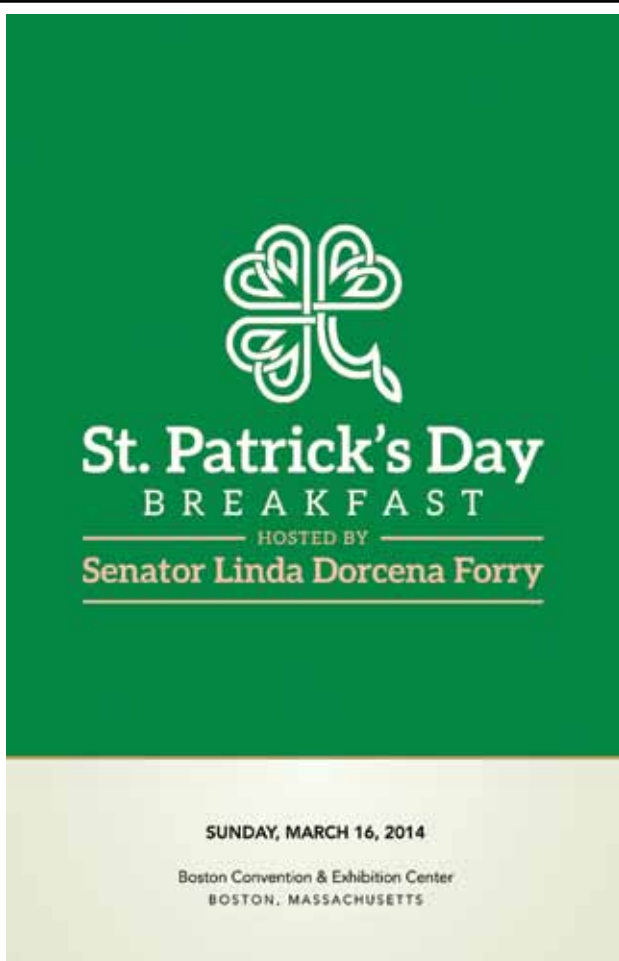
The modern-day breakfast is a beast that takes scores of volunteers and a core group of talented people to tame. Linda’s efforts benefited from a few key folks who proved indispensable: Doug Hurley, president of the St. Mark’s Civic Association and a longtime friend, who enlisted and coordinated volunteers at the convention center; Dusty Rhodes, the outstanding head of Conventures, the event planning company that produced the event; and a team of people from



Former St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast host Bill Bulger is shown with Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry on March 7. Pictured in the group are James Rooney of the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, Mrs. Mary Bulger, Jeanne Sullivan, President Bulger, Sen. Forry, Edward W. Forry, and Sean Pierce.
Photo by Bill Forry

The 2014 St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast was sponsored by the The First Suffolk Partnership, Inc., a non-profit established by Senator Linda Dorcena Forry “to educate and promote the general welfare of our community, to foster and advance public charity in our community, and to develop and contribute to the heritage of the community of the United States of America, including the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the First Suffolk County Senate District, by celebrating and promoting the historical, educational, religious, social, political and ethical significance of shared history.”

First Suffolk has registered with the Commonwealth as a non-profit entity and is awaiting 501 (c) (3) approval from the Internal Revenue Service. The organization can be contacted by email at info@firstsuffolkpartnership.org



New England Cable News (NECN) who produced the broadcast, but also assisted in many elements of the event itself. Ed Forry, my father, was essential in the creation of a foundation that raised the necessary funds to pay for the event. Southie’s own Tom Timlin, who for years helped Mayor Tom Menino write his routines for the breakfast, was a huge help as Linda worked out her script.

There are many, many others who were key. But no one – other than Linda herself – was more important than Sean Pierce, her legislative aide who lives in South Boston. Sean coordinated all things breakfast over the last several months. It was he who enlisted the Emerson College team— students and faculty— that produced the video sketches featuring Linda and her Southie colleagues at various locations across the neighborhood. (Pierce also made a hilarious cameo appearance at the end of Linda’s “getting her Southie on” sketch.)

Many have asked me what my favorite moment was during Sunday’s breakfast. To explain, I need to flash back more than 20 years, to a cramped corner of the old Bayside Club.

One year, as a college student, I watched a new, unfamiliar black woman as she carefully navigated the rungs of the fire escape (in heels, no less) and

confidently shouldered her way onto the stage. It was Dianne Wilkerson, newly elected as the state senator from Roxbury. She got a warm welcome from Bill Bulger and gamely offered a greeting to the almost all-white room. I think she might have joined in for a song. It was a relatively brief, but memorable, cameo.

Who would have thought that the next black woman elected to the State Senate in Massachusetts would one day host the whole event? I think it’s safe to say that no one – myself included – could have conjured up such a thought back in 1992.

It was, then, a big gulp moment for me, and, I suspect, for most native Bostonians when we watched Linda take the stage on Sunday, cheerfully belting out the Irish-American anthem, “If you’re Irish, come into the parlour” to the cheers of hundreds.

“Whoever you are, you’re one of us.”

It wasn’t always the case. And perhaps it still isn’t fully realized. But on Sunday it was as real as it gets for this Bostonian.

As Congressman Steve Lynch said on Sunday, the breakfast is more than just a St. Patrick’s Day roast; it has become a chronicle of our political history. Sunday marked a memorable new chapter and I was thrilled that my family could be a part of it.

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SOARING LIKE AN EAGLE (2)



The Boston College Irish Dance Club gave its annual performance at BC’s Robsham Theater on March 21. The show, titled “Treble,” included an appearance by members of the Boston-based O’Shea-Chaplin Irish Academy of Dance.
Christopher Huang photo for Boston College

From history to the theatre, Simmons has a story to tell



Dawn M. Simmons, Marketing and Events Director at Old South Meeting House, and Artistic Director of New Exhibition Room theater company.

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR
As a writer, director and arts administrator, Dawn M. Simmons wears a lot of hats. For the past nine years she has been director of programs at StageSource, the respected non-profit that provides leadership and services to advance the art of theater in the Greater Boston region.
Among its missions,

StageSource is dedicated to increasing cultural participation through advocacy, communication, and education.
This month, however, Dawn finishes her run at StageSource to become marketing and events director at historic Old South Meeting House at Downtown Crossing. On her own time, she is also artistic director of New Exhibition Room theater

company.
The Buffalo native, who traces her Irish roots back through her mother’s grandfather, first came to Boston to attend graduate school at Boston University. While she was here studying, she was offered a prime opportunity with the Irish Classical Theater Company back in Buffalo. Having admired the group for a long time, she said to herself, “I’m never going to get this again. I need to take this job.”
With the theater presenting a program of Irish, American, and international classics, she said, “I wound up house managing part-time and being an administrative assistant part-time. And I was as able to work my way up to special assistant to the artistic directors.”
Although she had a great experience and eventually became the company’s resident assistant director, she knew she would need to move on if she was going to advance herself professionally. So when a job opened at Merrimack Rep in Lowell, she jumped on it and returned to Boston.
Over the years, Simmons’s theatre directing has taken her to The Theatre Offensive, The Boston Theatre Marathon, Fort

Point Theatre Channel, Actors’ Shakespeare Project, Company One, and Boston Theatre Works, among others. She’s also a founding member of The Small Theatre Alliance of Boston.
Her interest in writing began in high school. She then studied playwriting at The University of Buffalo where an instructor suggested she try adapt-

ing an established work. “I didn’t love it” she said, “but it was really great practice . . . I think the first thing I was trying to adapt – and I don’t know why I was doing it because it had already been done – was ‘The Sun Also Rises’ . . . (I thought) ‘How can I take this epic and make it into a play? . . . That’s the hubris of someone in college,” she said laugh-

ing. “ ‘I’ll take this and I can make it better.’ It was fun, but I thought, there’s a different style or something else that I should be doing. So I started trying to write original things,” she said.
“You get this thing from all of your playwriting professors where they say, ‘Stick with what you know.’ I think what *they* (Continued on page x)

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A chat with the maestro of ‘Four Green Fields’

This year, Bud Sargent is celebrating three decades as a broadcaster of Irish music and culture via “Four Green Fields,” Saturdays from 10 a.m.-noon on WCUW, 91.3 FM (and via the web at wcuw.org). A native of Worcester who works as an attorney for his “day job,” Sargent also has become a high-profile promoter for Irish music events in and around Central Massachusetts. He recently spoke with Sean Smith of the Boston Irish Reporter about his 30 years behind the mike.

BIR: Bud, I guess there are two threads in your life to ask about: How you got into Irish music, and how you wound up doing a radio show devoted to it.

Sargent: I grew up in a very Irish-American family. My maternal grandfather was from near Skibbereen, and my mother was a Foley. So there was definitely Irish music in the household when I was a kid, and I remember hearing “The Jimmy Dooley Show” on a radio station from Manchester, NH. Now, interestingly enough, my father was not Irish, but when I was 12 or 13 he bought a Clancy Brothers album, and I listened to that all the time.

So I went away to college, to St. Anselm in New Hampshire, and while I was there I got some broadcast experience working at the college’s radio station. After I graduated I started getting back into Irish

music: I particularly liked listening to “The Sound of Erin” on WBOS, with John Curran and Henry Varian. I eventually moved back to Worcester, and started listening to WCUW. They’d had an Irish show called “The Half-Door,” and when Pat McDonagh from Galway became the host he changed the name to “Four Green Fields.”

As it happened, a friend of our family was a volunteer at WCUW, and I told her that if they ever needed a substitute for the Irish show, I’d love to do it. Then in August of 1983 I began filling in for Pat, who eventually went on to another station closer to Boston, and in January of 1984 I took over full time.

Even now, after all these years, I get a little giddy talking about it. This was a life-changing event in many ways. Doing the show was great in and of itself, and then it morphed into the opportunity to promote music events, with people like Donal Clancy, Danu, Paddy O’Brien, Niamh Ni Charra, and Lunasa, among many others.

I should add that for the last 20 years or more, I have been ably assisted every Saturday by Michael “Des” McLoughlin, from Roscommon, who is president of ArTeanga Fein, the Irish language club of Worcester.

BIR: Talk about your format – obviously, you play all kinds of Irish music, but you often do interviews, too, right?

Sargent: I don’t have

guests on every week, but I have an “open door policy.” We have a very active Irish-American community in the Worcester area, so I like to make the show a meeting point, where people have a chance to talk about not only Irish music but also other parts of Irish and Irish-American culture, history, literature and so on. Maybe one week it’ll be the organizers of the Worcester St. Patrick’s Day parade, and another it might be a representative from the Ancient Order of Hibernians, or the GAA. I’ve also spoken often with Matt Carr of Pilgrim Soul Productions, who stages Irish theatrical works.

Or maybe I might do phone interviews with performers who are coming to town. As I mentioned, over the last 15 years or so, I’ve gotten involved in promoting concerts, other events, and it’s a great “hobby.” And I have to say, in all the time I’ve been doing that, I’ve never had a band or a performer who was uncooperative or rude. I’ve found them to be gracious, unpretentious – a pleasure to work with.

But I do try to strike a balance. I’ve only got two hours, after all, so I don’t want to do too much talking and get away from playing music.

BIR: Music-wise, it seems like you shoot for variety, from “pure drop” to ballad groups to contemporary to the old favorites. I’m sure that, like most any radio show host,

you’ve got the challenge of playing what you think is really good and should be heard, and what your listeners prefer to hear – which may not always be the same thing.

Sargent: [Laughs] You know, I get that from my mother: “Why don’t you play this? Why don’t you play that?” And I say, “Ma, why don’t you come down and do your own show?” But it’s true, I’m serving an Irish-American audience, which is actually pretty diverse. And sure, a lot of people might like to hear, say, Connie Foley [a Tralee-born singer popular in the 1950s who lived in Worcester for a while] – but if you just play Connie Foley, then nobody will know about all this other Irish music.

If someone calls and asks, “Hey, can you play so-and-so?” I can usually find something from that person or band I like, a song that we can live with. I guess my biggest hope is I’ll play something that will make someone say, “Wow, I never heard that before. That’s great.”

BIR: There’s been some interesting discussion over the past decade or so about where IRA/rebel songs and the protest songs that came about during The Troubles fit into Irish music nowadays, what with the Good Friday Agreement and the new era for Ireland and Northern Ireland it ushered in. What’s your take?

Sargent: It is an interesting subject. Obviously, a lot has changed from

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Bud Sargent says he still gets “a little giddy” talking about how he got started as a radio host 30 years ago. “This was a life-changing event in many ways.”

Photo by Barry Sullivan

when I started out. I don’t play them much at all, unless there’s a strong reason to, maybe a landmark date. For example, my first show in March this year, I noted that this was the anniversary of Bobby Sands’s death. I said, “I don’t normally play rebel music, but this was a very significant event in Irish history, and it’s important to remember things like that,” and I played “Back Home in Derry.”

I subscribe to Jimmy Crowley’s philosophy. There is, of course, so much more to Irish music than the rebel songs, as Jimmy says, but he is not embarrassed to play them. He says they are the part of Irish history “that is not subsumed to political correctness.” So yes, if you play the songs, you put them in an historical context.

BIR: What, for you, are some of the more exciting developments in Irish music in the 30 years of “Four Green Fields”?

Sargent: I really like what groups like Lunasa have done with the tradition – how, without vocalists, they have taken the music in fascinating directions. But I also look at bands, like Teada, that are staying closer to the tradition.

The trend I’m particularly excited about is toward Americana, with Tim O’Brien, The Three-Ocean Trio, Nicola Joyce, Grada, The Unwanted, The Whileaways, The Lee Valley String Band. I really like the cross-pollination. And, of course, it’s a perfect example of the ties between Ireland and America.

There also have been some marvelous female singers coming out of Ire-

land, like Karan Casey – I was blown away by her new album [“Two Hours”] – or Mary Black, who I remember seeing at the old Irish Embassy Pub, and she was fabulous. Or, if we’re talking about Americana, Maura O’Connell; I love her song selections.

And of course, there’ve been outstanding male singers, like John Spillane and Sean Keane and Tommy Fleming. You almost don’t want to name names, because you’re sure to forget someone.

BIR: You’ve talked about the local Irish American community – much as the music has changed in many ways over these 30 years, I’m sure the community has, too.

Sargent: Yes, that’s true, but one thing that hasn’t changed in all this time is how much support the community has given me, and “Four Green Fields” and the station. I can’t emphasize enough what an absolute honor it has been to do the show, and how many great friends I’ve made who share the love of this music with me. And that community includes my wife Sheila and children Cait – who’s in a band herself, The Stone Clovers – and Brendan. I’m really grateful for their support.

BIR: No immediate plans to stop doing the show, I take it?

Sargent: If I have my way, I’ll die on the air. [laughs] No, I keep going at it; there’s always something to keep it interesting. For example, I found a website on “crazy holidays,” so I might refer to that for inspiration.

You just look for a way to break up the routine a little. So far, it’s worked pretty well for me.

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PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 19



LEGAL NOTICE

THE HIGH COURT

Record No: 2013/5155

Between/
and

EBS LIMITED, Plaintiff
AMANDA DUNNE, Defendant

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

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

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

Further details can be acquired by contacting the solicitors on record for the plaintiff:
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Bridget Fitzgerald and Carol Barney: At long last, an album for all to savor

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The recordings that Bridget Fitzgerald kept from her unreleased album with Carol Barney were deeply loved treasures – reminders of a partnership, and friendship, that ended far too soon when Barney died 14 years ago this month. But Fitzgerald, a founding member of Cherish the Ladies and a widely recognized wellspring of traditional Irish song from Connemara who has lived in New England for 50 years, never let go of her desire to finish the project. And now, thanks to the assistance and encouragement of a group of friends, the album will finally see the light of day. “Two Sides of a Coyne” (Coyne is Fitzgerald’s maiden name) contains 17 tracks, all but one based on the original recording sessions Fitzgerald and Barney did in the late 1990s. In several cases, the existing recordings of Fitzgerald singing alone or with Barney’s guitar accompaniment have been supplemented by contributions, recorded during the past year, by Boston area musicians John Coyne (bouzouki, guitar), Shannon Heaton (flute), Hanneke Cassel (fiddle), Mike Block (cello), and Liz Simmons (vocal harmony). Also appearing on the album are Eoghan O’Sullivan (accordion, guitar), Pat O’Connor (fiddle), and Máirtín de Cógáin (vocals, bodhran). The project was supported through a Kickstarter campaign that raised nearly \$1,500 above its \$5,000 goal. For Fitzgerald, the imminent release of “Two Sides of a Coyne” – officially scheduled for May 15 – represents in many

ways an intertwining of past and present lives that portends a pretty good-looking future. “It’s been a wonderful experience, and I’m so grateful to everyone who helped me,” says Fitzgerald. “These recordings have been very special to me: Carol and I would listen to them when we were on our road trips, and always meant to do something with them. And now, after all this time, they’ll live on.” Two of the key players in the “Two Sides of a Coyne” project are Barbara Cassidy, who studies with Fitzgerald through the Boston Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann School of Music, and her husband, Eric Chasalow, a musician, composer and producer. Inspired by listening to the “lost” tracks, they offered to work with Fitzgerald to help her realize her goal, doing the additional recordings in their home studio and running the Kickstarter campaign, and are releasing the album on their record label Suspicious Motives. It would seem challenging to add musical accompaniment to a recording project more than a decade after the fact, but Fitzgerald’s colleagues fit snugly into the mix, and at the same time leave a respectful space for Fitzgerald and Barney. Heaton’s flute, for example, brings a winsome quality to Pete St. John’s bittersweetly nostalgic “Dublin the Rare Old Times”; Simmons’s harmony vocals make for an enchanting “As I Roved Out”; O’Sullivan and O’Connor lend an exquisitely delicate touch on accordion and fiddle to “Bonny Light Horseman”; on “Sile Ni Eidhir,” Block alternates gentle

plucking and bowing, as becomes this song of love and praise; and Coyne and Cassel provide an elegiac setting for the venerable Easter Uprising ballad “The Foggy Dew.” The all-new track, “Peigin Letir Mor,” meanwhile, features a jaunty bouzouki and bodhran backing, with de Cógáin singing duet on the chorus. Ultimately, of course, “Two Sides of a Coyne” is all about spotlighting Fitzgerald’s matchless voice – especially on the tracks where she sings unaccompanied – and its complement in Barney’s superb fingerstyle guitar (she worked with the late Tony Cuffe, another master of the art), which gives a lyrical, softly but faithfully rhythmic enrichment to the songs. Listening to her weave arpeggios or shifting chord patterns around “As I Roved Out,” “Carrick Down,” or that long-revered Gaelic-English lament “Suil A Ruin,” you can understand why this album was begging to be made. “Doing anything with Carol was a great achievement,” says Fitzgerald. “She was so good at following me, and filling in the spaces without being distracting. Her playing fit in so well with what I do; it was just a natural fit.” When it comes to natural fits, “Bridget Fitzgerald” with “singing” is high on the list. At a glance, she would seem to have traveled the paradigmatic Irish singer’s path, her family’s home a regular site for parties and gatherings where there were songs, poetry, and perhaps “an accordion player from up the road.” As Fitzgerald notes, since most of the people in her community couldn’t afford musical instruments, it was the

voice that was most often heard, whether to serve as accompaniment for dancing or as a way to help pass the time during one’s work. Growing up in Connemara meant considerable exposure to the distinctive, ornamented sean-nos (old style) singing, much of it in Gaelic. “I had a lot of melodies in my head, but it wasn’t until later that I started learning the words,” recalls Fitzgerald. “The first song I remember learning was ‘Moll Dubh a’Ghelanna [Dark Molly of the Glen],’ which I heard my mother singing. When I tried singing it, she said, ‘That’s lovely dear, but it’s not how we do it.’” Boston, where Fitzgerald settled in early adulthood, was the launch point for her singing career. She would accompany her husband to pub gatherings, where singing was invariably part of the program, and her command of both English and Irish singing brought her to the attention of the wider Boston Irish community. This led to encounters with major figures in the scene like, among others, Larry Reynolds and Seamus Connolly, and later on Brian O’Donovan, who in turn introduced her to Mick Moloney, which resulted in an invitation to perform with him at the Irish Appalachian Festival in North Carolina. And in 1985, Moloney asked Fitzgerald if she would be interested in a new venture, a showcase for the finest Irish American female musicians that took its name from an Irish jig: Cherish the Ladies. “We were all young, none of us had been in a group before. I was surprised but happy to be part of it. Our first gig was in Dayton, and then



Bridget Fitzgerald, a founding member of Cherish the Ladies and long-time Boston resident, has finished a recording project started years ago, thanks to the help of many friends. Photo by Andy Cambria

we went off to the West Coast – I’d been afraid of flying but I had a good talk with myself – and we were off and running. We had a great four years together.” The Fitzgerald-Barney collaboration began several years later, as part of the band Fourin A Feire, and continued afterwards when the group split up. Through a student of Fitzgerald’s, they met Jim Wallace, who ran a sound studio, and he offered to record the duo for free. They had made good progress on the project when there came devastating news: Barney was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. She died on April 12, 2000, at the age of 51. But the recordings stayed with Fitzgerald, and she would share them with her students, among them Cassidy, who began taking classes with her in 2012 at the Comhaltas School of Music. Experienced in a variety of music, Cassidy had developed an interest in exploring Irish tradition, and quickly concluded she had found a most dynamic teacher. “Bridget put the fear of God into us all at first – I don’t want you to listen to any other versions of these songs,” she’d say,” recalls Cassidy. “But I was blown away by her singing. I felt it was exactly the sound I wanted, and one that was lacking in a lot of Irish music today. To me, she’s singing the history of Ireland. It was a classmate of Cassidy who first made the suggestion: “‘You should do Bridget’s CD,’ she told me, ‘because you can get things done,’” says Cassidy. “Eric and I talked about it, but we didn’t weren’t going to presume anything, so we offered to help Bridget if that was what she wanted.” Fitzgerald talked with Chasalow and Cassidy about her ideas for completing the album, among many conversations that went into “Two Sides of a Coyne.” As Chasalow explains, he and Cassidy were careful “not to approach this as ‘our’ project: I certainly am not going to take credit for recordings I didn’t make – Jim did a great job in providing us with the raw materials that made this possible in the first place.” (Continued on page 16)

From history to the theatre, a story to tell

(Continued from page 13) thought I knew and what I *actually* knew were two different things. I am a black female from Buffalo,” she said, “and I think a lot of my writing teachers thought I lived a certain kind of existence and were looking for me to write a certain type of story. But, being a black female from Buffalo, I actually grew up in the suburbs.” She laughed, saying, “My experience is a little more varied than you might think. “I am very influenced by movies, which is probably sacrilegious for a playwright to say. But I love a good B movie. I am a huge fan of John Waters. I’m a huge fan of Quentin Tarantino, who I think does B movies at an A movie level. So I’ve always tried to bring a bit of camp and over-the-top to the work that I do.” Still, the stage remains her first love. “There is something about presenting in front of an audience and that interaction – that immediate interaction. I don’t think there’s anything like it.” But unlike attending a movie, she said, “You’re

not alone in the dark. You’re all experiencing the same thing. And good actors feed off of you. The energy you put out to them, they give back to you. I think it’s stunning. It’s different every night. It lives. It breathes. You don’t get that with film. I mean film is wonderful, and if somebody read a script of mine and said, ‘We want you to write for this TV show,’ I would probably jump. But I would also use whatever that money was to fund my theatre career.” And now she’s on to her next challenge. Old South Meeting House, one of the nation’s most important historic sites, was where Boston colonists gathered to challenge British rule in the years leading up to the Revolution. “What I really like about (Old South Meeting House),” Simmons said, “is that it’s really mission-driven. Much like StageSource being mission-driven and wanting to serve theater artists, the mission for this organization is freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.” All of which blends nicely with her freelance

theatre work, which she says has always been fairly political in nature. As New Exhibition Room’s mission statement explains: “Inspired by Boston’s revolutionary past, New Exhibition Room develops original and cheeky theatrical events with a local interdisciplinary ensemble. Our work celebrates play, incites dialog, and champions affordability.” “We work with musicians, dancers, film artists and visual artists,” said Simmons, “to create new work. Again, it’s usually political in nature. Our first show took on free speech. Our second show took on the recession.” Their most recent production addressed female reproductive rights. Next up, she said, is a show “about street harassment and ownership of women’s bodies in private and public spaces. That’s called ‘Smile.’” No matter where her 9-to-5 life may take her, Dawn says she “will absolutely keep my hand in theatre as a writer and director. My goal is to continue freelancing, which I’ve been fortunate to do quite a bit of. StageSource

was my day job, working 60 some odd hours a week. I still maintained my theatre company and my freelance career. And (now with my) move to Old South Meeting House, I don’t see this being any different.” R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of onstageboston.com

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By SEAN SMITH
Karan Casey, “Two More Hours” • Casey’s CDs of late have represented something rather more than recording projects: They’ve been a means to channel or remark on certain emotional epiphanies or life milestones, or both. In 2008’s spare, somber “Ships of the For-

CD Reviews

est,” Casey meditated on what she saw as still unresolved grief in Ireland’s past. Her joint effort with former Solas bandmate John Doyle, “Exiles Return” (2010) – which she described as imbued with “a sense of release” – was a reassuring reunion of friends, intersecting with one another after having settled into marriages and families.

With “Two More Hours,” Casey has again found a universal yet personal cause and inspiration for sharing her muse:



the death of her mother, Annie, and the often complicated, multifaceted introspection that results from the loss of a parent. But rather than turning to songs from tradition or other writers as a means of expression, Casey has looked within herself and come up with her own words about what she has lost, what she has retained, who she is, and who she might yet be.

Even without the backstory, though, “Two More Hours” is compelling, adventurous and heartfelt – not a whiff of calculation. Casey has gone well beyond the traditional music idiom, venturing into

R&B, blues, jazz, even ’60s rock-ballad styles; instead of the customary folk/acoustic instrumentation, the tracks are flavored with sax, drums, piano, electric guitar, organ, and string arrangements. She is supported on vocals at various times by other multi-genre singer-songwriters: Aoife O’Donovan, Abigail Washburn, and Mick Flannery (but it’s worth noting a folk influence, too, in the presence of husband and producer Niall Vallely on concertina and keyboards, brother-in-law Caoimhin on piano, Trevor Hutchinson on bass, and Sean Og Graham on acoustic guitar).

There is a reflective quality throughout, and some pretty serious use of suggestion and symbolism, but don’t get the idea that “Two Hours” is all unrelenting grimness and sorrow. The title track, for one, is a buoyant, countryish sashay – aided by O’Donovan – about the

giddiness of anticipated romance, even with eyes wide open (“I know your game/but I still call out your name/I know your game/but I love you just the same”). “Blind Woman,” driven by the unlikely yet very effective combination of Og Graham’s bluesy guitar and a string section, makes use of vivid metaphorical imagery at the outset to establish the idea of remoteness and estrangement (“I know what it’s like to live in my head/I know what it’s like when things go unsaid”), and then transitions to the possibility of change (“Could I sing a different song?/Would I feel like I belong?”).

“Home” is Casey’s setting of a Paula Meehan poem, and it locates perfectly in the album’s milieu, with its theme of lost, or uncertain, identity: “a citizen of nowhere with nothing to my name.” “Go to Sleep” may seem an obvious allusion to

the passing of life, but in an interview with *Irish Music Magazine*, Casey described the song as a lullaby borne of exasperation with a restless young daughter – in the context of “Two Hours,” it perhaps serves as Casey’s affirmation of herself as a mother.

The most patently elegiac song here, gently eased along by Casey’s piano, is “Lovely Annie,” with a continual procession of repeated phrases, almost like incantations, that underscore the loss in a simple, direct yet eloquent way [“You’re gone, girl, gone/ gone, girl, gone/ from my world, my lovely Annie, my lovely Annie”]. It’s heart-breaking but not maudlin, and Casey acknowledges that “the world keeps turning” and “the sun keeps shining” even as she mourns Annie’s death. A delicate

band one minute, and New Orleans ragtime or gypsy jazz the next, thanks in great part to Liam Bradley’s protean keyboard playing; the solid, foundational bodhran of Eamon Murray; and last but hardly least, the gorgeous vocals of Niamh Dunne, whose versatile fiddle-playing also deserves (and receives) attention.

It’s also important to note that, for all the high energy and whimsy in, say, the “Kick’n the Box” or “Cu Chullain’s Despair” (with its sing-along climax) sets, as well as Dunne’s torchlight-singer take on “Please Don’t Talk About Me,” Beoga is more than capable of restraint, solemnity and reverence where it counts. That’s evident in “Woman of No Place,” Barry Kerr’s ode to legendary singer Margaret Barry, or the traditional song “Factory Girl” – both of which feature fine backing vocals from Murray and Og Graham – or in the sweetly sublime “Soggy’s,” a set of slip jigs composed by Og Graham. Make no mistake, this band has weight and substance to it.

balance for us all, surely.

Beoga, “Live at 10” (CD and DVD) • Just not possible. Beoga is a decade old, already? Actually, they’re more than a decade, since they formed up as a quartet in 2002; the 10-year milestone coincides with the release of their first album, “A Lovely Madness.” In any case, this CD/DVD combo is a record of their official 10th anniversary concert, encompassing material from their four albums to date. It’s a body of work that, beyond a doubt, confirms them as one of Ireland’s (Antrim, if you want to be technical about it) most inventive, charismatic, and just-plain-fun groups to have emerged this century.

All the virtues of Beoga are on full display here: the twin-accordion splendor of Damian McKee and Sean Og Graham, who excels equally on guitar; the quintet’s stop-on-a-dime-and-go arrangements in their tune sets – encompassing original as well as traditional material – that might evoke classic-ceili-

(Mention also should be made of the excellent contributions from guest musicians Alan Doherty, Trevor Hutchinson, Brid Dunne, Brona Graham, Martin O’Neill, Niall Vallely, and Clodagh Warrack on several tracks.)

That said, the DVD’s bonus features – the main tracks are identical to those on the CD – are most definitely a madcap ride, containing travel videos of the band’s tours from years past in the US (including a stop at the 2007 ICONS Festival at the Irish Cultural Centre here in the Boston area), Europe and other parts of the world. Interspersed with concert clips (some shot from the crowd) are jam sessions with seemingly half the Irish music touring community – look, it’s Winifred Horan! and there’s Kevin Crawford! – and various adventures and misadventures, from an interview with an abundantly rapturous California DJ to Bradley’s attempt to give himself a haircut. Just enjoy the ride, folks.

At last, an album for all to savor

(Continued from page 15)

Adds Cassidy, “We saw ourselves as facilitators more than anything else. We asked around the circle of friends for advice and guidance as we went along – Shannon [Heaton] in particular was a big help. There are always things that come up in the recording process you don’t necessarily expect, so we were fortunate to have this expertise at hand.”

With “Two Sides of a Coyne” all but ready to go, the possibility that Fitzgerald might take on future recording projects would appear to be a strong one. But whether on stage, in a studio or for her own pleasure, Fitzgerald will sing until it’s not humanly possible. Ask her about the place singing occupies in her

life, and Fitzgerald will tell you about the time some years ago when she was battling laryngitis, and her doctor told her she shouldn’t sing again.

“My feeling about that was, well, I might as well keep trying; I’m not just going to give up. What was the point in having the voice if I couldn’t use it? I love singing to babies, I love singing to kids, to adults, everyone; it lifts my soul. I can’t imagine not doing that.

“Besides,” she adds, again with a straight face, “my laryngitis got better.”

For information about “Two Sides of a Coyne” – including details on the still-to-be-scheduled CD release concert – see the *Suspicious Motives Records* website at suspiciousmotives.com.

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Getting to, and around, Ireland? Let us count the ways

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

There are so many fun and interesting ways to travel to and around the Emerald Isle. Depending on your interests, you can book a regular coach tour and visit many fascinat-

Traveling People

ing sites across the land, participate in assorted golfing, bicycling, surfing, and other sports or adventure trips, sail down the Shannon or along the coast, or do a photographic or literary visit. There are many other special interest options available, too.

SPIRAL JOURNEYS

Looking for a unique travel opportunity? Join Irish native Ann V. Quinlan on her specially crafted Spiral Journey in September. The 11-day journey is small (12 max) and travelers unpack only once – at lovely and comfortable Ashley Park House in Co. Tipperary, an 18th century, 76-acre bird sanctuary with en suite bedrooms, a gourmet chef, wooded walks, gardens, a mystical lake, Neolithic remains and a Fairy Fort. We stayed there some years ago and encountered several brilliant peacocks strutting across the lawn – great photo opportunities there and a wonderful place to stay and savor all the elegance of a grand manor home.

Ann grew up in the Boyne Valley of Co. Meath and, from an early age, was drawn to Neolithic Newgrange with its many triple spiral carvings. So she chose that spiral symbol for her Irish travel business, Spiral Journeys. A mixture of men and women, singles and couples have signed on for this fall's Spiral Journey and since Ann's journeys are so well known and popular, it's no surprise that there are only a few places left. If you want to participate, don't delay.

Ann has designed and led trips to Ireland for about 30 years and because she has lived here and there, she has a special vision and feeling for both cultures. She is passionate about literature, poetry, folklore, and music and she engages a small (16-seat) van with a seasoned and eloquent driver to handle transportation around the countryside.

The cost of the journey includes bed and breakfast, a minimum of six dinners and several boxed lunches, as well as entertainment by local storytellers and some park entrance fees. While the itinerary often varies according to participants' interests, the weather, etc., past Spiral Journeys have made day trips to the Lower Shannon River region, the counties of Clare, Galway, Limerick, and Kerry, visited castles, walked the limestone rocks of the Burren, visited the Cliffs of Moher and more. Visits to Newgrange or the Beara Peninsula are on the board as possibilities for this year.

A woman from Arizona who took one of Ann's trips wrote, "I was looking for beauty, culture, and a sense of my roots when



Above: a mare at Lough Bishop House B&B with her young colt. The farm also has sheep, Jack Russell Terriers and Moiled Cattle and is a great place to spend the night. Breakfast, cooked by owner Helen Kelly, was excellent and featured homemade jams and baked goods.

Above, right: an Irish Moiled cow at Lough Bishop House, a lovely, comfortable B&B in Co. Westmeath. The Irish Moiled is the rarest of the surviving indigenous breeds of Irish cattle and the only surviving domestic livestock native to Northern Ireland.

Right: Twin Moiled Cattle calves at Lough Bishop House in Co. Westmeath. The moiled cattle are have rare breed status as do Kerry Bog Ponies.

Judy Enright photos

I planned my trip to Ireland. I got much more. I got warm, skilled leadership from a woman (Ann is native Irish) who is most knowledgeable of the land and folklore of Ireland." Another participant added, "A trip to Ireland with Ann could not be more perfect! She is steeped in the country's history and spirit. She finds charm, music, great fun, and organic food everywhere she goes."

I participated with one of my sons in a week-long photo workshop in Donegal some years ago and can testify that such focused trips are so much fun. There are many interesting people from all over the globe who join these specialized tours and it's great getting to know them and spending time together with them, not to mention seeing Ireland in a whole new way through different eyes.

As I said, Ann's journey is nearly full for this year, so don't hesitate to take a look at spiraljourneys.com or contact Ann at ann@spiraljourneys.com.

INROADS IRELAND

There are many small and focused tours available in Ireland, and we can't mention them all, so we've chosen just a few that we think sound exceptional.

One such interesting tour is with a Wisconsin company called Inroads Ireland, which offers "tours off the beaten path." Many of the company's dates for this year are already sold out so if you visit their website (inroadsireland.com) and have an interest, it would be wise to get in touch soon. Tours are available from May through September. Inroads Ireland also utilizes a small van

(14 people per tour max) and personalized service.

The owners of the company (Phil Ryan from Dublin and Carolyn Janette from Milwaukee) are well traveled and have fascinating and varied backgrounds. They met in Ireland, married in Hawaii, and now combine their love of travel and Ireland to run the company they founded together. For more information, visit their website.

MOILED CATTLE

When you visit Lough Bishop House B&B in Derrynagarra, Co. Westmeath, and meet Helen and Christopher Kelly, you can't help but admire their pioneering spirit with the land, the animals, and their lovely home.

The couple bought a derelict wreck of a house and worked endlessly, night and day, restoring every inch to its former glory. No detail was overlooked and no project was too large or too small. When we arrived at Lough Bishop, Helen shared a scrapbook of the most amazing photos showing what the house looked like when they purchased it. Suffice it to say, they had huge vision, grit, and endless determination. Had you not seen the scrapbook, you could never appreciate how much painstaking work they did and you probably would not appreciate their incredible efforts.

Helen took us up to the fields to see a pair of twin Moiled Cattle calves and to meet their mom. Helen and her husband are working hard to save this old strain of cattle that has been designated a rare Irish breed. The family's Jack Russell terriers followed us every



step of the way, of course, and ran back and forth entertaining us and the cattle. Lough Bishop also has horses and sheep as well as a beautiful setting in which they all live.

The Irish Moiled cattle are said to be the rarest of surviving indigenous breeds of Irish cattle and the only surviving domestic livestock native to Northern Ireland. Their coats are patched red and white and they have no horns. They are the most interesting looking cows, even though I'm not a great fan of cows in general.

When you wake in the morning, you're sure to enjoy Helen's delicious home cooking. Lough Bishop is a wonderful place to stay.

Another great farm B&B experience – across the country in Co. Clare – is Cahergal Farm, owned by Michael and Noreen McInerney. We have stayed there many times because it's just minutes from Shannon Airport and we've witnessed all the changes that added more en suite bedrooms and a second story as well as the addition of glorious flower gardens, outside seating, and herb gardens where Noreen plucks just the right ingredients for her outstanding meals. Michael's family has owned the property for generations and it's clear how much the McInerneys and their children value their heritage.

For more farmhouse vacations (fun places to

stay, especially if you're traveling with kids), visit irishfarmholidays.com

Another of our favorite accommodation groups is called Hidden Ireland. Several of the historic homes included in Hidden Ireland's list are the subject of a story about Ireland accommodation in an interesting article in the April issue of National Geographic Traveler magazine. The homes are absolutely fabulous places to stay.

WILD ATLANTIC WAY

In a Feb. 27 Irish Times article, writer Tim O'Brien describes the latest Irish tourism initiative called "The Wild Atlantic Way," which stretches all the way along the West Coast from the Inishowen Peninsula, up in Co. Donegal, down to Kinsale, Co. Cork. Michael Ring, Minister for Tourism, launched the 2,500-km route recently and it was described as "the world's longest way-marked-trail."

O'Brien writes that Fáilte Ireland (the Irish arm of Tourism Ireland here) plans to invest 10 million euro in 2014 to highlight some 500 attractions along the route, more than 1,500 activities, 580 festivals and events as well as some 17 trails and 50 looped walks. The scenic route also passes spectacular 53 blue flag beaches and 120 golf courses.

Activities along the Wild Atlantic Way will be grouped into varied cus-

tomized offerings, O'Brien wrote, to encourage tourism. The groupings include:

- Exploring on the Edge: Showcasing unique landscapes and micro-climates of the west of Ireland including flora, fauna, caves, mines, and activities such as whale and dolphin watching, exploring by boat and experiencing local food;

- Culture at the Edge: Ireland's unique language, music and dance cultures, Gaelic sports, traditional crafts, festivals, island life ('island hopping'), legends, and folklore;

- Active on the edge: Focusing on surfing locations, links golf courses, coastal walks, sea and game angling and horseback riding.

O'Brien quoted Fiona Monaghan, Fáilte Ireland's head of the Wild Atlantic Way, as saying, "The enthusiasm out there for this project is impressive, not only amongst tourism businesses but also in the wider community. The key to success for this initiative will be its authenticity – not just the places but also the people of the Wild Atlantic Way."

TRAVELING

Spring is reportedly here at long last, so do check online or visit your favorite travel agent for summer travel bargains. There are many direct flights offered to Shannon and Dublin, and lots of good options for ground travel.

The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Two months ago we learned that Irish uses the word “The” in front of a great many more nations than English does. English has a few – “The United States”, “The Soviet Union”, “The Arab Emirates” but Irish uses “The” in front of nations such as France, Norway, and Spain.

“Ireland” actually has two names. The “Official” name that you see on postage stamps, money, etc. is **Eire**, /EH-ruh/. Colloqually, “Ireland” is **Éirinn** /EH-ruhn/. We all know the phrase **Éirinn go brath**, /EH-ruhn goh BRA/ *not* /ERR-in/, “Ireland until the End of Time” or “Ireland Forever.”

An “Irishman” or “woman” is **Éireannach** /EH-ruhn-ahk/; the plural is **Éireannaí** /EH-ruhn-ee/. The language you are learning is **Gaeilge** /GAHL-guh/. Note again that I always refer to the language as “Irish”. Although it is commonly called “Gaelic”, that is incorrect. “Gaelic” is Scottish; “Irish” is “Irish.”

First let us study the nations close to Ireland. Notice that the names closely associated with Ireland do not always require **An**.

“England” is **Sasana** /SAH-suh-nuh/ , an “English person” a **Sasanach** and the English language is **Béarla**/BEAR-luh/ .

“Scotland” is **Albain** /AH-luh-buhn/ , a Scottish person is **Albanach** /AHL-uh-buhn-ahk/ and while the vast majority speak **Béarla**, there are still many whose home tongue is **Gaeilge na hAlban**, “Scottish Gaelic”.

Notice that **Albain**, /AHL-uh-buhn/ , “Scotland”, follows the Irish rule that a small neutral **vowel sound**, not written but pronounced, goes between an **l** or **r** and a following sound made with the lips – **b**, **p**, and **m**. This is because is it impossible for your tongue to move from an **l** or **r** to that front of your mouth without making a small vowel sound. That is if you are making the Irish **l** or **r** correctly as strong **consonants**, with the tip of the tongue against the roof of your mouth.

You may have heard the pronunciation of “film” as /FIL-uhm/ and associated it with “hillbilly English”. Not so, it is a relic of Irish or Scottish Gaelic. Many Americans of Scottish descent mispronounce the Scottish Gaelic name for “Scotland”, **Alba**, as /AHL-buh/ when it is really /AHL-uh-puh/. They are completely unaware of this rule – as well as middle **b** becoming a /p/ sound. Irish maintains the /b/ pronunciation

“Wales” on the other hand requires “The” - “The Little Britain”, **An Bhreatain Bheag** /uh VREH-tuhn veyk/. A “Welshman” is a **Breatnach** /BREHT-nahk/ and they speak **Bhreatanais** /VREH-tuhn-eesh/, “Welsh”.

Here is a listing of other places, peoples, and languages. The Irish for “language” is **teanga** /CHEHN-guh/ , “tongue”. Note that the ending **–(n)ach** is equivalent to English “man” as in “Welshman”. The languages often end in **–is**, equivalent to English “ish” and pronounced the same as in “Spanish”.

	Place:	People:	Language
Europe	Eoraip	Eorapach	
France	An Fhrainic	Francach	Fhraincis
Spain	An Spáinn	Spáinneach	Spáinnis
Germany	An Ghearmáin	Gearmánach	Ghearmáinis
Russia	An Rúis	Rúisenach	Rúisis
Netherlands	An Ollain	Ollanach	Ollainnis
Norway	An Iorua	Ioruach	Ioruais
Asia	An Áise	Áiseach	
Japan	An tSeapáin	Seapánach	Seapánais
China	An tSín	Síneach	Sínis
America	Meiriceá	Meiriceánach	Béarla
Canada	Ceanada	Ceanadach	Béarla agus Fhraincis

Irish cannot handle an initial /j/ or /ch/ sound so they both become /s/ as French “Jean” (“John”) became **Séan** and “China” becomes /uhn cheen/. Recall that **Fh-** is “silent” so **Fhrainic** rhymes close to English “rank”.

Here are some words and phrases that will be used in the next columns:

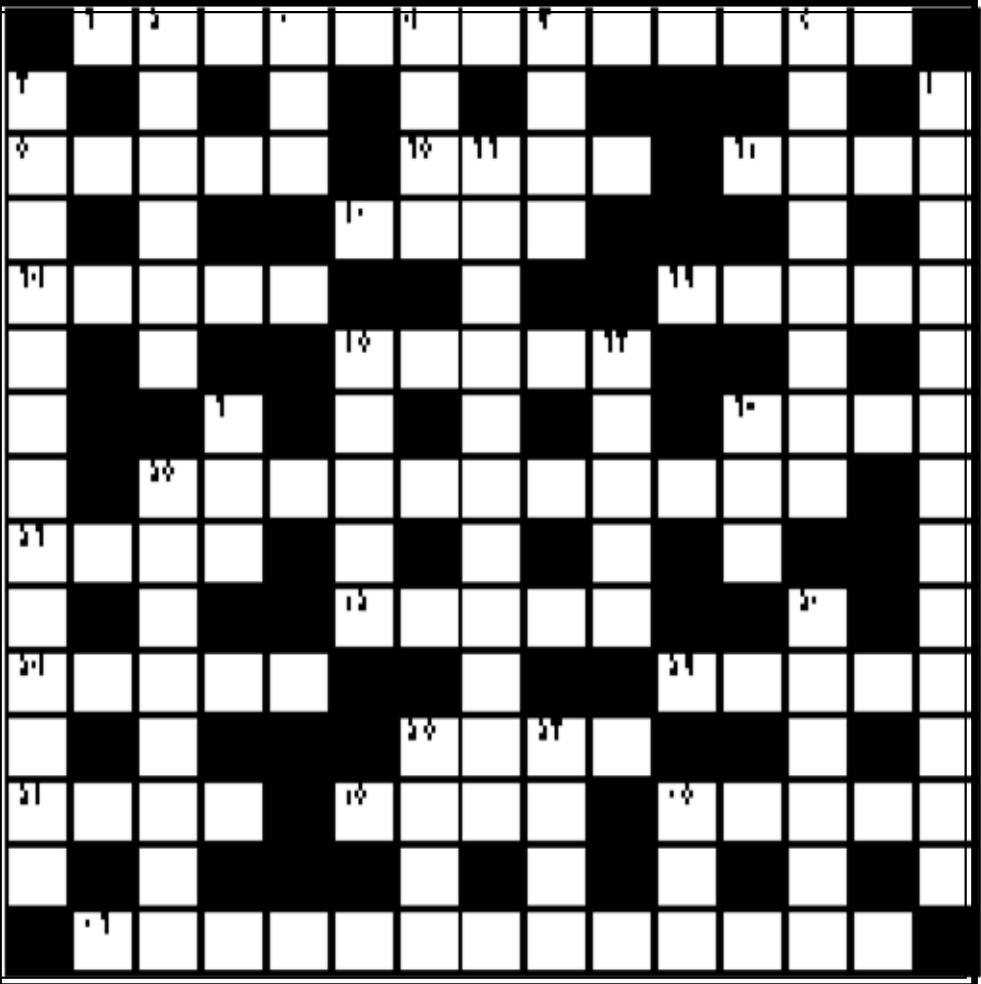
Irregular forms of **Abair** “Speak!” – **Deirim**, **deir**, **deirimid** (Present), **dúirt** (Past), **déarfaidh** (Future – also with a “silent” **f**/JEER-ee/).

“Learn” or “learning” **foghlaim**, “go on a holiday” **ag dul ar saoire**/SEE-ruh/, “business trip” **turas**, , “go on a visit” **tabhair cuairt** , “basic course” **bun cursa**.

Keep this column for future use – like next month!

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IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS

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- ACROSS**
1. Circa Ruskin or thereabouts in busy Waterford/Tipperary town, once the seat of the Ormondes. (7-2-4)
 9. See Da about things having got less difficult. (5)
 10. Vote received with zero latitude apparently. (4)
 12. “Yes, of course, we all know — — Livia. Tell me all. Tell me now. “ Joyce (4)
 13. Port Laoise xylophone with hidden erotic meaning. (4)
 14. Cap in bits so lose one’s cool in the manner of a Greek god. (5)
 15. A Caledonian racecourse? No, it’s English, and Royal in June! (5)
 16. A soil erosion in Irish county whose chief town was once called Maryborough. (5)
 19. It happened on a single occasion in the past in Dungannon certainly. (4)
 20. Nutmeg to nun sent astray in Cavan village near Lough Sheelin and the O’Reilly’s Ross Castle. (5,6)
 21. They work together and mince meat (in the Aer Lingus company?) (4)
 22. Southern cattle fair is well turned out. (5)
 24. Get together and have cake before church, shortly. (5)
 25. Hold on tightly to a hundred fish. (5)
 26. Pins up the tailor’s cut. (4)
 28. Cardinal seen in Castlerea street. (4)
 29. Different pose taken over the counter in Mexico. (4)
 30. Rag us about getting a sweetener. (5)
 31. Tall members in wrangle to see Pretender who was crowned Edward VI in Dublin in 1487. (7,6)

- DOWN**
2. Give permission to appear in Tyrrellspass entertainment. (6)
 3. Made free of right before 499 in Cahir, ideally. (3)
 4. Headland to pace around. (4)
 5. “There is — — one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.” Oscar Wilde (4)
 6. “The — — — — and the beautiful have no enemy but time.” Yeats (of Eva Gore Booth and Con Markiewicz.) (8)

7. Piety no jabber. (anag.) famous Thomastown, Co, Kilkenny, monastic ruin founded in 1158 by Donagh MacGillpatrick, King of Ossory. (8,5)
8. E.g. sorry cat leg is broken in Kerry village near to Magharee isles between Brandon and Tralee Bays. (13)
11. No man out, six put up in rolling heights between Mayo and Sligo, south of Enniscrone. (2,9)
16. Comes to earth, in Shannon, maybe? (5)
17. This came up about note, what a vision. (5)
18. Given a start, this cat would be very tiny and elemental. (3)
19. Ring north east for the number. (3)
20. Antacid confused as in game. (8)
23. Unmarried, like 19 down. (6)
26. Prophet is in Fairyhouse erroneously. (4)
27. Is including small back number; they are charged in Delphi on Sunday. (4)
30. I am in ancient Rome as a result of addition. (3)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 15

Irish Sayings

Theres no need to fear the wind if your haystacks are tied down.
A trout in the pot is better than a salmon in the sea.
It’s better to bend than to break.
A ship often sank beside the harbour.
Food is the “horse” of work.
Character is better than wealth.
If you have a ship and a cargo, you’ll get the right wind.
“There is no luck except where there is discipline.”
There are no strangers: Only friends we have yet to meet.
When you are right no one remembers; when you are wrong no one forgets.
A good start is half the work.
God’s help is nearer than the door.
A closed hand only gets a clenched fist.
It’s better to be sure, than to be lost.
“People live in each other’s shelter.”
“The world would not make a racehorse of a donkey.”
“A lock is better than suspicion.”

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Seamus Heaney tribute set at Bridgewater State

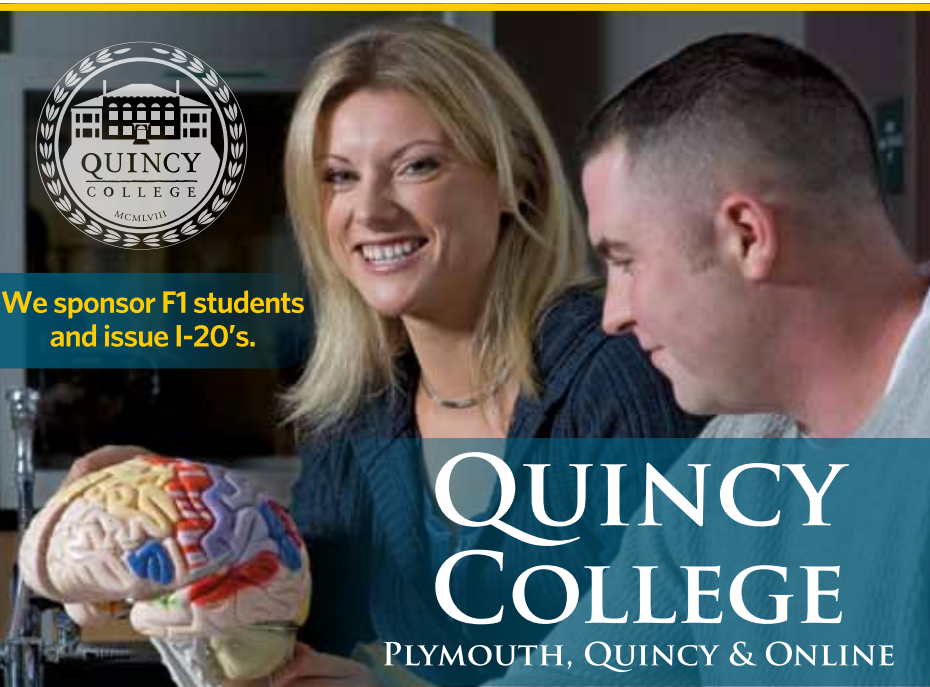
Although he hailed from Ireland, Seamus Heaney, the poet, writer, and Nobel laureate who died last August, spent many years in the Boston/Cambridge area, a number of them as Harvard University's Boylston Professor. But he was also a popular figure at many area universities, including Bridgewater State and Boston State, where he developed close and lasting friendships with students and faculty. Recently Bridgewater State University received a generous collection of Heaney's personal correspondence and memorabilia from retired BSU English professor Maureen Connelly, whose friendship with the poet dated back to the 1970s and continued until his passing.

On Sunday afternoon April 13, which would have been Heaney's 75th birthday, Bridgewater State will host a tribute to him in the university's Conant Science Building auditorium from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. A reception will follow featuring live Irish music, Irish-themed food and drinks and an exhibit of Heaney items from BSU's own special collection and from items owned privately. In keeping with the warm and generous spirit of the honoree, all are invited to attend this free event and share in his life and work as recalled by his friends.

Speakers will include *Boston Globe* columnist and author Kevin Cullen, UMass Boston English professor Shaun O'Connell, former Boston firefighter Bobby Breen, a Heaney friend whom Heaney immortalized in his poem *Helmet*. Members of the audience who knew or shared a friendship with the poet will be invited to participate in this roundtable style event prior to the reception.



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APRIL		Saturday, April 19th
Sunday, April 6th	Ron Cote	Pub Night with Saoirse Nua. Free admission
Saturday, April 12th	Highland Dance Boston Ceilidh – A night of Scottish music and dance. Music by Emerald Rae and Tom Pixton. Pipes and Drums provided by the Stuart Highlanders. Family-oriented event from 6:30-10:30 pm. Tickets are \$10 and \$5 for children 12 years and under. Call Karen Mahoney at 617-413-1476 or email her at karmahoney@icloud.com for more info.	Sunday, April 20th Denis Curtin
Sunday, April 13th	Noel Henry Irish Show Band	Sunday, April 27th Fintan Stanley



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