

# CROSS-BORDER COMMUNION



Boston's Cardinal Seán O'Malley and seven other Roman Catholic bishops celebrated Mass and distributed Communion through the fence along the US-Mexico border in Nogales, Arizona, on April 1 to commemorate the deaths of migrants in the desert and to pray for Congressional action on immigration reform. Commentary by Peter F. Stevens and Bill O'Donnell, Pages 5 and 7.

Photo by George Martell/The Pilot Media Group

# 'Overwhelming support' gives lift to inaugural Team MR8 in Marathon

By Bill Forry  
Editor

For some — like Harry Benzan— the final stretch of the marathon on Boylston Street on April 21 remains a blur. Literally. He couldn't see because of the tears streaming from both eyes as he neared the spot where his friends and neighbors were so callously and publicly attacked last year.

Benzan, one of the 100-plus runners on Team MR8— the marathon team assembled in memory of eight-year-old Martin Richard—coached young Martin on the soccer fields of Pope John Paul II Park. He endured



Team MR8 marathoner Katy Kelly celebrated at the finish line with her husband Eddie Kelly. "Love completely demolishes what the cowards attempted to try and do to us. That picture symbolizes that love perfectly."

Photo courtesy Katy Kelly

despite a grueling morning: He had been hurting since Mile 4 and was a half-hour off his planned time. He was pretty sure he would finish, but he'd long-ago abandoned his original plan to hit the deck on Boylston Street and do 27 push-ups at the finish line.

Still, as Benzan neared the end, the emotions and adrenalin took charge: He dropped to his hands and knocked out the push-ups, accompanied by a few choice words for the cowards who'd attacked his friends near this spot last year.

"It was one of the greatest honors in my life,"

(Continued on page 9)

# Cultural Center sets up new deal for Irish Festival

## Music, dance, and fun on tap over 3 weekends

By BIR Staff

The Irish Cultural Centre of New England (ICCNE) in Canton is making a big change in the presentation of its annual Irish Festival this year.

Since 1990, the non-profit organization has staged a three-day festival of Irish music, dance, and merriment over one weekend, usually early in the month of June.

The event, once billed as the largest Irish outdoor celebration in the Northeast, was held in its early years on the campus of Stonehill College off Route 138 in North Easton, and later was moved to the ICCNE's Canton campus where it has taken place for the last decade.

This year, the activities will take place on three successive weekends, beginning on Sat., May 31, with each weekend featuring a different theme. The event is branded "Boston Irish Festivals 2014 – Three weekends of Irish music, dance, sports, food, shopping, entertainment, kids activities and more."

The schedule includes:

**Saturday, May 31**—Sports and children's day, featuring a 5k road race (9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. start),



Friday night will feature a "farewell tour" performance by Black 47 and the Screaming Orphans.

# 'Sister City' pact for Boston, Belfast

The growing ties between the cities of Boston and Belfast in Northern Ireland will be affirmed later this month when the mayors of the two municipalities are expected to sign a "Sister City" agreement.

Belfast's Sinn Fein mayor, Mairtin O Muilleoir, reached an agreement with Mayor Martin Walsh during a visit to Boston in March, according to a report in the Belfast Telegraph.

"The sister city agreement will explore academic, business, and cultural links between the two cities," the Telegraph reported. "Boston is the university capital of the world, the Silicon Valley of life sciences, and the hub of Irish America," O Muilleoir told the newspaper.

A source in Walsh's office, who confirmed plans for the agreement to the BIR, said the papers are expected to be signed before O Muilleoir's term as Belfast mayor expires in early June.

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IMMIGRATION Q & A

# Renewing a green card Why not naturalize, too?

**Q.** I've been a US legal permanent resident for almost ten years, and my green card is expiring soon. What is the current procedure for renewing it?

**A.** Immigrants filing applications to renew permanent resident cards with a ten-year term of validity, commonly known as "green cards," need to file Form I-90 (which can be downloaded at [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov)) with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The form can be mailed or sent by courier to the addresses shown in the instructions. For most applicants, the submission also can be made on-line; go to [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov) and follow the instructions for electronic filing of Form I-90.

Applicants receive by mail a notice for a biometrics (fingerprint and digital photograph) processing appointment at a local USCIS Application Support Center.

Important: Applicants are being instructed to take to their biometrics appointments the records of any arrests, convictions, or any other involvement in criminal matters since last being granted legal permanent resident status. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers have been attending these appointments and reviewing the documentation supplied by applicants. Some applicants have been detained because of the criminal records they submitted or because an ICE background investigation detected criminal convictions or outstanding arrest warrants. Accordingly, it is imperative that you obtain legal advice before your biometrics appointment if you have *any* issues involving past or pending criminal proceedings anywhere in the world.

IIIC can help you with the Form I-90 renewal filing process, as well as the application for getting a new green card when the original has been lost or stolen, or when the card contains incorrect information.

Note: Holders of two-year conditional permanent resident cards based on marriage to a US citizen don't file Form I-90 to remove the condition; they use Form I-751 instead. By the way, anyone who has been a legal permanent resident long enough to be eligible for US citizenship really ought to consider applying to become a US citizen as soon as possible. IIIC can help you with the all aspects of the naturalization application process.

For a free, confidential consultation on this or any other aspect of immigration law, visit one of our legal clinics.

**Disclaimer:** These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. Immigration law is always subject to change. 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 IIIC immigration legal staff.

## IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

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Website: [iiicenter.org](http://iiicenter.org) Email: [immigration@iiicenter.org](mailto:immigration@iiicenter.org)



### Galway J-1 IWT student is now Irish American Partnership intern

By NOOR HASSAN

For Conor Kelly, it was love of big cities that brought him to Boston. After graduating from the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology with a degree in Business and Information Technology, Conor applied for the 12-month J-1 Irish Work and Travel visa through the Irish International Immigrant Center. He had already spent three summers in Boston on the J-1 Summer Program, and had friends and family already here so it was the natural city of choice.

Conor was thrilled to return on the J-1 IWT to experience our unique city: "Galway is considered a small city, so I wanted to experience a bigger city like Boston and to take advantage of all the opportunities it



Conor Kelly at the offices of the Irish American Partnership.

has to offer." He landed in Boston last Dec. 30th and came to the IIIC just days after his arrival. With the help of the Learning Exchange Programs staff at the IIIC, Conor was given support and resources, and assisted in securing a quality internship at the Irish American Partnership, only steps away from the IIIC office. "Conor is a welcome addition to the Irish American Partnership and will be a great help particularly given his



Mayor Walsh with IIIC staff and three guest speakers.

computer design skills," said president Joe Leary.

Conor is loving his internship; he talked about one of his most recent projects where he designed a marketing letter for an upcoming golf tournament, "I am really excited that something I designed will reach such a large audience. It makes me proud." Throughout college, Conor held part time positions, and now he is eager to apply what he learned to his internship. He takes advantage of any chance to attend local sporting events. He thoroughly enjoyed the basketball game at Boston University organized by the IIIC and most recently his trip to TD Bank Garden to watch the Boston Celtics play. "The Celtics lost but the atmosphere was still amazing. I loved it!"

Conor believes that the international experience he is gaining will appeal to employers back in Ireland, and he is excited to see what the future holds.

**J-1 summer students arriving soon**—The Irish International Immigrant Center is gearing up for the arrival of this year's J-1 summer students from Ireland. In preparation, we are reaching out to the local Irish community to give you the opportunity

to help:

**Landlords** – Let us know if you have apartments or rooms available to rent from late May until end of August. **Employers** – Contact us with summer job openings. **Volunteers** – Lend a hand in IIIC's cyber cafe this summer. Help the J-1 summer students get settled into life in Boston. Meet and assist young people from Ireland, enjoy Irish tea and catch up on all the happenings in Ireland!

We would love to hear from you. Please contact Blair Kahn at 617-542-7654, Ext. 18 or by e-mail at [J1summer@iiicenter.org](mailto:J1summer@iiicenter.org).

**IIIC's Business Leaders Breakfast celebrates immigrants past and present**—The IIIC is grateful to the 300 people who chose to spend the morning of April 24 with the IIIC at our 5th annual Business Leaders Breakfast where our keynote speaker was Mayor Marty Walsh. It was great to hear from the mayor about how immigrants - past and present - built Boston and how a global perspective will be key to the future of our economy. We would like to thank our lead sponsor Arbella Insurance for its generous

support, and all our other sponsors. Thanks also to our three brilliant guest speakers, Paul Jennings, Berlanga Gauthier, and Grace Kelly, for sharing their stories of coming to America.

### IIIC's Solas Awards Celebration October 30 – Save the Date

On October 30, the Irish International Immigrant Center (IIIC) will hold its annual Solas Awards Celebration at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. 2014 marks the center's 25th year of assisting immigrants from Ireland and from 120 nations as they integrate into American society, and working with partners to promote reconciliation in Ireland.

Among our honorees, we are pleased to recognize Sister Lena Deevy, LSA, for her dedicated work supporting the immigrant community and her 24 years of leadership as the IIIC's former executive director. Named from the Gaelic word for "light," IIIC's Solas Awards are presented to people whose work is inspirational and who have been committed to giving back to their communities.

Please mark your calendars today for IIIC's Solas Awards Celebration on Oct. 30.

## Matters Of Substance Learning To Let Go

*"Letting go doesn't mean that you don't care about someone anymore. It's just realizing that the only person you really have control over is yourself".*

– Deborah Reber, Author

"I have been in recovery from my alcohol and drug problem for over 10 years and have been sponsoring a younger man in the AA program. He was doing really well but now I think he has relapsed. He is missing meetings, not returning my calls, and when he does call, I know he is lying about having had a drink that day. My concern for him is distracting me from work and my own family. I find myself lying awake, unable to sleep and worrying what will happen; if he'll lose his job and girlfriend, or if he will drive when drunk and hurt himself or others. It's great when I know he's been sober for 5 days, but I am devastated when he

relapses. I know addiction is a disease and relapse is part of it but I just don't know what to do or say to help him stay sober."

\*\*\*

The most wonderful part of the Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) program is the service of sponsorship. AA describes the sponsorship process as involving "an alcoholic who has made some progress in the recovery program and shares that experience on a continuous, individual basis with another alcoholic who is attempting to attain or maintain sobriety through AA."

However, when you support someone with an alcohol/drug problem, it's very easy to find your own mood impacted, especially if things are not going well. You cannot offer recovery to him any more than your family and friends could give it to you when you first got sober. It is important to create a safe boundary

when managing your relationship with those you sponsor so you don't risk your own recovery. Stress, anxiety, not eating and sleeping well – these are all paths to relapse if we don't use all the tools of our program, even while we participate in the program as a sponsor. In AA and Al-Anon, they use the Serenity prayer;

"Grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change,

The Courage to change the things that I can and The Wisdom to know the difference"

It's hard to accept things we can't change, but spiritual prayer and meditation can help. Chat with your own sponsor or other close AA friend to explore what is in your power to control (you) and what isn't (your sponsee's recovery). By "detaching with love" you can support him and celebrate his success when he finds it while still sleeping at night, focusing



on your own needs and family, no matter what the outcome for your friend.

If you are affected by the drinking of someone close to you, Al-Anon may be able to help, even if you are in another 12 step program of recovery. Check out this link for more information: [hma-al-anon-alateen.org/](http://hma-al-anon-alateen.org/) or call 508-366-0556.

Call Danielle at 617-542-7654, Ext.14, if you or someone you know struggle with these issues, for a consultation or counseling, free and in confidence. Recovery is possible for everyone. Let us help!

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, May 6th**  
IIIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston  
Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street

**Monday, May 12th**  
Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton

**Tuesday, May 20th**  
IIIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston  
Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street

**Wednesday, May 28th**  
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# Eire Society cites O'Donovan for its 2014 Gold Medal honor

**BIR STAFF**  
Brian O'Donovan, the host of WGBH Radio's weekly program Celtic Sojourn, will receive Boston's Eire Society 2014 Gold Medal honor at its annual dinner next month in Quincy.  
News of the honor was announced as the Irish group makes plans for its 77th annual awards banquet on Thurs., June 12, at the Neighborhood Club, with a reception at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7.  
Born and raised in Clonakilty, West Cork, the honoree graduated from University College Cork and spent two years

in London. He moved to Boston in 1980, met and married his wife Lindsay before they settled in West Newton where they raised their four children.  
O'Donovan attended graduate school at Emerson College, and got his first job with the New England Patriots in 1984. He began working as an executive with Patriots owner Bob Kraft in 1989, eventually serving as a team vice president of the Patriots from which position he helped lure the World Cup competition here in 1994. He later helped to establish Major League Soccer in

he United States, and in 1997, he became the first GM/COO of the New England Revolution soccer team.  
O'Donovan has said that during these years his passion for public broadcasting was fed by his continuing involvement with WGBH, where he started broadcasting his weekly program "A Celtic Sojourn" in 1986. Since 2005, he has helped WGBH develop its brand as a regional arts presenter, creating such events as "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn," Boston Summer Arts Festival with the *Boston Globe* and Citi-

zens Bank now entering its third year, Learning Tours to Ireland, a "St. Patrick Day Celtic Sojourn," the annual Cartoon Festival at Symphony Hall, and many other diverse events held at WGBH's new facilities in Brighton.  
Each year The Eire Society of Boston honors a person or persons who exemplify the best of Irish culture and ideals. Previous recipients include the filmmakers John Ford and John Huston, the Irish actresses Siobhan McKenna and Maureen O'Hara, the Irish poet Seamus Heaney, US Ambassadors to



Brian O'Donovan

Ireland William V. Shan-non and Jean Kennedy Smith, former Speaker of the US House of Representatives John W. McCormack, and President John F. Kennedy.  
Seats for the June 12

gala are \$100 per person, and reservations can be made by e-mail to [Barbara.s.fitzgerald@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.s.fitzgerald@gmail.com), or by postal mail to Beverly Armour, 20 Shattuck Park Rd., Norwood MA, 02062.

## O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award to Senate President Murray

Therese Murray, the president of the Massachusetts State Senate, has been named the recipient of the third annual Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award, which was established to recognize the achievements of members of the Diaspora in other countries and to celebrate the global impact of Irish people everywhere.  
Sen. Murray, who will receive the award during the second weekend of September in Inishowen, Donegal, has proven herself to be a worthy recipient, noted the award committee, by carving out a very successful career in the predominantly male

world of, not just American politics, but politics in general. She has been a champion of welfare causes, mental health, children's welfare and health, and the elderly. She has been the driving force behind many very worthy state reforms in Massachusetts and has always maintained her close links with the country of her heritage.  
Murray's father's family hails from County Cork, and her mother's from Limerick and Dublin. She will be attending the annual prize giving ceremony and the associated calendar of events that are held each year in



Buncrana in recognition of Tip O'Neill's Donegal roots and his impact on world affairs.

## Dublin-based clothier Primark to set up shop at Filene's site

Dublin-based clothing retailer Primark will open a new United States flagship store in downtown Boston next year at the corner of Washington and Summer streets in the building made famous over the last century as headquarters of legendary Filene's department store company.  
Plans call for the new tenant to take up four floors of the Burnham Building with Primark having signed a lease on some 112,000 square feet of space for the retail operation and office space. The company expects to have jobs for 500-600 workers and management.



Arnold Worldwide and its associate firm Havas Media will also have their workspace in the Burnham, taking up some 125,000 square feet.  
Rising next to the Burnham Building is Millennium Tower, a 625-foot edifice that will include several hundred luxury housing units residences above about 100,000 square feet of retail space.



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# Checking in on Father Jim Martin

By Ed Forry

When CBS announced last month that its longtime late night comedian David Letterman would soon retire, it didn't take long before the network named his successor: Stephen Tyrone Colbert, the quick-witted host of the satirical program "The Colbert Report" that appears four nights a week on Comedy Central, was quickly named to the role.

Colbert, the South Carolinian comedian whose ancestors emigrated from Ireland before and during the Great Famine, is also a Sunday school teacher at his hometown Catholic parish in New Jersey, where he lives with his wife and three children.

A Jesuit priest, Father Jim Martin, often joins Colbert on his program, and has developed a unique role as a sort of "chaplain" to the Comedy Central audience. Thanks in large part to Colbert's support, Father Martin has seen his ministry grow across television and the burgeoning "social media" platforms of Twitter and Facebook.

In some ways, the Jesuit is the reincarnation of the great TV priest, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, whose weekly telecasts in the 1950s were a staple for many American households. It is easy to remember Bishop Sheen using chalk and a blackboard as he gave his half hour talks, always writing the initials "JMJ" across the top.

For his part, Jim Martin has become a prolific writer and spiritual adviser, always available for informed Christian commentary. During Lent, he appeared with the commentators on MSNBC's Morning Joe program, and later he was especially incisive in his commentaries on the canonization of the two popes, St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II.

At the end of April, Father Martin told his 70,000 Facebook followers that he was joining a weekend retreat in Gloucester, and those of us who are his Facebook friends received daily messages from him. Here's a sample:

*Morning meditation: This weekend, while I was helping to direct a retreat at Eastern Point Retreat House in Gloucester, Mass. heard the most beautiful reflections on Jesus's friendship with women, from my co-directors. The first was on the Woman at the Well, from Kay Hanningan, PBVM; and the second on Mary Magdalene from Joanne Fantini, CSJA.*

*Joanne, quoting the New Testament scholar Sandra Schneiders, IHM, said something wonderful about Mary Magdalene: In the Gospel of John, Mary Magdalene was the first person to whom Jesus appeared after the Resurrection. Jesus charges her to tell the Good News to the other disciples. This is the origin of my favorite title for Mary: 'Apostle to the Apostle.'*

*But as Schneiders writes, for the time between Mary's encounter with the Risen Lord and when she told the other disciples, she was the only person who knew about the Resurrection.*

*For an hour or two, then, Mary Magdalene \*was\* the church.*

*It made me wonder: What would it mean for us to embody the church, for us to proclaim the message of the Resurrection with our whole selves? What would it mean to \*be\* the Resurrection for others?*

*Evening meditation: 30-second retreat. - Think of the ocean as an image for the all-powerful God. Imagine that as the waves recede, they carry out your worries with them, which are given over completely to God. - Eastern Point Retreat House, Gloucester, Mass.*

Jim Martin's regular postings on Facebook can be like mini-retreat moments. For me, his meditations from his Gloucester retreat are wonderful reminders of that time long ago, in 1961, when I joined 40 classmates from BC High on retreat at that marvelous spiritual enclave on the rocky shores of Eastern Point. Marvelous times, and wondrous spiritual memories.

# Weak unionist leaders allow for organized crime, extreme voices

By Joe Leary  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

April was quite a month in Northern Ireland. Despite the best efforts of Irish President Michael D. Higgins and Queen Elizabeth II to increase understanding between Ireland and the UK, serious problems occurred in the North, including rioting, racist attacks, and petty sectarian speeches.



Joe Leary

It is hard to be sympathetic toward some of the political/terrorist groups and individuals that still break the law and make inflammatory remarks. It is not that Unionism is dying; it is more that their leaders are being marginalized. Like the more moderate Republicans here in the United States who have to beware of Tea Party extremists, the Unionist leaders have to curry favor with the extremists in their party.

Meanwhile on the Nationalist side, Martin McGuinness and other Sinn Fein politicians, including Sinn Fein Lord Mayor of Belfast Mairtin O Muilleoir, are basking in praiseful daily headlines for their generous participation in the queen's dinner for the Irish President at Windsor Castle in London. It was a thinking reaction to an opportunity to further the cause of peace.

In a reaction to Sinn Fein attendance, an English Conservative radical, Lord Norman Tebbit, former member of the British Parliament, called for Minister McGuinness to be "shot in the back by the IRA" for attending the dinner. It was a comment typical of the intensity that still exists. After some pointed media reaction, Tebbit apologized.

It is a fact that extremist views amongst the Unionist groups are still held firmly in Northern Ireland. Those who see things that way seem possessed by animosity towards anything Catholic or anything other than themselves. Jim Allister, a Unionist member of the of the Northern Ireland Assembly known for his extremism, has called for a ban on GAA shirts on University campuses. He claimed the shirt was "creating a substantial chill factor" for Protestant students at the University of Ulster. He was roundly criticized and ridiculed by many but he clearly thinks at least some of his constituency approved of his call for the ban.

Peter Robinson, the Unionist First Minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly, in a grand gesture and with an apparent change of heart, now says he will be happy to meet Pope Francis if he visits Northern Ireland. He previously had said he would not meet the Catholic pontiff. The reversal may have come after all

the praise McGuinness received from his attendance at the queen's dinner. All of this makes the Unionists appear to be playing some sort of game rather than focusing on better government policies.

Late March and April witnessed more violent attacks on police and members of the Belfast community by Unionist/loyalist paramilitaries. Police said both the Ulster Defense Association (UDA) and the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) were involved. In the town of Larne on the night of March 30, a hundred or so men, a number of them hooded and masked, attacked and destroyed the houses of new immigrants to Northern Ireland. Police said the many of them were carrying sledgehammers and wielding baseball bats. Several cars were burned. Police arrested some of the hoodlums, and the next week another riot was held in nearby Carrickfergus to protest the arrests. This caused police to publicly warn residents to stay away from Carrickfergus. This is a strange way to encourage business investment.

Attacking immigrants is not new. Unionist/Loyalists paramilitaries have decided Catholics are bad enough; they don't want foreigners, too. Polish families, Chinese families, and anyone different-looking have been beaten and had their houses damaged. Police have said the attacks in Larne were carried out by the UDA. Not to be outdone, the UVF was actively attacking immigrants and their homes Unionist strongholds East and South Belfast, police said. The newspapers call attacks on foreign immigrants racist while attacks between Catholics and Protestants are called sectarian.

According to the *Belfast Telegraph*, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has released figures indicating that two racist attacks occur every day in Belfast. Most are against Polish and Chinese immigrants.

These are not North/South issues or Catholic /Protestant issues; they are a sickness within the Loyalist paramilitary community that leadership in the city has been unable to overcome. Educators in Northern Ireland will tell you that one of their biggest problems in the classroom is the prevalence of illiteracy amongst male Protestant youths. How do you communicate the values of right and wrong if a portion of the community can neither read nor write?

All the while, the ground is shifting in Northern Ireland, especially in education. The *Belfast Telegraph* published its rankings of Northern Ireland's grammar schools on March 31, 2014. They announced their study with the headline, "Every one of Northern Ireland's top five schools is a Catholic grammar." Month by month, the Catholic community seems to be achieving more. Maybe Unionist leaders would better serve their community by strengthening the education of their young people.

## Off the Bench

# Reflections on reaching 75

By James W. Dolan  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Having now for 75 years followed life's path, I find the climbing more difficult, the upgrade steeper, and the trail narrower as I move on. There are moments, however, where one can rest, look back, and reflect on the journey.

I have lived during the terms of 13 presidents and through 6 wars, one of which, the Second World War, was necessary. In light of what has happened in North Korea, that "conflict" was probably justified. Vietnam was not. The Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq remain questionable and long term they may be viewed as not worth the effort.

The Vietnam War, the sexual revolution, the drug culture, and the erosion of religious faith had profound effects on society in the last half of the last century. Legal or illegal and right or wrong provided less restraint than good or evil – the moral absolutes of an earlier time.

The churches of my youth were filled with people seeking meaning, purpose, and direction. Secularism, materialism, self-indulgence, and my church's failure to renew itself and confront its own failings undermined its influence. With a new emphasis on love, compassion, tolerance, and understanding, that may change.

Age provides a frame of reference. It makes one a witness to extraordinary changes – some good, others bad – that have occurred over a lifetime. The one constant is human nature. We are flawed creatures. Some of us struggle to identify and overcome weaknesses while others are oblivious. Are we more honest, more truthful, or less violent? Is our democracy better able to identify and serve the common good? Are we becoming "exceptional" due to our weaknesses rather than to our strengths?

That we have made important progress in many areas is undeniable – race relations, gay rights, health care, and technology, for example. At times it appears that technology is consuming us. While recognizing its importance and inevitability, I worry that in a commu-

nications age, we are wed to our devices. Knowing more, we understand less. Constantly stimulated by trivia, we have less time for reflection and prayer.

I have long been of the opinion that what we view as progress carries an entirely new set of often unanticipated problems, some of which are more difficult to solve than the underlying condition. Each so-called remedy or reform brings a whole new set of challenges.

The unintended consequences of industrialization are contributing to climate change. Technology is eliminating jobs and will continue to do so. Improved health care means people are living longer. With more money needed to care for the old and infirm, fewer resources are available to address the needs of the young and productive. The challenges of the 21st century will be every bit as difficult, and the consequences of failure more devastating than those of the past.

Great wealth underscores our most enduring inequality – the disparity between the "haves" and "have-nots." In what may be the most insidious threat to the future of our democracy, the power elite, in aiming to protect their status, may be able to corrupt the process of governance. We are at a tipping point and so far we seem incapable of resolving this dilemma.

History teaches us that great nations come and go. External threats foster internal decay. Decline is inevitable. Power and wealth carry the seeds of their own destruction. Great societies tend to falter from dysfunction, corruption, inflated notions of their own invulnerability, and naïve beliefs in their own "exceptionalism."

Throughout history, empires have been born, one by one, have enjoyed a period of influence and prosperity but eventually have taken their place in that long line of has-been nations, dreaming of a glory that has slowly receded into the gathering mist shrouding empires of the past.

Remember the final lines of "Ozymandias" as Percy Bysshe Shelley describes an immense monument half buried in the desert. On the pedestal, these words:

"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings;  
Look on my works, ye mighty and despair!  
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay  
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare  
The lone and level sands stretch far away."

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



# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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# Matters of conscience: the abortion-immigration tie-in

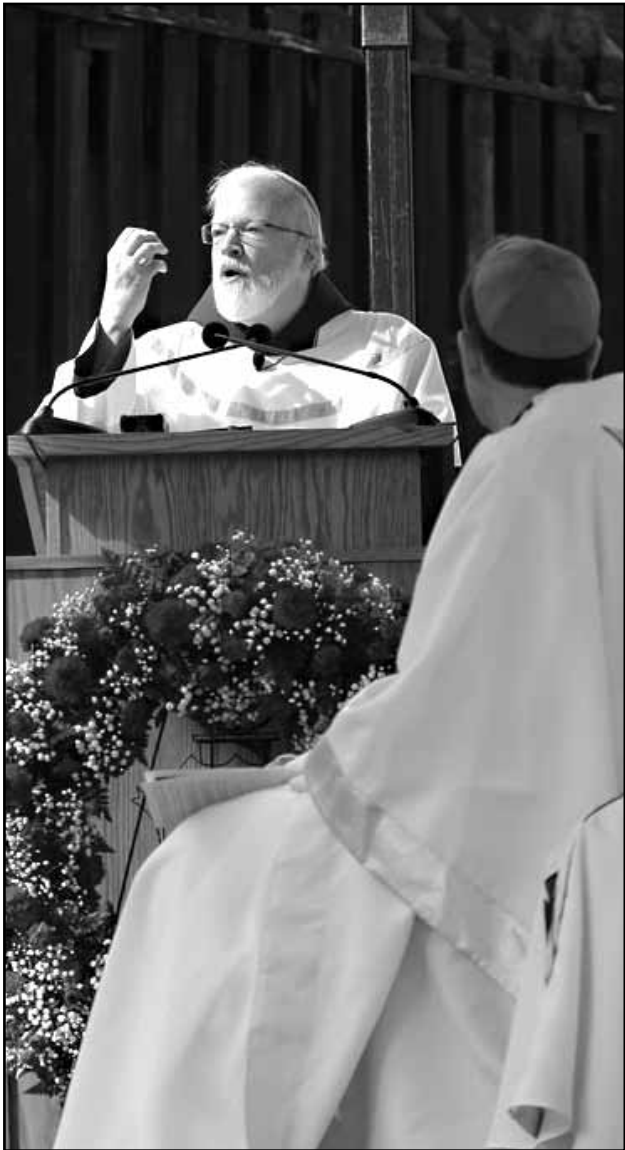
By PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

As the 2014 mid-term elections unfurl and as the 2016 presidential campaigns loom ever closer, Cardinal Sean O'Malley and his fellow Roman Catholic cardinals and bishops face a dilemma on the issue of immigration. O'Malley, while recently celebrating a Mass on the United States-Mexico border, asserted that immigration reform is "another pro-life issue." In those words lurks a challenge to the long marriage between America's Catholic brass and the Republican Party. So, too, do his words pose perhaps unwelcome soul-searching among conservative Irish American Catholics – how to balance fervent anti-abortion beliefs with O'Malley's belief that pro-life convictions include illegal, undocumented immigrants. Few in the Irish American community – be they conservative, liberal, or somewhere in the murky middle of politics – are unaware that many Irish men, women, and children share that illegal status with Mexicans and others.

So what are pro-life Catholic voters who invariably vote for Republican candidates on one issue – abortion – supposed to do when it is the other party, the Democrats, that has a far better track record on immigration – notwithstanding the accurate right-wing mantra that the Obama Justice Department has deported illegal immigrants in record numbers?

In an interview with the *Boston Globe's* John Allen, Cardinal O'Malley upped the moral ante with his admonition that pro-life Catholics can no longer "turn a blind eye" to the human suffering and the tragedies that are taking place regarding the treacherous border crossing and the mass deportation of undocumented migrants. In short, Cardinal Sean contends that all Catholics must support immigration reform.

Further complicating the issue for conservative Irish Catholics who have no love for any new immigrants unless they hail from the old sod, likely Republican presidential contender Jeb Bush has set off a firestorm in the party with his deeply held conviction that compassionate immigration reform is an issue that can no longer be condemned by Republicans and accorded sympathetic lip-service by all too many Democrats. With a Mexican-born wife and as a convert to Catholicism, Bush would probably attempt to practice what he preaches on the issue; however, if he were to beat Hillary – yes, she *is* running – in 2016, a monolithic, even Neanderthal, impediment to his desire for immigration reform would be a large wing of his own party.



Cardinal Seán O'Malley of Boston and 7 other bishops celebrated Mass on April 1 on the US-Mexico border in Nogales, Arizona to commemorate the deaths of migrants in the desert and to pray for immigration reform.  
Photo by George Martell/The Pilot Media Group

Anyone who caught New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan's gushing words about Jeb Bush in his interview with Nora O'Donnell saw and heard what might prove the blueprint for conservative Catholics on the dual pro-life issues track. In what can only be considered a fawning endorsement of Bush without his actually uttering the word "endorsement," Dolan seemed to be giving a wink and a nod to American Catholics to vote for Bush because he is pro-life on abortion and pro-immigration reform. What Dolan and his fellow princes of the American Church won't say is that it's unlikely that a Bush presidency will have the stomach for a real battle on immigration reform with Republican senators and House members united in their love for the unborn and their contempt for immigrants whose desperation to feed their families is, as Jeb Bush correctly notes, often "an act of love."

Turning from conscience to commerce, the recent announcement that Irish clothing chain Primark has signed on to open its first US store, in the historic Burnham (the erstwhile Filene's) Building is perhaps fitting. It was an Irish immigrant who opened the first store in Boston's annals – 382 years ago, in 1632. The entrepreneur's name was John Cogan, described by historian John B. Cullen as "among those who came over [in 1630] in the so-called Winthrop fleet, composed of "people from all parts," including "several merchants from the maritime ports of Ireland, of whom John Cogan was one." Cogan originally settled in Dorchester – making him one of the original OFDs – but, as Cullen writes, that with "the keen and far-seeing eye of the man of business, he quickly discovered that Boston was destined to be the location for men of his stamp, and he moved there in 1632.

The Irish merchant quickly earned a place of influence and esteem as one of Boston's first commercial and political movers and shakers, and on a plot of land on the northeast corner of the future State and Washington Streets, he opened a store that stocked dry goods, hardware, and numerous other items for the fledgling settlement's first business establishment.

It was from Reverend Wilson, the pastor of Boston's first church, that Cogan purchased the lot for his store. Cullen points out, "To him [Cogan] belongs the honor of being the father of Boston merchants." Cogan owned a large amount of property, and one can only speculate how much his tract at the intersection of modern Beacon and Tremont streets – 322 feet on Beacon and 70 on Tremont – would be worth today.



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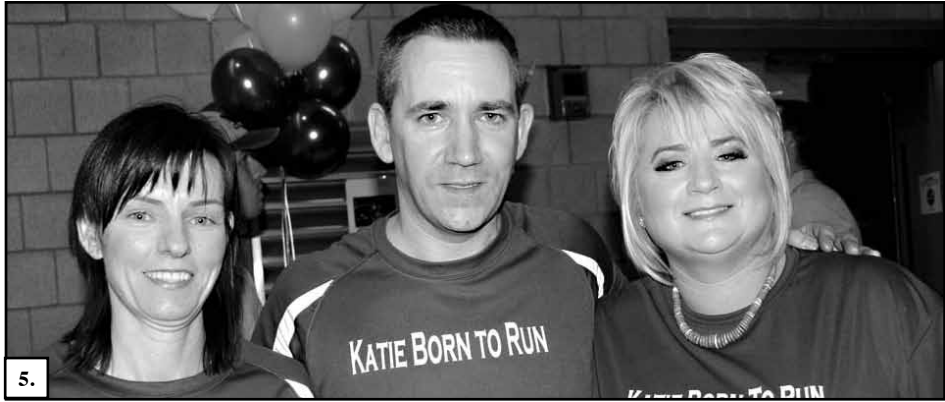
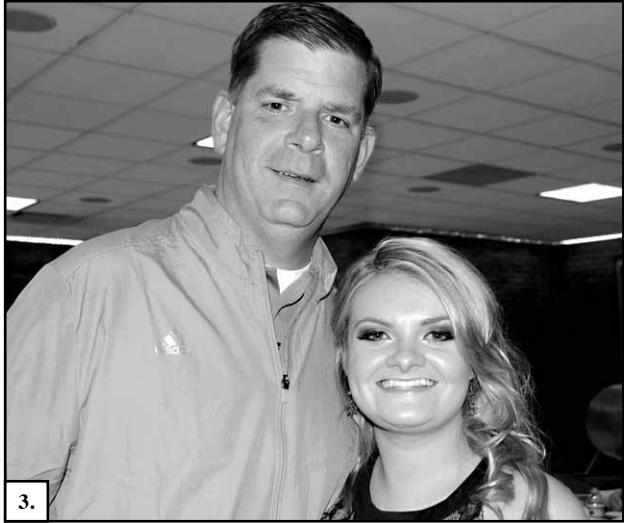
BRETT'S BOSTON

By Margaret Brett Hastings

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

A large gathering of supporters turned out at Dorchester's IBEW Hall April 19 for a fundraiser to benefit Katie O'Halloran, a special needs law school student from Connemara who was born with Femur Fibulka Ulna Syndrome (abnormalities of the thigh, forearm, and calf bones) and lives with no arms and a short, deformed left leg. The event was organized by a 14-member committee headed by Gabriel Mannion, owner of Twelve Bens Pub in Dorchester, with Mayor Martin J. Walsh as honorary chairman. The event raised funds to cover the costs of Bebionis 3 prosthetic arms for Ms. O'Halloran.

1.) Johnny Joyce, Dor; Pat Corbett, Brighton; Joe Puliofico, Milton; Ann And Tom Gannon, Dedham; 2.) Paddy Mc Grath, Quincy; Kathleen and J.J. Nee, Cashel, Galway; John Joe Greally, Stoughton; 3.) Mayor Martin Walsh, Katie O'Halloran; 4.) Maurice And Eileen O'Connor, Needham; Tommy and Una Halloran Quincy; Noreen McGrath, Quincy; 5.) Carmel Tuohy, Pat Nee, Eileen Fox Quincy; 6.) Rosario Sullivan, Dor; Fionna Joyce, Stoughton; Cathy Sullivan Joyce, Stoughton; 7.) Joe Puliafico, Milton; Michael Cloherty, Carna, Galway; 8.) Tom and Anne Conneely, Newton; 9.) Val Feeney, Norwood; Joanne Folan, Dor.; 10.) Tracy and J.P. Keane, Braintree; 11.) Laura Davis, Jamaica Plain; John Ahearn, Jamaica Plain; 12.) Joe Lydon, Dor; Coley Lydon, Walpole; 13.) Maureen Curran, Quincy; Michael Mulkerrin, Quincy; 14.) Cathy Gray, Jacqui Gray, Eileen Murphy, Dor; Heather Corcoran, Arlington.

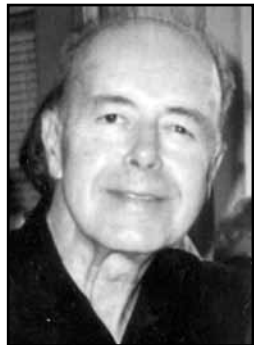




# Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

**Grand Time On Seamus Heaney Birthday** – On Sunday afternoon, April 13, at the auditorium on the Bridgewater State University campus an audience of friends and fans came together to mark the 75th birthday of the poet **Seamus Heaney**, who died last August. It was an old-fashioned, memory-laden birthday bash with stories, anecdotes, and travels with Seamus tales, interrupted by applause and laughter. A lovely day for a lovely man.



**Bill O'Donnell**

The speakers and many in the auditorium had known Seamus for decades and knew of his ties to the Massachusetts state university system and to an array of faculty members who kept their close ties to the poet, both before and after his Nobel Prize award in 1995.

The principal organizer of the birthday tribute was Bridgewater State University Professor Emeritus **Maureen Connelly**, who worked closely on the program with Bridgewater's Librarian and rare books archivist **Orson Kingsley**.

Maureen and Seamus were friends for forty years. She made available to the university Heaney notes, letters, and assorted artifacts that she had accumulated over the years of friendship with the internationally celebrated poet.

Among the speakers and participants in the warm, engaging afternoon of fond reminiscences and happy times spent with the poet were **Kevin Cullen**, the *Boston Globe* columnist; **Shaun O'Connell**, author and professor of English at UMass Boston; **Robert 'Bobby' Breen**, a retired Boston firefighter and inspiration for Heaney's poem, "Helmet," and **Catherine Shannon**, professor emerita at Westfield State College. In addition, a number of those attending also participated with personal recollections of the poet.

The musical accompaniment, much of it performed in tandem with readings from the poet's writings, was by Tipperary-born harpist, **Mairead Doherty**, a long-time friend of Seamus who has written music for the harp inspired by Heaney's poetry. She is a graduate of the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin and has resided in the Boston area for years.

It was a grand afternoon in Bridgewater and Seamus Heaney, who loved the craic and the chat and was gifted with genius and a kind heart, would have loved the free-wheeling event.

**Religious Columnist Criticizes Border Mass** – **George Wiegel**, a widely-read syndicated columnist appearing in Catholic regional newspapers, was heavily critical of Boston's Cardinal **Sean O'Malley** and eight bishops for holding Mass on the border between Nogales, Arizona, and Mexico. Wiegel, a dependable "yes man" over the years for conservative elements in the Vatican, told a ETWN television audience of his displeasure. He called the Mass, which included the delivery of communion wafers through the 20-foot-high security fence, "politicized" and "political theater." He also expressed concern about immigration reform and the Catholic approach to that hot button issue.

In his Nogales remarks, O'Malley said, "The desert is lined with unmarked graves of thousands. We are here today to say they are not forgotten." The cardinal, who speaks fluent Spanish, has been outspoken in favor of reform that includes a path to citizenship and a halt to an "inhumane deportation and detention system" that often splits apart families.

Somebody should send a memo to Wiegel that the Church is changing and he represents the rear guard elements of discredited Vatican ills. We're moving on, George!

**Belfast Authors To Sue BC Over Tape Miscues** – According to the Belfast Telegraph, the leading newspaper in the North for Protestants/unionists, the Belfast Project authors are "intending to sue Boston College after the university admitted procedures about when controversial material would be published weren't checked by lawyers."

The intended plaintiffs, **Ed Moloney**, **Anthony McIntyre**, and **Wilson McArthur**, who did the research and supervised the tape recordings, contend that BC "didn't check with its lawyers before collecting taped confessional oral histories from IRA and UVF members detailing their involvement in murder and other crimes committed during the Troubles."

The key individual representing Boston College in the agreement covering the taped interviews is the former librarian at BC's Burns Library, **Robert K. O'Neil**. He retired after 26 years at BC and is moving to Arizona to enjoy the weather there and spend more time with his grandchildren.

Moloney, an Irish-born veteran journalist and author, said regarding the agreement, "We went ahead on the basis that the contract had been cleared with lawyers and it was safe for the participants. Had we known the true position, the project would have been stillborn." It is at this delicate intersection where Moloney and his colleagues' contention and Boston College's intentions re the tape recordings and legal backup come into sharp conflict with one another. That conflict, resulting in an ongoing bitterly contentious relationship between the Moloney group and BC, focuses directly on O'Neill, his central role in the project, and his statements on

the record regarding his actions as Burns Librarian.

O'Neill stated in open federal court that he had never read the agreement supporting the Belfast Project at BC, for which he was nominally in charge. Coupled with that is the fact that O'Neill now admits (in a major Chronicle of Higher Education article) that it was a "mistake" not to specify that confidentiality only extended "to the extent American law allows." O'Neill also says he did not run the wording past a lawyer.

An interesting sidebar item to the immediate issues in any upcoming lawsuit is that O'Neill and **Thomas Hachey**, executive director of BC's Irish program, each received, according to the Belfast Telegraph, a 25 percent cut of the royalties from Moloney's best-selling "Voices from the Grave." In the preface to the book, O'Neill and Hachey described it as "the inaugural volume of a planned series of publications drawn from BC's Oral History Archive on the Troubles."

(Disclosure: Bob O'Neill and I served for many years together as directors of the Eire Society of Boston. We were also both presidents of the society and I wrote Bob's citation when he was awarded the Society's Gold Medal. Also, Bob and I had discussions and correspondence when I was inquiring about Boston College acquiring the papers and artifacts of Dublin author **Christy Brown**, of "My Left Foot" fame.)

**The Flattery Never Ends** – It seems that the British have a fixation on co-opting Irish books and authors for its UK books lists. Just as we Gaels are becoming used to having Ireland annexed in print as part of the British Isles (even saw it in the pages of the New York Times Books section), we still see Irish books labeled British. This time it was a major British newspaper, the *London Telegraph*, taking ownership in its "top 20 British novels" of these: Joyce's "Ulysses," Flann O'Brien's "At Swim Two-Birds," Iris Murdoch's "The Sea, The Sea," and John Banville's "The Sea." Seamus Heaney had a wry disclaimer when they did it to him.

**American Investors Buy Vast NI properties** – A deep-pocket American investment firm has purchased some 850 properties, most of them in Northern Ireland. The sales also include other properties in the Irish Republic, the UK, and Europe. The transaction between Cerberus Capital Management and NAMA, the Irish government's troubled assets bank, saw land and buildings valued before the crash at almost \$7 billion sold for \$1.5 billion. Many of the properties are located in once-strong commercial locations across the North.

The new deal means that Cerberus, with solid Boston area links, is now Northern Ireland's biggest landlord. The price had all the elements of a fire sale, but NAMA was keen to sell off many of the properties they had acquired under duress during the 2008-9 crash and the subsequent recession. The Stormont government in the North, represented by First Minister **Peter Robinson**, expressed delight, saying the deal was excellent news for the economy. NAMA was also happy to dramatically cut its inventory.

The huge sale, though far from Boston and the US, could have an impact on some corporate holdings in the Boston area. Cerberus, organized in 1992, is one of the world's leading private investment firms with extensive property holdings in this part of the US and around the world. Familiar names dot the corporate chain of command.

Top Cerberus executives include former vice president **Dan Quayle** and **John Snow**, Treasury Secretary in the second Bush administration. Many readers, especially given Boston's large Irish population, might be surprised to learn that Cerberus already owns a community-based local hospital company, Steward Health Care, which it bought in 2010. Cerberus/Steward owns eleven area hospitals, including Carney, St. Elizabeth's, Norwood Hospital, and Quincy Medical Center; around here it employs 17,000 people and serves more than 150 communities.

**The Fractious Conservative Circus** – It must be getting closer to 2016 or folks like **Rand Paul**, a sure candidate for the Republican nomination in 2016, wouldn't be trying to create some headlines or possibly move to the center with the no-incumbent election on tap. The growling drum beat from Paul, a US senator from Kentucky, is his claim that **Dick Cheney**, who was out of government in 1995, said that going to war in Iraq would be a disaster, too expensive, no exit strategy, etc. Shift to Cheney as CEO at Halliburton. Then he becomes **George W. Bush's** VP and suddenly, says Paul, Cheney is a war dog, all for going into Iraq, where just as coincidentally Halliburton and Cheney can make a "modest living" with one of America's biggest military contractors. Maybe it's just another mean-spirited rumor. Cheney already clearly qualifies for war criminal status.

Maybe this isn't true either. Latest news from the corporate boardroom is that Texas-based KBR, a long-time subsidiary of the aforementioned Halliburton, is under investigation for claims that the company required employees seeking to report fraud to sign confidentiality agreements.

And news from Planet Beck. **Glenn Beck**, broadcasting from a closet near you, was covering last year's Boston Marathon bombing when he zeroed in on a Saudi Arabian student, and falsely called the student a suspect and also repeatedly identified the innocent young man as a participant in crimes after the student had been cleared. The student, himself injured in the bombing, is suing deep pockets Beck for defamation and other insults. Here's hoping that Beck, now out in the wilderness, has some money left from his earlier highly paid network gigs to soothe the plaintiff's pain and suffering.

## NOTABLE QUOTE

"Deep wounds, which this has turned out to be, because it was about collusion which affected the whole of Northern Ireland. A deep wound cannot be stitched over and just left because it won't heal. It will fester and eventually burst. And that is what's happening in Northern Ireland at the minute."

– **Geraldine Finucane**, widow of Belfast lawyer **Patrick**, who was assassinated at his home while having breakfast with his wife and children in 1989. She has been asking Britain for an open, public hearing for years without success.

**Bertie Still Here, Playing Small Ball** – **Bertie Ahern**, former Taoiseach and Fianna Fail Leader and retired statesman, had a few unkind words to say about Fianna Fail leader **Micheal Martin** and even avid Bertie watchers are unsure what raised the Ahern bile. All Bertie said was he "didn't think much of Martin" and he "wouldn't be saying anything nice about him." Hardly the words of an ogre, as **Charlie Haughey** painted Bertie, and usually not enough to raise a ripple even among the thin-skinned denizens of the Dail.

But we have unearthed the reason for Bertie's pique. It seems some eight months ago Deputy Martin, speaking on Northern Ireland at the Merriman Summer School, mentioned a litany of former politicians from **Albert Reynolds** to **John Hume**. But not a word, nary a mention, of the man who presided over the closing days of the Celtic Tiger. Nothing about Bertie. And that wrapped it. Who can blame Bertie for reacting to Martin's snub. He didn't savage anybody when they took away his car and driver. But leaving him off the heroes list. Take that Micheal!

**The Last Time I saw Cobh** – It has been eons since I last walked the seaside streets of Cobh. What triggered memory of that historic port of departure was the report that a town memorial garden with an impressive glass wall has been opened there 102 years after 123 passengers boarded the Titanic at its last port of call. Only 44 who boarded her that day would live to talk about their interrupted voyage.

When last we were in Cobh it was a quiet Friday some days after the 9/11 bombings in 2001. We had overnighted in quiet Waterford with friends and had begun our drive to Cobh for a quick visit and then on eastward. The auto, a Fiat, was down to fumes. Out to dinner late with friends I neglected to get some petrol and that day was the official Day of Commemoration for the 9/11 losses, so ordered by the sympathetic Irish government.

My fellow travelers and I began an unpromising search for a station foolish enough to ignore the Garda. We drove on, mile after mile, slowing, then pulling into stations that were closed. Were their no renegades on the Irish roads? Finally, I saw a door flash open, and I pulled over. A station owner was retrieving something from his office. The signs outside read "No Petrol Today."

After 10 minutes of pleading, and reminding him we were Yanks and on our way to relatives across the country, and how much we loved Ireland, all our trips there, chatter, chatter. Your station owner never said a word, reopened his office, and, still silent, he appeared to do something to a wall panel inside. He motioned me to pull next to the pump, and he did his thing. Wished us a whispered good luck on our trip and wouldn't accept a penny more than the pump display called for. We never saw another petrol station opened on our journey that day.

## RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Report on the Irish banking elite: **David Drumm**, the ex-Anglo-Irish bank chief, owes his old bank some \$7 million on an unpaid loan he took out during the halcyon days when he was making \$6 or \$7 million annually. Not a word from Dublin about a trial or the like. ... The queen in London just turned 88, and not a word about her son, the presumed heir to the throne. Do you think he's timed out? ... Last count for **Trina Vargo's** Irish Alliance, with 17 supportive members of Congress signing on, but nothing happening. ... The West is having a rough time. Now it's the Aran Islands Air service desperate to keep the planes flying between Galway and the isles. ... Galway's Eyre Square has already had one botched city square re-do and plans are on to build an open air concert space. Better luck this time. ... Killybegs, the fishing village in Donegal, has some new jobs on the horizon to staff the coming world's largest marine food plant. ... The North is still nicely exploiting TV's Game of Thrones film locales for visiting tourists. ... **Ted Kennedy, Jr.** is running for a state senate seat in his home area in Connecticut. Nice to see someone willing to start at the political bottom. He's a gutsy 52 and we wish him luck. ... For former NI Secretary of State **Peter Hains'** call for amnesty for all re Troubles-related crime, a solid rejection by his own party. ... Maybe age is catching up to me but "The Pope's Cologne" perfume is a bit over the top. If the Vatican is broke, throw some big-lira art works out to auction. ... A 100-year old Galway whiskey from the Nun Island Distillery just sold at auction for \$5,500. ... The tallest building in Ireland (Belfast's Obel Tower) at 28 stories has just been sold for \$32 million. ... If you're in Belfast, they have just opened an exhibit, "Art of the Troubles," at the Ulster Museum thru September. Another perspective.

Finally, please spend some money on holiday in Ireland. The folks there could use a break. If they're home working you know they're not bankers. Those folks are all off on Marbella or the like.



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# ‘Overwhelming support’ gives lift to Team MR8

(Continued from page 1)

Benzan said later. “There are a few times in your life you get to do a great thing and do the right thing. I was lucky to be part of it. No matter how much pain, it was worth it. I was honored that they wanted me.”

Thanks to Harry Benzan and his fellow Team MR8 members— all hand-picked by Bill and Denise Richard and a small committee of friends— the inaugural marathon team has raised more than \$1.25 million for the Martin W. Richard Charitable Foundation— more than doubling its initial goal of \$500,000. More than 150 runners ran in Martin’s memory in the marathon or in the 5k tribute run held the Saturday before— including a large contingent from Martin’s home neighborhood. The Richards— Bill, Denise, Henry, and Jane— were active participants during preliminary road races held on Saturday and “felt the warmth of the community and especially Dorchester, as they ran with their team,” said Larry Marchese, a spokesman for the family.

“Saturday afternoon, in a fitting moment at the BAA Youth Relays, Henry anchored his Youth Enrichment Services (YES) team to a victory, which filled Bill with pride,” said Marchese.

The marathon team featured 102 runners, including more than two dozen Dorchester people.

Katy Kelly, a Pope’s Hill resident and a friend of the Richard family, was one of them. It was the fourth Boston Marathon for her, and she finished in a speedy 3:30. The crowd was “just electric” and she was lifted the whole way by their energy and solidarity. Katy’s daughter had drawn a peace sign on her yellow Team MR8 jersey. Her husband, Eddie Kelly, wrote Martin’s name on her arms.

“From the very start in Hopkinton and all the way to finish, there was constant cheering: “Go Martin, go Team MR8!” I was thinking I was Martin the entire race. He was in my mind and in my heart the whole way,” said Katy, who started to struggle a bit around Mile 22, but got a huge boost from the crowd through Kenmore Square and beyond.

“It was the best I ever felt. I felt like a seasoned marathoner going into it. But running in honor of Martin gave me so much more inspiration and energy. I felt such a strong connection to him and it was such a motivator. I truly believe that’s what carried me through,” said Kelly.

Michelle Hobin, running in her third marathon, agreed that this one was different because of the overwhelming support for the team members along the course.

“It was just a lot more meaningful,” said Hobin, who teaches kindergarten at Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy in Neponset, where Martin was a kindergarten pupil. “I would think about that when I was running. There’s a point where it gets tough and you think about stopping, but people would be cheering and it was very encouraging. It reminded us why we were running.”

Patrick Brophy, another four-time Boston Marathon runner from Dorchester, said that memories of turning onto Boylston Street “send shivers up your spine.”

“From the moment you started, it was 26.2 miles of love,” said Brophy. “Even people who were passing by on the course, everyone had a pat on the back, thanking you for running. People were yelling out Martin’s name. It was amazing.”

Brophy said that the crowd’s support became extremely helpful to him around Mile 22— near Cleveland Circle— where the long stretch up Beacon Street toward Kenmore Square seems to last forever. “Those last four miles can bury you. It was tough. It was hotter than expected and little to no breeze and you can see that Citgo sign for a long while.”

The final blocks on Boylston made it all worth the effort, said Brophy, who ran last year, but could not finish due to the terror attack. “I knew the crowd would be wild on Boylston Street and it surpassed my expectations. It was 20 people deep and people were going nuts,” he remembered. “When you passed the spots where those bombs went off, it’s hard not to think of what they went through and how resilient the Richards are. It gives you that extra boost. It’s hard to go past those spots, but it gives you a moment to reflect.”

After the marathon, most of the Team MR8 members repaired to a Back Bay restaurant for celebratory drinks. Many of the Dorchester delegation finished the celebration at the Eire Pub.

And what about next year?

It’s going to be tough to top that, but it won’t be tough to keep fundraising,” said Brophy. “It was incredibly fulfilling endeavor. You think about what brought you to this point and you look at that Dorchester community and you know that it’s different than any other neighborhood in the world. Everyone surpassed their goals, in large part because the community rallied behind everyone—every one I talked to donated to multiple runners, multiple times. I’d love to duplicate that.”

“The entire weekend was in incredibly emotional one for everyone involved,” added Larry Marchese. “It was also an undeniably powerful means of reclaiming our finish line, our race, and our city. It has been a long, painful journey back, but the Richards were pleased to be back on Boylston Street, and honored to have so many donning the bright yellow Team MR8 shirts with them.”



From left, the Duchess of Cornwall, the Prince of Wales, Queen Elizabeth II, Mrs. Sabina Higgins, President Higgins, and the Duke of Edinburgh. Photo courtesy BBC

## A first: Queen welcomes Irish head of state; President Higgins stops in at Windsor Castle

On April 8, Irish President Michael D Higgins met Queen Elizabeth II and her family on the first-ever state visit to Britain by Ireland’s head of state.

President Higgins and his wife Sabina met the monarch at Windsor Castle – three years after the Queen’s historic visit to Dublin heralded the start of a new chapter in the relationship between the two countries. The significance was been further deepened with the presence of Northern Ireland Deputy First

Minister and former IRA commander Martin McGuinness, who attended a banquet hosted by the Queen - a move unthinkable only a decade ago.

The streets of Windsor were decked out in Union flags and Irish Tricolours ahead of the visit. After travelling to the Berkshire town from London with the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, the president and his wife were met by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

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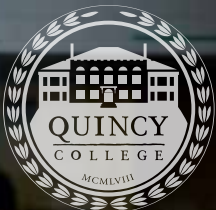
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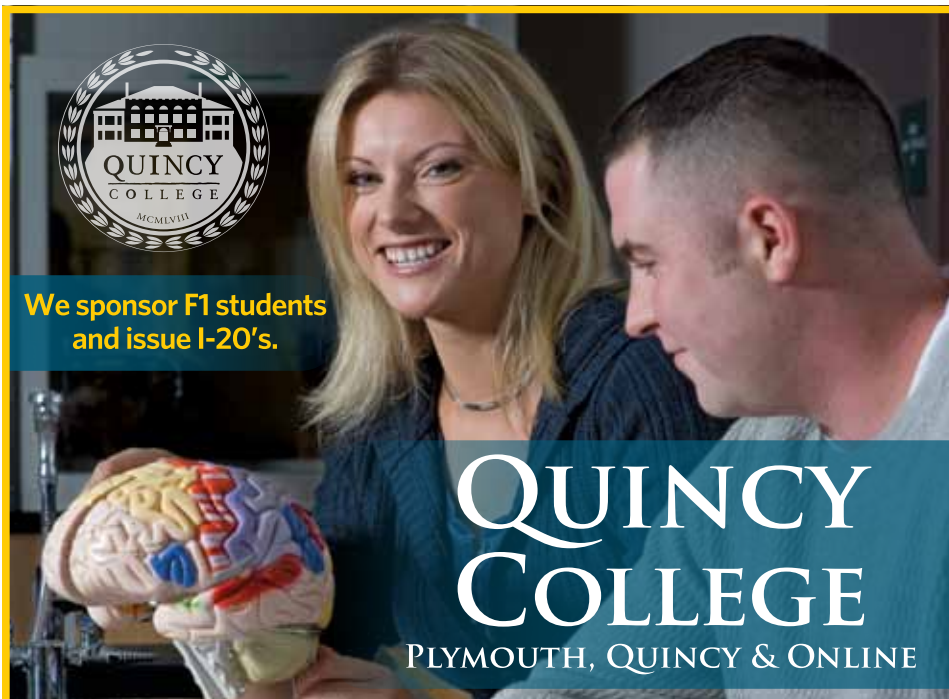
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## Catching up with Billy Donlan

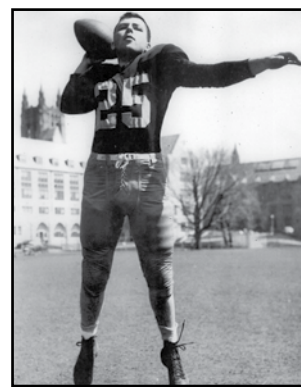
By GREG O'BRIEN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

They call up the memory him at the Heights with great reverence; he was the Doug Flutie of the 1950s. At barely five feet, eight inches tall with a big stretch, Billy Donlan was one of the finest Boston-bred quarterbacks and scholars to grace a gridiron or lecture hall. Starting on the Boston College teams of almost 60 years ago, he was among the nation's premier passers, throwing short tosses and tight 60-yard lasers with a right hand slightly larger than his left, cupping the football like a grenade at a time when most quarterbacks were tossing dirigibles.

Years earlier as a senior at BC High, Donlan was captain of three varsity sports, an All-Scholastic, All-America pick in football in leading a team that won the city championship in football. And, yes, he was class valedictorian. Every college in the nation, including Harvard over in Cambridge, coveted his brawn, and his brain.

"Billy had an incredible mind, but was rooted in the sod," says longtime friend and BC High classroom legend Bill Burke with understatement. "He was *all* we wanted to be: a brilliant student, an outstanding athlete, and a really good guy."

Billy, deeply religious since childhood, humble and reflective to the core, is still a really good guy,



**Billy Donlan at the Heights.**

but today, at 79, he can't speak for himself. That's a challenge when you've called signals at the highest level in college sports. Four years ago, Donlan, who holds a doctorate in philosophy, suffered a debilitating stroke at his home in Brighton's Oak Square after retiring as chairman of the philosophy department at Salem State College. He now lives in Spiddal outside Galway, whence came his parents to the United States, with his wife Carmel (Francis), a Spiddal native, and his daughters Claire, a doctor, and Eileen, who is studying medicine. Donlan was flown to Ireland, courtesy of a group of friends, after being discharged from Mass General.

The oldest in a family of four boys and a girl, Donlan today uses a walker while still making eye contact as he did with onrushing linemen. He understands some of what is said to him, and says his prayers at night, surrounded by family pictures and photos of him from his sporting days that seem to evoke strong emotions within.

Donlan spent most of his life carrying others, and now family and friends are carrying him. The chief supporter among them is his youngest brother, Fran, who, on his first day of class at BC High was asked to stand up as the Jesuit Father D. Augustine Keane fixed his gaze on him, and said, "So you're Billy's little brother!" He has worn Father Keane's anointed moniker with honor since then, and now, a half century or so later, he has become Billy's voice.

"Billy was a great mentor to me," says Fran, a financial adviser at Janney Montgomery in Hingham. "As a kid he made me eat raw eggs for protein, and threw tight spirals at my head to force me to react; he made me study Latin when I was ten, and on family car rides had me read 'Don Quixote' to him. They don't make 'em like Billy any more."

The Donlans are cut from a swath of tree as sturdy as an Irish oak. Their mother, Bridget (Cody), was born in Loughrea in Co. Galway; the Gaelic is Baile Locha Riach, translated "town of the grey lake." Their father, William, was raised nearby in Lisnadrishna where the family tried to make do with land and a few cows. He was strict, but deeply caring, a ditch digger as many Irishmen were upon arrival in Boston. Later, and for close to a half-century, he became a chef at St. John's Semi-

nary in Brighton where he served breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily to 400 members of the clergy. "The Monsignors got steak; the priests hot dogs and hamburgers," says Fran. So it is with pecking order.

After attending Our Lady of the Presentation School in Brighton, Billy wowed them at BC High, starting in baseball (center field), hockey (center), and football (QB) while never getting anything less than a "A" in his class work. Wrote the late Jack Conway in the *Boston Herald* of Donlan's high school exploits, "Not since Harry Agganis at his high school peak has any schoolboy displayed such amazing forward passing and all-around excellence." Agganis, nicknamed the "Golden Greek" in the late 1940s and early 1950s, passed up a career with the Cleveland Browns to play first base for the Red Sox. His early death is considered one of the greatest tragedies in Boston's sports history.

Soon Harvard, Notre Dame, and Boston College came knocking for Donlan, who wanted to play for the legendary coach Frank Leahy at Notre Dame. He took a 16-hour train ride to South Bend for a look-see from both sides. Leahy said he was impressed, but with regret he told Donlan that quarterbacks at Notre Dame had to be six feet tall at least. To Donlan, four inches had never seemed so long. And so the job went to a kid named Paul Horning, later an All-America and Heisman Trophy winner for the Irish and celebrated NFL Hall of Famer.

Stung by the decision but unbowed, Donlan accepted a scholarship at Harvard, the Proper Bostonian bastion. Then, three weeks later, he realized the Ivy League was not for a tough Catholic Irishman from Brighton, so he enrolled at Holy Cross. But, he found that the Lord works in mysterious ways. A month later, at yet another crossroad in his life, he left Worcester and enrolled at Boston College. There, a post-pattern play from where his father worked as a chef, he met a coach named Mike Holovak, who changed his life.

Holovak, who played for BC in the early 1940s, and then for the Cleveland Rams and Chicago Bears, evoked even greater grit and passion from Donlan. The rest of the story is part of BC's football history.

After graduation, Donlan earned a master's in philosophy, then declined at the last minute a call to the priesthood before earning a doctorate in philosophy at the University of Cork. The old sod has, of course, always been in his blood.

Donlan still has a house in Brighton, the same home he grew up in. It is filled with trophies, photos, and sports memorabilia, a museum of sorts. "Billy's spirit is still there," says Fran. "He will always be with us."

## 2014 Thomas S. Durant, MD Golf Tournament

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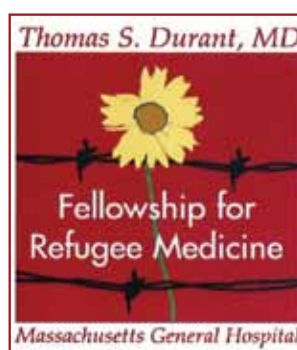
**Thomas S. Durant, MD** (1928-2001) spent his life chasing catastrophe and chaos in some of the world's most forsaken and forlorn spots. From his service as chief public health advisor in Saigon from 1966 to 1968, to a trip to Honduras in 2001 to comfort the victims of Hurricane Mitch, Dr. Durant, always found in his trademark Red Sox cap, was a beacon of hope during virtually every international humanitarian crisis in recent decades.



A lifelong resident of Dorchester, Dr. Durant graduated from Boston College, received his medical degree from Georgetown University, and completed his training in obstetrics and gynecology at Boston City Hospital. After his service in Vietnam, he joined Mass General in 1968 as a clinician and assistant director, a role he continued until his death in 2001.

Continuing his legacy and open to MGH health care professionals and staff, the **Thomas S. Durant, MD Fellowship for Refugee Medicine** seeks to honor and celebrate the life, spirit, humor, passion, joy, and the legacy of this extraordinary humanitarian by aiding victims of war, famine, and disaster.

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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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## TWICE UPON A TIME

### Aimee Doherty journeys “Into The Woods”

By R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Fairy tales are filled with princes and witches and monsters and magic. Whatever trials the characters face, the stories usually build to a happily-ever-after ending. But did you ever wonder what happened after that?

That's the jumping off point for “Into The Woods,” the Stephen Sondheim-James Lapine retelling of some of the world's most enduring fairy tales. Lyric Stage Company presents the 1987 Tony Award-winning musical from May 9 to June 15.

In this musical mash-up, the lives of Cinderella, Rapunzel, Jack & The Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood, and others are intertwined to create an adult fable of morality, responsibility, and the consequence of our actions. And to remind that we're all connected, whether we realize it or not.

The story centers on a Baker and his wife longing to have a child. They live next door to a Witch who once cursed them into their childless existence. Now, the gnarled hag offers to lift the spell if they agree to venture into the woods and prove themselves via a series of tasks.

It is on this journey that they cross paths with the other characters – also on journeys – as they attempt to collect “a cow as white as milk, a cape as red as blood, hair as yellow as corn and a slipper as pure as gold.”

They all resort to less than honorable

means to achieve what they're after. And although everyone gets his or her wish by the end of the first act, the story continues in Act Two to show how their ambitions come to haunt them.

When all is said and done, does marrying a prince really solve your problems? Does beauty trump power? As the lyrics note: “Witches can be right. Giants can be good. You decide what's right. You decide what's good.”

The Boston actress Aimee Doherty has been cast as The Witch in the ensemble at Lyric. From productions of “Nine” to “Grey Gardens,” “Wild Party,” “On the Town,” “Speed The Plow,” “Follies” and others, Doherty has become a Boston favorite. Coincidentally, this is not her first time performing “Into The Woods.” She played Cinderella in the New Rep production in 2005.

“That was the second professional production I ever did,” she said. “It really introduced me to the Boston scene because it was so well received . . . (Now) I can't wait to play The Witch. I think it's so interesting to play her because she's supernatural and I've never played a part like that before. The possibilities are kind of endless.”

Created on Broadway by Bernadette Peters (and played by Meryl Streep in the film version due out at Christmas), The Witch clashes with all the characters, but has a particularly unhealthy bond with Rapunzel. Said Aimee, “It's about the mistakes you make when you feel

like you're alone. Her relationship with Rapunzel is similar to Lenny with the bunny in ‘Of Mice and Men.’ He loves it so much that he crushes it. I think a lot of the characters have the same problem.”

While some actors find Sondheim's music and lyrics daunting and difficult, Doherty feels the opposite. “His lyrics draw me to the project,” she said. “His lyrics are second to none. They tell such a story. Half of your work is done by just singing the words. They're so descriptive.”

“Ignorance is bliss,” she added with a laugh. “Some trained singers take a look at the music and freak out. I have a little dance background and the rhythm and the rhythm changes make sense to me.”

Born in Northampton, she was raised in Bellingham. And despite first taking to the stage for a high school production of “Grease,” she actually came to her professional life as an actress a little later than most.

She grew up attending shows with her grandparents and listening to her Mom's collection of cast albums. But theater was mainly a fun activity. It was only after she'd been out of college for four years that “I started thinking maybe I would do some community theater as a way to express myself artistically and have fun and get to know people. That's when I auditioned for ‘Wonderful Town’ at the Walpole Footlighters.”

It was in her next show that she would meet her husband, Jeff Mahoney, who's



**Aimee Doherty is The Witch in Stephen Sondheim's “Into The Woods” at Lyric Stage Company of Boston, May 9 - June 15.**

also appearing in “Into The Woods” at Lyric, playing the Steward.

Knowing the depth of her talents, audiences may be surprised to learn that Doherty has a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Chemistry from UMass Amherst and is a freelance environmental consultant.

“My Dad was always a big camper and I've always loved the mountains and being outdoors,” she said. “I was in college and I was studying microbiology . . . but

(Continued on page 15)

## Heatons offer music ‘as a conversation’

### Local launch of ‘Tell You in Earnest,’ at The Burren May 14

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

When you've been a musical duo, and a couple, for as long as Matt and Shannon Heaton – and we're talking well into the second decade – you tend to know when you're onto something good.

So a couple of years ago, the Heatons – one of Boston's most popular and high-profile Irish music acts – saw a common thread in the newest batch of songs they'd been putting together in anticipation of recording their next album. “They really had a strong quality of dialogue between characters,” says Shannon. “It's not that we haven't had those kind of songs in our repertoire before, but as we looked at the material we'd been working on, we got excited about bringing a focus to this new album: the idea of music as a conversation.”

That idea has now been realized, after an odyssey that included the Heatons' first foray into home-based recording, a crowd-sourcing campaign, and a special trip to Thailand that served as the project's official public launch. The Boston-area release concert for the 10-track CD, “Tell You in Earnest,” will take place May 14 at The Burren in Somerville's Davis Square.

Creating a so-called concept album is nothing new for the Heatons: “Fine Winter's Night” (2007) was a collection of Christmas/winter season music, while love and romance was the governing theme of “Lover's Well” (2009). But the experience of planning and recording “Tell You in Earnest” represented a unique set of challenges, opportunities, and milestones for the couple, who drew on unlikely past influences to continue what has become a fascinating trajectory across the Irish/traditional music universe.

The result is a blend of some recognizable elements of the Heaton oeuvre with others that show their continued interest in going beyond their earlier body of work. In addition to ballads steeped in the Irish/British Isles folk tradition, “Tell You in Earnest” contains a traditional



**Shannon Heaton says of “Tell You in Earnest,” the new CD she and husband Matt have released: “As we looked at the material we'd been working on, we got excited about bringing a focus to this new album: the idea of music as a conversation.”**

*Kelly Lorenz photo*

Thai song, a Matt Heaton original, and a cover of folk-rocker Richard Thompson's motorcycle-and-leather tragedy “1952 Vincent Black Lightning.” Meanwhile, electric guitars and gimmickry occasionally peek out amidst Shannon's flute, whistle, and accordion, and Matt's acoustic guitar, bouzouki and bodhran, along with cameos by Mike Block (cello), Jared Seabrook (snare drum), and Liz Simmons (harmony vocals).

“I think there was a time when we probably wouldn't have done some of the things we did on this CD,” says Shannon. “We felt particularly conscious about honoring our listeners, honoring the tradition, and not wanting to appear too flip or casual about the music we were playing. So, back then we might've second-guessed doing a Thai song, or adding electronics.

“We love the ‘pure drop’ in traditional music – always will. But we're comfortable enough now, in our musical and personal lives, where we can push out a little. Actually, even as we are going forward, we are returning to our roots: Matt was a rocker in his teens, I was playing Thai music in my teens. It's nice to be able to incorporate those aspects of ourselves into what we do.”

“You get to a point where you can't please everyone, anyway,” says Matt. “Irish music is rife with endless discussions about what is, and isn't, appropriate – and, honestly, I want nothing to do with those discussions. I'm not a preservationist; I feel the pure traditional music is strong and well-established enough so that it won't crumble if we push the boundaries a little.”

But for all the envelope-nudging, “Tell

You in Earnest” has plenty of solid trad credentials and storylines: “The Cruel Salt Sea,” with nasty boyfriend, quick-thinking girlfriend, and a loquacious parrot; the against-all-odds romance of “Gallant Hussar”; the chilling family dynamics in “Edwin of the Lowlands Low” (accentuated by various manipulations of Matt's electric guitar); and love and steadfastness rewarded in “Her Mantle So Green.”

Rather than focus strictly on the narrative, however, the Heatons invite you to consider the words that pass between the main characters in each song. As Shannon puts it, “Who's talking to whom, what they seem to be saying – what they might actually be saying – and how it all fits into the human experience.”

“Mrs. McGrath” stands out as one of the more intriguing tracks on the album – intriguing as much for how it wound up there as for the treatment it's given. The song (also known in some versions as “My Son John” or “My Son Ted”), which revolves around a young soldier's return home as a double amputee after fighting against Napoleon in the Peninsular War, came to public attention largely through the likes of the Clancy Brothers. In most settings, it comes across as a rabble-raising, angry diatribe against war, and, by extension, the British for recruiting Irishmen into their battles.

Matt, however, was largely unfamiliar with the song, and when he found it in a text and looked at the lyrics he saw other, equally compelling sentiments displayed. And he devised a slowed-down, more quiescent arrangement that tamps down the fervor of other versions, but doesn't diminish the song's emotional power; capping it off is a march composed by Matt that he plays on guitar to the accompaniment of a snare drum, evoking the song's martial character but not in a heavy-handed way.

“When I first came upon it, I thought ‘How sad this is,’ ” says Matt. “Even with that ‘too-rye-ah’ chorus, I just felt

(Continued on page 14)



# Féile Cheoil Boston, Round 2: Return to Melrose on May 17

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

One of the newer celebrations of traditional Irish music in Boston returns for its second go-round this month, when Féile Cheoil Boston takes place on May 17 in Melrose. The day-long (10 a.m.-10 p.m.) event, established by Boston's Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCE) Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley Boston School of Music to showcase area Irish musicians – especially young ones – includes competitions in instrument and vocal categories, children's activities, performances, sessions, and an evening concert headlined by the trio Open the Door for Three.

The Féile Cheoil, co-hosted by the CCE School of Music and the Melrose Messina Arts Fund, will be held at the First United Methodist Church at 645 Main St. in Melrose.

"So many things worked well last year, even with it being the first time," says CCE School Executive Director Lisa Coyne, a co-founder and co-organizer of the Féile Cheoil. "We had a very good turn-out for the competitions, we had lots of adult volunteers – especially parents – helping out, and they did a great job. We also had music going out on the front lawn all afternoon, where people going by could stop and listen, and this was very important in terms of engaging with the community."

"Now, we want to do even better, and we're very excited about this year."

Competitions will be held in such categories as fiddle, flute, accordion and singing. Entrants can register online through the Féile Cheoil website [[sites.google.com/a/ccebostonmusicschool.org/feile-cheoil-boston](http://sites.google.com/a/ccebostonmusicschool.org/feile-cheoil-boston)] or



In addition to competitions and performances, the Féile Cheoil features informal music sessions and activities for families and children. *Sean Smith photo*

from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the venue. The competitions will take place from 1-4 p.m. Also there will be afternoon performances and sessions with local musicians such as Armand Aromin and Daniel Accardi, Cara Frankowicz and the trio Ceol Corvus, among others.

A highlight of the inaugural Féile, says Coyne, was the evening concert given by the competi-

tion adjudicators, which included piper Kieran O'Hare and fiddler Liz Knowles. O'Hare and Knowles return this year, along with bouzouki player and vocalist Pat Broaders, as Open the Door for Three – a trio of highly acclaimed musicians with strong roots in the Irish tradition whose individual and collective resumes include "Riverdance," Cherish the Ladies, Mick Moloney and

The Greenfields of America, Liz Carroll, John Doyle, Danú, Robbie O'Connell, The String Sisters, and John Whelan.

Before the evening concert begins there will be a 6 p.m. performance by Realta Geala, an ensemble of young musicians from the Comhaltas School. Féile Cheoil 2014 champions will be featured at 7:30 p.m., followed by Open the Door for Three. There

is a suggested donation of \$10, \$5 for children and seniors.

Coyne notes that the evening event will be the launch of a four-part concert series hosted by the Comhaltas School and the Melrose Messina Arts Fund, proceeds from which will go to support a young traditional musicians exchange program involving the Boston Comhaltas School and a ceili

band in Tulla directed by renowned concertina player Mary MacNamara. The Tulla musicians are scheduled to come to Boston in November, and will give a concert during their stay; their Boston counterparts would visit Ireland next February.

Updates and other information are available at <https://sites.google.com/a/ccebostonmusicschool.org/feile-cheoil-boston>.

## Yet another salute for Seamus Connolly

The honors keep rolling in for master fiddler Seamus Connolly, director of Irish music programs at Boston College and one of the area's most celebrated traditional Irish musicians. Last month, Connolly – who is the Sullivan Artist-in-Residence at BC – was presented with the university's 2014 Faculty Arts Award, which recognizes faculty members for their accomplishments and contributions to the arts.

Connolly is founder and director of BC's Gaelic Roots Music, Song, Dance, Workshop and Lecture Series, which brings some of the most eminent performers of Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, and other Gaelic music to campus for free public concerts. He also has organized and taught fiddle classes as part of the BC curriculum.

This latest award for Connolly adds to a collection that includes the National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts – the nation's highest honor in the folk



Seamus Connolly

and traditional arts – as well as the Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations and the Massachusetts

Cultural Council Fellowship Award, among others.

– Boston College Office of News & Public Affairs

## Greater Boston does well in Mid-Atlantic Fleadh Cheoil

Irish musicians from Greater Boston and Eastern Massachusetts made an impressive showing at the Mid-Atlantic Fleadh Cheoil held in Parsippany, NJ, April 25-27.

Winners included: Rory Coyne (melodeon, Under-12); Seamus Noon (solo flute, Under-12); Armand Aromin, Patrick Hutchinson and Benedict Gagliardi (trio, Over-18); Liam Hart (English and Irish men's singing, Over-18); Patrick Bowling (bodhran, Over-18); Stuart Peak (banjo, accompaniment, Over-18).

Among the second-place finishers were: Michael Bey (accordion, Under-12); Audrey Bulger (solo fiddle, Under-12); Josie Coyne (trios, Under-15); Gavin Rice (banjo, Under-12); Patrick Bowling (solo flute, Over-18).

First and second-place finishers qualify for the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, or "All-Irelands," which takes place in Sligo August 10-17.



Siblings Conor, Alana and Claire O'Brien of Newton won two titles at last month's World Irish Dance Championships in London: Conor was victorious in the Men 20-21 competition, and their Senior Mixed Ceili team also finished first. The O'Briens are students at the O'Shea-Chaplin Academy of Irish Dance in Boston.



# Heatons offer music ‘as a conversation’

(Continued from page 12) — life, love, society, sometimes all three — but also are often marked by surprising bursts of introspection and vulnerability, and above all, clever writing. So it is with “1952 Vincent,” a four-verse love story of a bad-boy biker and the girl of his dreams (“I’ve seen you at the corners and cafes it seems/Red hair and black leather, my favourite colour scheme”). Their love is doomed, of course, and the finale is festooned with typical Thompsonian flair: “I see angels on Ariels in leather and chrome/Swooping down from heaven to carry me home.”

Says Shannon, who had heard more strident versions of the song, “When Matt first brought ‘Mrs. McGrath’ up, I was not convinced — there were all these associations with it, like the war theme, I found hard to shake. Matt rarely fights for a song, but he fought for this one, and ultimately I understood what he was getting at. When you look at the words closely, you’ll see a lot of things going on. There’s the issue of parents needing to have pride in their kids going off to fight, for example; and there is the totality of loss, where death is not the only possible outcome — so is mutilation and disfigurement, which is devastating in its own way. So the dialogue in this song, really, is between mother and son over what they have lost.”

“1952 Vincent Black Lightning” was another of Matt’s suggestions that survived Shannon’s initial reluctance to make the cut. Richard Thompson’s songs are renowned for dark humor and characters who are on the wrong side of something

playing the original’s distinctive riff), Matt and Shannon’s vocal harmony on the final verse evoking all the exhilaration of a high-speed tear on the open road, before reverting to the ambling 6/8 pace as the curtain comes down.

“Easy Come, Easy Go” is yet another Matt contribution, although the impetus for it actually came from Shannon: “We were actively trying to strike a balance in the subject matter, moods, tempo, etc., of the song selections,” she explains. “So, I said, ‘Hey, we need something that’s more modal, driving, American-sounding and light. Go to it, Matt.’”

Recalls Matt (no stranger to songwriting, by the way, having penned a few for previous Heaton albums), “Yeah, I made the mistake of saying, ‘How about a funny kind of song?’ And Shannon says, ‘OK, you come up with one.’ And after I put on a blank stare for a while, I tried to think of something.”

The song he wound up writing plays farcically on the cross-dressing/gender-disguise folk ballad genre à la “The Female Drummer” or “William Taylor,” only with a twist — and then another at the very end. “To be honest, the whole cross-dressing device in folk songs seemed pretty silly to me: I mean, can you really not tell when a

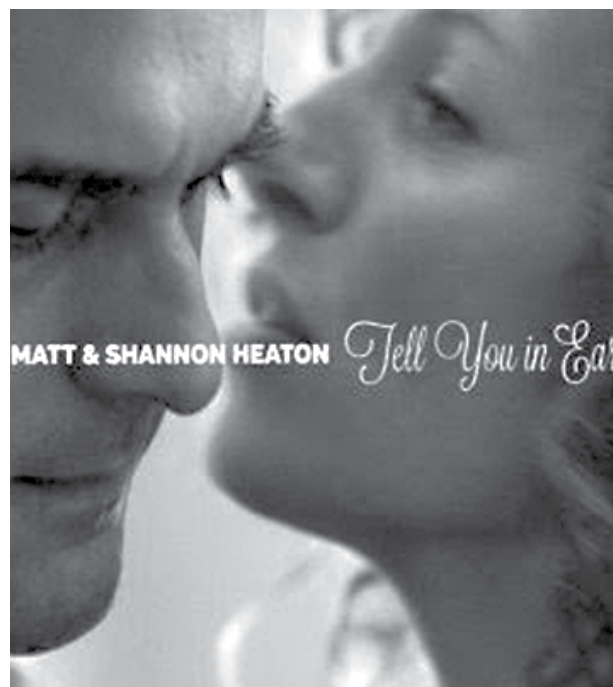
girl dresses up as a sailor? So I thought, well, what if more than one person in the song did it?”

“Mon Rak Dawk Kam Tai” represents Shannon’s longstanding love for the music and culture of Thailand, where she spent a significant amount of time in her youth. Recent years have seen her integrating more of it into the Heatons’ music — she also sang a Thai song on the “Lover’s Well” album, and contributed a Thai tune to the aforementioned “Easy Come, Easy Go.” She describes “Mon Rak Dawk Kam Tai” as “a very romantic dialogue between two young people about how they love each other. I knew it would really fit the bill — the tonality of it is so Irish.” The arrangement is marked by Matt’s playing “a northeast Thai pop guitar style,” and a sweetly affecting cello accompaniment from Block.

“When we ask a special guest to record with us, we have a particular vibe in mind,” says Shannon of Block, who has worked in classical (with Yo-Yo Ma, among others) and folk idioms. “We wanted an Asian string sound, and Mike has a great ability to mix East and West. He brings a powerful, bassy sound to ‘Her Mantle So Green,’ and really helps drive it along.”

The Heatons also laud the touches by Seabrook (on “Mon Rak Dawk Kam Tai” as well as “Mrs. McGrath”) and Simmons on “Gallant Hussar.” “We wanted a beautiful harmony on ‘Hussar,’ one that could stand on its own, and Liz has this distinct, adventurous style; we knew she would get it, and she did.”

What also distinguished the experience of making this album was that the Heatons were able to record it on their home, which took away the necessity of having to put aside time and money to book a studio — not to mention arrange care for their young son, Nigel, born the year after “Lover’s Well.” As Shannon notes, “Instead of blocking off, say, a whole day to travel to a studio and do some recording, we could fit in an hour here and there. Sometimes that meant having to go from zero to 60 — ‘OK, Nigel’s asleep,



“Tell You in Earnest” includes not only ballads from the Irish-English tradition, but a Thai folk song, a Matt Heaton original and a cover of a Richard Thompson song.

let’s get in a few takes’ — but overall there was a lot less pressure.”

Moreover, having an in-house studio afforded both of them the opportunity to broaden their skill set, Matt says. “There were a couple of times when Shannon had to do some engineering and production work, and she did a fantastic job. It was interesting to see her express her great musical ideas in a different way.”

Even as the Heatons were working on the CD, they were organizing a crowd-sourcing campaign via Indiegogo to fund a trip in February to Thailand, where they presented concerts and helped raise money to support music and dance programs at a Bangkok home for impoverished children. It wasn’t the first time the Heatons had been to Thailand, but this visit allowed Shannon to reconnect with some of her teachers and mentors in a special way.

“What I loved about learning to play Thai music was that we would play for funerals, or weddings, or other occasions, and then we would hang out, talk, jam — just like we do here, in the Irish music community,” she

says. “So, being able to go back to Thailand, and tell my friends ‘Matt and I are making this music, and I am who I am today, because I was here and you helped me to see what playing traditional music is all about’ — that was one of my top five life moments.”

In fact, Shannon says, during her own career she has sought to teach, mentor and encourage others — especially young musicians — to find the joy and satisfaction of playing traditional music. Appropriately enough, at the Burren concert this month and a few other upcoming dates, the Heatons plan to invite one or two budding musicians up for a guest appearance. [The concert also will feature a performance by the trio of Laurel Martin, Mark Roberts and Kieran Jordan.]

“Being able to bring the CD to Thailand was a wonderful experience,” says Shannon, “but obviously, our life is in Boston, and we look forward to sharing this music with our community here.”

For more on the May 14 Heatons’ concert, go to The Burren website at [burren.com](http://burren.com).

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## Cultural Center sets up new deal for Irish Festival

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(Continued from page 1)

amusements, rides, tug of war, field games for kids, Boston Irish Wolfhounds rugby clinics and games, Irish Youth Sports League clinics and games at 3 p.m., arts & crafts, food, music, GAA football and hurling games, starting at 4 p.m.

**Friday, Saturday, June 6-7** — Music Festival, featuring a “farewell tour” performance by Black 47 and the Screaming Orphans on Friday night, and on Saturday an all-day Irish music outlay on multiple stages, with special guest Eileen Iv-

ers and Immigrant Soul, dozens of bands, step dancing performances, vendors from all over the East Coast with the best Irish shopping to be found, great food, and more.

**Saturday, June 14** — Second annual Boston Irish Festival Feis, an Irish Step Dancing competition, with some of the best schools in New England competing. Plenty of Irish food, music and fun along with all the dancing! Performances begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m.



# ‘The Lazy Farmer’ – incisive fusion of Irish and American sound

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Like many musicians throughout Greater Boston – and beyond – Flynn Cohen feels he owes a lot to the late guitarist-mandolinist John McGann, a much-beloved figure in the area’s Irish music community. Along with considerable amounts of advice, inspiration, and wisdom that he bequeathed to Cohen over the years, McGann had a key role in planting the seed for a fascinating music project that has now borne fruit.

That project would be Cohen’s Deadstring Ensemble, which explores the connections between various acoustic genres, principally Irish and old-time Appalachian, but also bluegrass, folk-rock, and even early music. They’ve just released their first CD, “The Lazy Farmer” (Wepecket Island Records), and will mark the occasion with a concert at Club Passim in Harvard Square on May 5.

McGann was an original member of the band, whose ranks also include Matt Heaton and Danny Noveck. His death in April of 2012 came about a year after the Deadstring Ensemble’s founding; their album is dedicated to McGann, described as “mentor, friend, bandmate, plucked-string virtuoso, musical and comic genius.” But as Cohen relates, McGann’s contribution to Deadstring goes back a few years before it actually came together.

“I released a CD in 2005 called ‘Mellow Yell,’ which was mainly traditional and original American music and bluegrass,” says Cohen. “I wrote a tune, ‘Dogwood Reel,’ on which I played guitar, and John accompanied me on mandolin and octave mandolin. Even though the tune definitely was in the character of American folk tradition, John gave it some Irish-Celtic touches, and that particular track got a lot of accolades.

“So for my next album, ‘Fierce Modal’ [released in 2009] – which was all original tunes – I employed that methodology of fusing different musical influences: bluegrass, old-time, Irish traditional, folk rock, early music. And the more I thought about the experience, the more I thought how cool it would be to have a band which was rooted in that concept.”

To get the sound he envisioned, Cohen recruited three of his favorite guitar players who, like Cohen, also played

other instruments – McGann, Heaton, and Noveck. Whatever their individual backgrounds, all four had considerable involvement in Irish/Celtic music: McGann, though very much rooted in American music, was no stranger to Irish music, and was part of the legendary trio The Boston Edge, with fiddler Seamus Connolly and accordionist Joe Derrane (McGann played on Derrane’s “Grove Lane” CD); Heaton, who also performs on bouzouki and bodhran, is half of a popular Irish-American duo with his wife Shannon; Noveck (mandolin, fiddle) has performed or recorded with a number of prominent Irish musicians like John Whelan, Jerry O’Sullivan, and Liz Carroll, and teaches at the music school run by Boston’s Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann branch.

Cohen himself – a former student of English guitarist John Renbourn, his resume includes stints with the John Whelan Band, Cathie Ryan, Aoife Clancy, and Lawrence Nugent, among others – has long been interested in the links between the American music tradition and those of Ireland, England, and Scotland, and has traversed some of this ground in his “neo-trad” band Annalivia (co-founded with his wife, Liz Simmons, who sings harmony vocals in spots on “The Lazy Farmer”).

The last couple of decades have been rife with Irish and American musical fusion, from the ubiquitous Steve Earle song “Galway Girl” to the work of Tim O’Brien, Grada, and Maura O’Connell, to name a few; there are reel sets pairing uilleann pipes alongside dobros and five-string (as opposed to tenor) banjos, or contemporary Nashville-style songs peppered with Irish flute or tin whistle. But Cohen and his cohorts zero in on the DNA of American music, largely via field recordings and published collections of songs or tunes from rural North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky and elsewhere within sight of the Appalachians.

Rather than imbuing the songs with an urban-contemporary, neutral voice, Cohen’s singing retains the “high lonesome sound” with which they are associated, while his guitar essays those equally classic, intricate runs associated with bluegrass. But instead of employing banjos or dobros – or perhaps a string bass with a steady 2/4 rhythm – the bouzouki-mandolin (and occasional fiddle)

backdrop Heaton and Noveck provide recalls the fretted-string dynamic of the late 1960s/70s Irish bands like Planxty.

“Matt and Danny didn’t come in with the experience or familiarity with old-time, bluegrass and other American music that John and I did,” says Cohen. “But instead of asking them to step outside what they do, I figured I’d use their strengths to support the arrangements, because these tunes, and the melodies of these songs, have so much in common with the music of Ireland and Britain.

“So what we do is apply a kind of contemporary Irish approach to the American versions of Irish-Anglo songs and tunes.”

Nuances like that may or may not interest listeners, but the virtues and rewards of this approach on “The Lazy Farmer” are many. On the North Carolina fiddle tune “Lady Hamilton,” for example, Cohen flatpicks the melody with Heaton’s bouzouki tracing a counterpoint before shifting to more of a chordal accompaniment, at which time Noveck’s mandolin enters to double up the melody; at times, it sounds like a hornpipe you’d hear at your local Irish session. Cohen also leads the way on the tune medley “Fine Times at Our House/Falls of Richmond,” but the presence of Heaton’s bodhran and Noveck’s fiddle once again hint at the Irish/Celtic influences.

The songs, whether you consider them at face (ear?) value or in the Anglo-Irish context, are simply outstanding. Deadstring’s arrangements give plenty of space to the vocals, and the duets with Cohen and Simmons in particular, on the briskly paced “Neighbor Girl” and “Black Is the Color,” are nothing short of delightful; on both songs, as Cohen points out, his guitar-playing borrows elements from Irish, bluegrass and old-time.

Of course, what would an album celebrating the Anglo-Irish-American folk tradition be without a couple of chilling murder ballads? Cohen selects some real beauties. A North Carolina song, “Young Emily” – with the distinctive steeply descending interval in the first line of each verse, like a fatal fall from a cliff – features a recurring guitar-bouzouki-fiddle riff that could’ve come as easily from a 1970s Paul Brady album (and, in fact, Brady did record a version of the song), and at one point an ominous, the-bell-tolls-for-thee

strumming pattern by Cohen (also, the lyrics have their special brand of dark humor: “Young Edmund fell to drinking/ and then fell into bed...”). “Conversation with Death” is about as goosebump-inducing as they come (a popular version of this song is Ralph Stanley’s cameo in the film “O Brother Where Art Thou?”), what with pronouncements like “I’ve come to get your soul/leave your body, and leave it cold/drop the flesh from off your frame/the earth and worms will have their claim,” as Heaton’s bouzouki and Noveck’s mandolin help churn the pot.

But back to those nuances and subtleties, because they do make for some fun, enlightening revelations. For instance, “Sailor Being Tired” has Cohen’s vocals accompanied solely by an Indian drone instrument called a sruti box; listening to the inflections and ornaments as he sings over the sustained notes, it’s easy to imagine uilleann pipes playing a slow air. Then there’s “Mathie Grove,” which has all the makings (all-consuming passion, adultery, nudity, and murder) of an archetypal “Game of Thrones” subplot: With its pace and feel, as well as the Cohen-written instrumental at the end, it serves up a Southern mountains-style tribute to the groundbreaking version recorded by Fairport Convention.

The other, not-to-be-overlooked reward in “The Lazy Farmer” is the liner notes Cohen provides for each track, as well as information on the guitar tunings used on the album, and even on the modes (scales) that make up the songs. There’s a lot of technical stuff that may go right over the head, but also plenty of useful details on song/tune sources and antecedents – as well as anecdotal nuggets, such as about the fiddler Edden Hammons (source for the aforementioned “Fine Times/Richmond” set), whose response to his wife’s suggestion that he get a job was, “I’ll lay my fiddle down for no damn woman.”

And Cohen also adds, where appropriate, a note about his own engagement with a particular song or tune – in some cases, a field recording of a traditional singer or musician; in another case, a Grateful Dead album. In this way, Cohen and the Deadstring Ensemble make their brand of music accessible on a number of levels, from the intellectual to the personal. Which makes it difficult, if not impossible, to resist.



Paddy Cronin

The late winter/early spring of 2014 held some sadness for Boston’s Irish music community, which mourned the passing of two of its stalwarts: Paddy Cronin, 88, a talented and influential fiddle player; and Henry Varian, 72, a singer, musician, raconteur, and co-owner of one of Boston’s legendary Irish music pubs.

Mr. Cronin, who died on March 15 in Tralee following a short illness, was a native of Reaboy, near the Cork-Kerry border, but moved to Boston in 1949 and was a mainstay in the city’s vibrant Irish music

scene before returning to Ireland in 1990. He was a protégé of Padraig O’Keeffe, a master of the Sliabh Luachra fiddle style so strongly identified with Cork and Kerry; Denis Murphy and Tom Billy Murphy, two other Sliabh Luachra denizens, also were key figures in Mr. Cronin’s musical development.

But he became known for his own unique style, which grew out of his association with musicians from many different parts of Ireland, and for his own compositions as well as his interpretations of traditional tunes. The albums he recorded in the 1970s, including “Music in the Glen,” “House in the Glen” and “Kerry’s Own Paddy Cronin,” were regarded as landmarks in Irish music’s growing popularity during the

latter half of the 20th century. These LPs also constituted a bookend of sorts to the acetate discs he had recorded for Radio Éireann in the 1940s – and now preserved in the Traditional Music Archives in Dublin – prior to his emigration.

Even as he maintained his residence in Boston, Mr. Cronin was a regular visitor to Ireland for the Fleadh Cheoil, The Gathering, and other events. In 2007, he received the prestigious Gradam Saoil Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of his many contributions to traditional Irish music and culture.

But as he noted in an interview several years ago, Mr. Cronin made clear his favorite venue for music: “I maintain that a house is the best place to play the fiddle, which

is music for the kitchen and the fireside. There’s nothing nicer than sitting down with a crowd inside a house. I love that. Even if I’m on my own, I love to sit down and play for myself.”

## Adept in many forms of expression

Henry Varian, who died April 10 from injuries sustained in a fall, grew up in Cork and came to Boston in the 1960s. A musician, singer and storyteller who was part of the band Fenian Folk, Mr. Varian proved adept in other forms of expression. He was co-founder of the enormously popular “Sound of Erin” show, which debuted on WUNR-AM in 1973 and ran for 35 years. He also formed the Irish Drama theatrical group and acted in a number of Irish productions.

One of his most high-

profile endeavors was the Village Coach House in Brookline Village, which he opened in the 1970s with his brothers Liam and Jimmy. The pub quickly became a hot spot for Irish music and drew local as well as visiting musicians, singers, and dancers. The Coach House’s Monday night session in particular proved enduringly popular; the pub also hosted concerts and other special events. People of that era recall the Coach House as a launchpoint for more than a few musical careers – not to mention romances and even marriages.

The Coach House closed in the late 1980s, but Mr. Varian – after returning to Cork for a while, then moving to Nantucket – remained active in the area Irish music scene, even as he continued his voca-



Henry Varian

tion as a mason restoring old houses. In the days following his death, Mr. Varian’s friends and cohorts remembered fondly his penchant for singing “Raglan Road,” “Dirty Old Town,” “It’s a Long Way from Clare to Here,” among other songs, and for his spontaneous recitations of poetry.

In a Facebook conversation, one former Coach House regular noted that for a while after the pub’s closing, Mr. Varian ran an antiques shop, where she bought an Irish tall clock. “It ticks in my front hall now. RIP, Henry.”

– SEAN SMITH

# For Aimee Doherty, a journey “Into The Woods”

(Continued from page 12)

after a while I realized that I just couldn’t spend my life in a lab looking through a microscope.”

Her transition into environmental chemistry came almost by default. “I thought, how am I going to make all these credits transfer into a different major,” she said. “And I started looking at environmental science. When I got out of school, I starred

working immediately. I was very lucky.”

The change in the economy brought about changes in the industry, and Doherty transitioned into working as a consultant. “In a nutshell, I worked to clean up soil and groundwater contamination at hazardous waste sites . . . I was in charge of developing remediation plans then supervising them. . . I still

do it from time to time, but the majority of my work is focused on acting now.”

Adding to her local history, her great-grandfather, a Shea, emigrated from County Cork and in 1917 founded the professional roofing company, John F. Shea Company in Mattapan. Her paternal Doherty ancestors arrived in Boston from County Monaghan via Prince Edwards

Island.

Overall, Doherty feels very lucky to be based in Boston and has no plans to move on. “I have roots and I have family in Massachusetts . . . I’m happily married, I have a house, and I kind of just love doing these shorter engagements in Boston. As a matter of fact, several of my friends who work in New York are jealous of the artists in Boston because

we get to have such variety . . . There’s a sense of community in Boston that I would miss if I went to New York.”

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

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“Into The Wood,” May 9 to June 15, Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon Street in Boston. Tickets: 617-585-5678 or [lyricstage.com](http://lyricstage.com).



**BY SEAN SMITH**



Paul Byrom  
*Thinking Of Home*

If you like the spectacle and orchestration that typifies Celtic Thunder, then chances are you'll like "Thinking of Home." Some of us, though, are skeptical as to whether the world needs yet another go at "Danny Boy" and its ilk, and – Byrom's vocal talent aside – may find it difficult to perceive what exactly



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of the 20th century. In this setting, the distinguishing characteristics of individual cultures, ethnicities or societies, if you will, are diminished in favor of a kind of romanticized universal peasantry; the peat farmer from Galway, the shepherd in the Scottish Highlands, the Welsh coal miner – hey, it's all good. Now, throw in a tin whistle or uilleann pipes, start the fog machine, and bring on the dancers/singers in their ambiguously

Of course, an instrumental album based solely on any instrument – harp, fiddle or Moog synthesizer – might seem a less-than-inviting prospect for some. But it's hard to carp about Honey's virtuosity or her choice or presentation of material. She has a lovely touch, and a sound that – sorry about this – is as sweet as her name.

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# A 'Sea Grey' Connemara Special: The Renvyle House Hotel

BY JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Elegant but comfortable, formal but relaxed, a place for the famous but also for the average Joe (and Joanne) – lovely Renvyle House Hotel in Connemara is all these things and more.

Even if the accommodations were dreadful – which they most certainly are not – the location alone is well worth the price of admission. Perched at the ocean's edge, this grand dame of the Renvyle Peninsula has a storied history and is a perfect choice for singles (no single supplement), couples, or families.

## "A SEA GREY HOUSE"

In his fascinating book, "A Sea-Grey House, The History of Renvyle House," Guy St. John Williams writes, "On the verge of Ireland's West Coast, overlooking on one side a small peaceful lake, and on another the vast, wild Atlantic, stands a long, low, grey house. Over several centuries it has been built, pulled down, rebuilt, burnt to ashes and rebuilt once again. Its often turbulent history has mirrored the vicissitudes of the troubled history of Ireland, but its most precious asset has been its resilience, its capacity to survive."

And, indeed, survive it has and flourished, winning many awards over the years including Georgina Campbell's "Family Friendly Hotel of the Year," and a listing in Bridgestone Guide's "100 Best Places to Stay in Ireland."

A friend and I visited this spring and were warmly welcomed by Ronnie Counihan, the chief executive. A great ambassador for the hotel and for Ireland, he regaled us with stories about this property that he clearly loves and told us about its fascinating past.

Renvyle House was once home to the Dublin poet, surgeon, and statesman Oliver St. John Gogarty, who opened it as a country house hotel in 1930. As you might imagine, the hotel attracted many luminaries of the day including W.B. Yeats and his sister, Lily Yeats, a famed embroiderer. Several of Lily's framed pieces still grace the walls along with numerous other works of art.

Executive chef Tim O'Sullivan has earned numerous culinary awards for the Renvyle House Hotel and it's no wonder. Even though we only stopped for lunch, it was an outstanding meal and I plan to return sometime for an overnight and dinner, which I know will be superb.

## SEANCES

We ate lunch in the spacious long lounge where séances were once held by the likes of Yeats and his wife to summon the 14-year-old red-haired ghost who rambled the halls. Undaunted by such tales, we enjoyed a delicious and beautifully garnished crabmeat salad plate accompanied by a



Renvyle House Hotel in Connemara was once the home of Oliver St. John Gogarty who opened it as a hotel in 1930. He wrote, "My house...stands on a lake, but it stands also on the sea - waterlilies meet the golden seaweed."



Charming bronze statues decorate the edges of a fountain outside the Renvyle House Hotel in Connemara. *Judy Enright photos*

green side salad. Thankfully, there was not a ghost in sight. My friend and I agreed that there were few condiments, like mayonnaise, added and the crabmeat salad was, without a doubt, the very best either of us had ever eaten. Fish, game, and meat is locally sourced for the restaurant and the crab was as fresh as could be.

After lunch, we walked around the hotel with Sabina Flaherty, the front office manager, who talked about the hotel and the many upgrades and showed us views from some of the wonderful bedrooms along the front of the building. Absolutely breathtaking!

The assets of Renvyle House Hotel are many – a heated swimming pool open from May to September, children's

playground and assorted activities, including zip-wire, high ropes, and other activities in conjunction with nearby Killary Adventure Center, nine-hole golf course, trout fishing, boating, canoeing, cycling, croquet, lawn bowls, clay pigeon shooting, two tennis courts, yoga classes, Simran treatment rooms, herb garden, infrared sauna, and an outdoor hot tub. The grounds were awash in daffodils when we arrived and the grounds were absolutely spectacular and very well maintained.

You can book for a night or more or sign on for one of the many breaks such as a healthy living weekend, scuba diving break, murder mystery or opera arias weekend, adventure or painting, cycling, or mid-week walking breaks. You can also take sean

nos dancing classes and participate in live performances. Prices for most of the breaks include accommodation, breakfast, and dinner.

For more information, visit the website: [renvyle.com](http://renvyle.com)

## CONNEMARA

So what is there to do in Connemara once you have left the hotel grounds? Renvyle is on the Connemara Loop and there are numerous activities, sights and adventures along that route.

Visitors can stop by Connemara National Park or Kylemore Abbey, take a trip on a glass-bottomed boat out of Ballinakill, cruise Killary Harbor on a catamaran, or visit the small town of Leenane where the Blackberry Café and Restaurant serves delicious lunches and dinners. Step across

the street and do some shopping at The Forge or pop into one of Leenane's pubs for a pint.

Down the road is the lively and happening town of Clifden where there's plenty to do. Clifden boasts great pubs and restaurants (my favorite restaurant is Mitchell's on the main street), an excellent bookstore (the Clifden Book Shop), and several lovely gift and clothing stores.

Nothing is very far away in this part of Ireland and it's easy enough to take a spin from Clifden down to the charming little fishing village of Roundstone for lunch at O'Dowd's Seafood Bar (run by the O'Dowd family since 1906) or to stop at Roundstone Musical Instruments inside the walls of an old Franciscan monastery and enjoy the exceptional gifts and

clothing collected there for sale by Gifty Kearns, and the amazing bodhrans handmade by Malachy Kearns. You can buy special bodhrans on site with Celtic designs or your coat of arms.

Heading back toward Galway from Roundstone is a special treat if you travel along the beautiful coastline. We stopped one day for lunch at the Carna Bay Hotel in Carna and enjoyed excellent seafood chowder and then went on to Glynsk House to indulge in a little (tax free) shopping therapy. Glynsk House also opens a restaurant specializing in local seafood during the tourist season.

## THINGS TO DO

If you happen to be in Connemara from May 2 to 4, be sure to stop by the Connemara Mussel Festival in Tullycross. It's a celebration of Killary mussels and includes mussel cooking demonstrations and competitions, music, children's activities, drama, heritage walks, and a country market.

Also scheduled from May 2 to 4 is the Leenane Mountain Walking Festival. See details at [Leenanevillage.com](http://Leenanevillage.com).

Connemara Bog Week is scheduled from May 23-June 2 in and around Letterfrack. For details, visit Connemara Environmental Education & Cultural Center at [ceec.org](http://ceec.org).

Just up the road from Connemara is Co. Mayo and what could be more fun than spending time at Westport House in Westport? A Pirate Queen Festival is scheduled for May 3-5 and a Darkness into Light 5K walk on May 8. Westport House has adventure activities and a caravan and camping park. And a tour of Westport House itself is a definite must. The Browne family built the original house in 1730 on the ruins of the Pirate Queen Grace O'Malley's 16th Century castle. Westport House opens daily at 10 a.m. from March to early November. For more information, visit [westporthouse.ie](http://westporthouse.ie)

The Burren's wildflowers have blossomed and the Burrenbeo Trust's "Burren in Bloom Festival" will celebrate throughout May. Nearly 40 events are planned, including walks, talks, and cultural events, with something for all ages. Topics range from butterflies to bats and farming to flora. There are also exhibitions, a photography workshop, book launches, a family book picnic event, and the Burren Ecotourism Network's food and adventure trail events. To download a festival brochure, visit [burreninbloom.com](http://burreninbloom.com) and for more information contact [info@burreninbloom.com](mailto:info@burreninbloom.com).

## TRAVEL

Whenever or however you reach the Emerald Isle, there will be lots of fun and lots of things to do. Be sure to visit your favorite travel agent or go online to [Ireland.com](http://Ireland.com) for all the information you'll need to have a perfect trip.



The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Fáilte do’n Bhealtaine ! “Welcome to May!”, the first month of the traditional Celtic calendar – although almost all Irish now begin the year with “January”.

In the past several months we learned that Irish uses the word “The” in front of a great many more nations than English does. Irish uses “The” in front of nations such as France, Norway, and Spain.

“Ireland” has two names. The “Official” name that you see on government documents is **Éire**, /EH-ruh/. Colloqually, “Ireland” is **Éirinn** /EH-ruhn/ using what linguists call the “diminutive”, an ending that makes something “nearer and dearer” or “smaller” as in **Cáit** “Kate” and **Cáitlin** “Katie.”

Diminutives in Irish are always end in **-(a)in** and may be attached to **nouns** and even some **adjectives**. **Seán**, “John”, can become **Seánain**. Johnny”. Sometimes diminutives can become a part of the word such as **caip n** “cap” A small amount” may be referred to as **beagán** /BEY-kuhn/.

Recall that an “Irishman” or “woman” is **Éirean-nach** /EH-ruhn-ahk/; the plural is **Éireannai** /EH-ruhn-ee/. The language is **Gaeilge** /GAHL-guh/. It is “Irish” not “Gaelic”. Gaelic is reserved for **Gaeilge na hAlbain**, “Scottish Gaelic.”

“England” is **Sasana** /SAH-suh-nuh/ , an “English person” a **Sasanach** and the English language is **Béarla**/BER-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 language is **Gaielge na hAlban**.

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

Again, here is a listing of other places, peoples, and languages. The Irish for “language” is **teanga** /CHEHN-guh/ , “tongue”. The ending **-(n)ach** is equivalent to English “man” as in “Scotsman”. Languages usually end in **-is**, equivalent to English “ish” and pronounced roughly the same as they are English “loan words.”

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

Irish cannot handle an initial /j/ or /ch/ sound so they both become /s/ as French “Jean” (“John”) became **Séan** and “China” becomes **Sín**.

Here are some words and phrases that I told you would be used in future columns:

Irregular forms of **Abair** “Speak!” – **Deirim**, **deir**, **deirimid** (Present), **dúirt** (Past), **déarfaidh** (Future). In addition a new noun **caint** /kant/ “speech” and **cainteoir**, /KANT-er/ “speaker”. This is the source of the English word “cant”, a term used to describe a slang used by some to exclude non-cant speakers.

Other words or phrases used are “learn” or “learning” **foghlaim**, “go on a holiday” **ag dul ar saoire** /SEE-ruh/, ‘business trip” **turas**. To “go on a visit” is **tabhair cuairt** – **tabhair** , “give” is used idiomatically and is an **irregular verb** which you had some time ago. In the **Present** it is **tugaim**, **tugann**, and **tugaimid**; in the **Past** it is **thug** and **thugamar**, and the **Future** it is **tabharfaidh** and **tabharfaimid**.

See if you can write these in Irish: (1.) “Do you speak Irish?” (2.) “I speak English but I speak a little Irish now.” (3.) “I will go to Spain tomorrow.” (4.) “Oh, will you go on a business trip or a vacation.” (5.) “Do you speak Spanish?” (6.) “Yes. I speak Spanish and French.” (7.) “How much is that cup?” (8.) “We Canadians speak English and French.” (9.) “Patrick will go to Norway for a vacation.”

(10.) “Didn’t he go to Asia at New Years.” (11.) “Does he speak any Japanese or Chinese languages?” (12.) “He has a little Japanese but he doesn’t speak any Chinese.” (13.) “He goes at three o’clock.” (14.) “Who is at the door?”

Answers: (1.) **A bhfuil Gaeilge agat?** (2.) **Tá Béarla agam ach tá beagan Gaeilge agam anois.** (3.) **Beidh mé ag dul don Spáinn amarach.** (4.) **Oh, an bhfuil sé ag dul ar turas no saoire?** (5.) **A bhfuil Spáinnis agat?** (6.) **Tá Spáinnis agus Fhraincis agam.** (7.) **Cén mhéad an cupa sin?** (8.) **Deirimid Ceanada Béarla agus Fhraincis.** (9.) **Beidh Padruig ag dul saoire ar an Iorna.** (10.) **Nach thug sé don an ise ag an bliana úr?** (11.) **An deir sé teanga Seapánach no S neach?** (12.) **Tá beagán Seapánach air nach tá Síneach air.** (13.) **Tíochfaidh sé anns trí o’clog.** (14.) **Cén atá ag an dorús?**

CELTIC

CROSS

WORDS

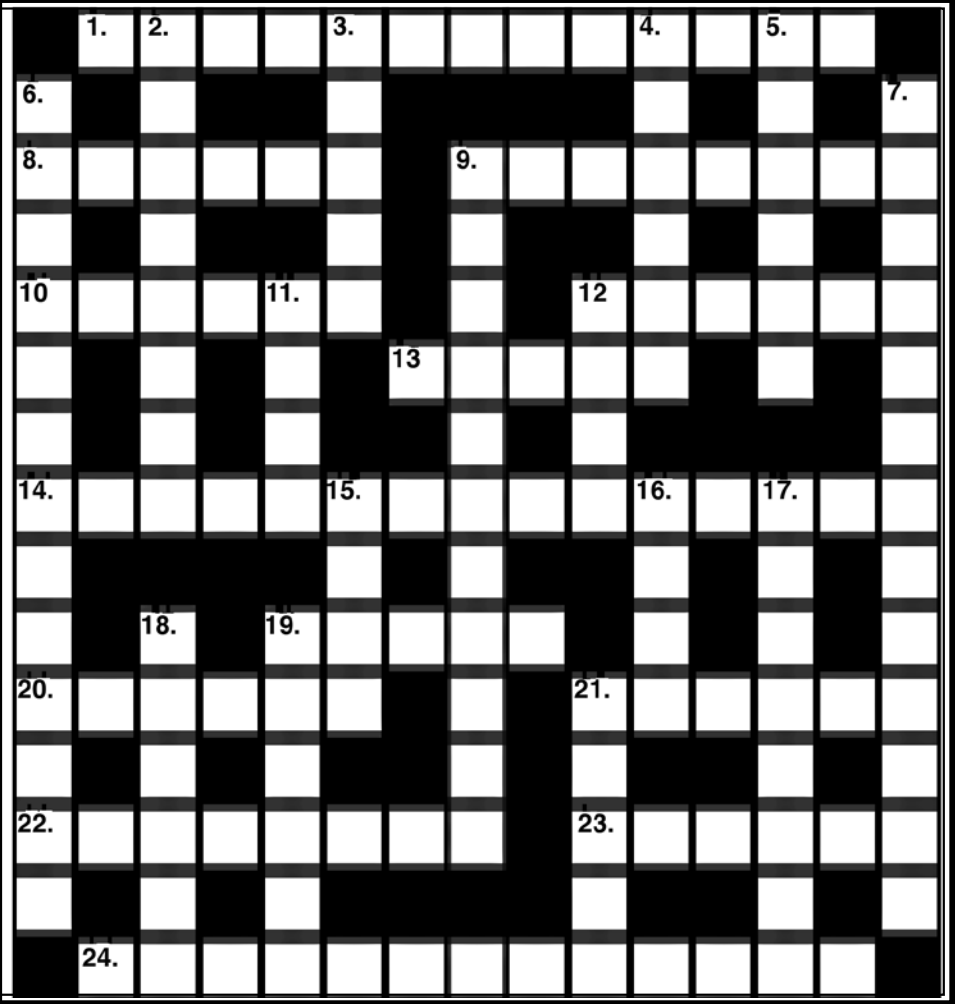
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IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS

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ACROSS

1. Or find chiller. (anag.) Stepchildren of Aoife whom she turned into Swans on Lough Derravaragh. (8,2,3)  
8. Protection found in popular Mourne location. (6)  
9. Pout face up until refreshment appears. (3,2,3)  
10. Fry air? No, but reduce its pressure. (6)  
12. Get up on hind legs about per can order. (6)  
13. Impulses scrambled the last of the Carrickfergus letters. (5)  
14. Then avoid by cute diversion around engineering work carrying the Dublin - Belfast rail line over Drogheda. (3,5,7)  
19. Tree falls over after a century on Mediterranean island. (5)  
20. Threw in at the Gaelic game? (6)  
21. Make a quick grab for ants all over the small church. (6)  
22. Stretch little Leonard starts, then finishes after note. (8)  
23. Salty pool covered up back in Portnoo gallery. (6)  
24. Sweet stew clan. (anag.) Limerick market town with a Knights Templars castle built in 1184. (9,4)

DOWN

2. Oh, lure me in disorder for Bill first proposed and lost by Gladstone in 1885 and passed in 1912. (4,4)  
3. “Hail fellow, well met. All — — and wet: Find out, if you can, Who’s master, who’s man.” Swift. (5)  
4. Storeys one knocks to the ground. (6)  
5. Recite with a singing voice to nine others in Rosses Point one time. (6)  
6. Hour train call. (anag.) Kerry mountain popularly ascended through the Hag’s Glen and up the Devil’s Ladder to the peak at 3,314 feet. (13)  
7. Jest’s shame pen. (anag.) Irish writer and poet (1880-1950) who wrote ‘The Crock of Gold’. (5,8)  
9. Owners latch up in neat Mayo village on the Sligo border. (11)  
11. You must see the faithful dog in Glengarriff, I do insist. (4)  
12. Ripe conversion of fairy on Greek roundabout. (4)  
15. Squirrel’s home back in the American garden in pretty Ardmore. (4)

16. Last word in mean fashion. (4)  
17. Greasy sun out over U.C. (8)  
18. E.g. rang up Sligo village underneath Ben Bulbin on the Bundoran road opposite Inishmurray Island. (6)  
19. “This goat-footed bard, this half-human visitor to our age from the hag-ridden magic and enchanted woods of — — — antiquity.” Baron Keynes - (describing Lloyd George) (6)  
21. Soothe in the meandering vales. (5)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 19

Irish Sayings

“Youth does not mind where it sets its foot.”  
“Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die.”  
“The well fed does not understand the lean.”  
“He who comes with a story to you brings two away from you”  
“Quiet people are well able to look after themselves.”  
“A friends eye is a good mirror.”  
“It is the good horse that draws its own cart.”  
“A lock is better than suspicion.”  
“Two thirds of the work is the semblance.”  
“He who gets a name for early rising can stay in bed until midday.”  
“If you do not sow in the spring you will not reap in the autumn.”  
“Put silk on a goat, and it’s still a goat.”  
“Listen to the sound of the river and you will get a trout.”  
“A persons heart is in his feet.”  
“It is a long road that has no turning.”  
“Necessity knows no law.”  
“The wearer best knows where the shoe pinches.”  
“There is no luck except where there is discipline.”  
“The man with the boots does not mind where he places his foot.”  
“The light heart lives long.”  
True greatness knows gentleness.  
When wrathful words arise a closed mouth is soothing.

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# Baseball and injuries – Make no mistake, it’s a crisis

The issue, friends, is injuries. They are all the rage in baseball as never before, and we begin with a question:

What do Kris Medlen, Jarrod Parker, Carl Luebke, Josh Johnson, Brandon Beachy, and Peter Moylan have in common other than the fact that they are pitchers employed by the major leagues of professional baseball?

Answer! These are the six pitchers who early in this season have already had Tommy John surgery performed on them for the second time in their relatively brief careers. They are the so-called “revisionists.” There have been 14 of these “repeats” in the last two years. Over the previous 16 years, there were but 18.

Next question: What of Ivan Nova, Matt Moore, Luke Hochevar, Bobby Parnell, and Patrick Corbin?

Answer! They are the most prominent among the batch of ten other hurlers who have been committed to the radical TJ procedure for elbow repairs since the start of this season, which we should remind you was scarcely a month ago. Obviously, the single-season record for TJ surgeries – 36 in 2012 – is in jeopardy given that the demand for this spectacular remedy always rises as the season bears on and there are six months to go. Moreover, you can add to this group the likes of Andrew Bailey, Dylan Bundy, Neftali Feliz, and Joel Hanrahan, among others, still recovering from TJ surgery performed last year.

Then there are the pitchers sidelined extensively by arm woes that, while not as dramatic as the TJ cases, remain problematic? This roll call includes Derek Holland, Matt Harrison, Doug Fister, Jonathan Broxton, Jeremy Hellickson, Alex Cobb, David Robertson, Johan Santana, Yu Darvish, A.J. Burnett, Clayton Kershaw, Chris Sale, Scott Feldman, Wandy Rodriguez, Jason Grilli, Anibal Sanchez, and Matt Harvey? Surely an impressive collection (including the highest paid pitcher in baseball history, Kershaw) from which you could easily cull an all-star staff.

## Sports/Clark Booth

But why pick on the pitchers? Position players who’ve variously gone down for the count this still very young season include Manny Machado, Jose Iglesias, Avisail Garcia, Mark Teixeira, Brendon Ryan, Rafael Furcal, Shane Victorino, Will Middlebrooks, Matt Kemp, Jose Reyes, Josh Hamilton, Ryan Zimmerman, Jason Giambi, Jurickson Proffar, Geovany Soto, Andre Beltré, Hanley Ramirez, Gordon Beckham, Justin Ruggiano, Michael Cuddyer, Russell Martin, Cameron Maybin, Francisco Cervelli, Chris Davis, Shin-Soo Choo, and Bryce Harper. Speaking of all-star teams, how easy would it be to compose one from that lusty group?

Bear in mind none of these lists is the total number. They are but samplings of some of the more interesting and relevant cases. The ranks of all the injured and disabled are quite longer. Some wounds are products of the bizarre. The Reds’ sterling lefty flame-thrower, Aroldis Chapman, got decked by a line drive off his face that almost killed him. It was the most shocking such incident since the potentially wonderful career of Herb Score was abruptly sidetracked by a screaming liner off the bat of the Yankees’ Gil McDougald in 1957.

And then there is the ridiculous. The Brewers just lost their wonderful young shortstop, Jean

Segura, indefinitely after he got smacked in the face by a bat carelessly swung in the dugout by Ryan Braun, the team’s gifted but clearly mistake-prone star. What next? A pair of superior performers who should know better – Anaheim’s Josh Hamilton and Washington’s Bryce Harper – suffered serious hand injuries that have sidelined them by sliding into first base, long disdained by every thinking baseball person to be about the dumbest thing you can do on a ball field. There’s never any accounting for sheer stupidity.

Quads, obliques, and lats seem high among this season’s most vulnerable body parts. Hamstrings are the new injury of choice for position players while, as has been increasingly the case in recent years, the elbow is the Achilles heel of the pitchers. This is not about these guys being wimps. Baseball, with its emphasis on minute and precise details over mere brawn and bluster, is a hard game to play while even slightly impaired. Little wounds that would not bench a hockey player a single shift can land a baseball player on the disabled list. Jarome Iginla missed only one period when he fractured his finger this season but, tough as he may be, he couldn’t have swung a bat with that injury, let alone thrown with that hand.

For no endeavor in all of sports in terms of the

perfect meshing of muscles and nerves and fibers and ligaments – and gray matter – is more challenging or requires a higher degree of physical fine-tuning than the act of pitching a baseball over and over and over again with maximum force and urgency. The demands of this activity on the elbow and shoulder are unique. This is what makes the phenomenon of Tommy John surgery, by which dead elbows are brought back to life, so engrossing; after fully 40 years, it still seems to be a bit of a medical miracle.

The remarkable procedure’s eminent deviser, Dr. Frank Jobe, called it “ulnar collateral ligament reconstruction.” He died only a month ago, at age 89, and in his latter years he was reputedly a bit shocked by how routine the procedure had become with players increasingly opting for it as if it were no bigger a deal than a root canal. And who can blame them, given how many careers have been saved thanks to his bold and brilliant conception. According to the latest study, 124 pitchers who were on big-league rosters last year can thank him for their careers. That is stunning, and this year’s number is growing by the hour.

But considerable credit also goes to Doc Jobe’s original guinea pig, the crafty lefty Tommy John, who was informed when he consented to the surgery

in 1974 that it had no more than a two percent chance of being successful. It was my pleasure to have known Tommy and talked with him a number of times when he was first the Dodgers’ and then the Yankees’ meal ticket, pitching 15 more years after being given a new tendon in his left elbow and piling up achievements (288 wins for openers) that would have qualified him for enrollment at Cooperstown even if his good friend Doc Jobe hadn’t immortalized him. A smart fellow, he fully grasped the import of his role. What Tommy John did for his profession 40 years ago was truly historic. He is first class, always has been.

And like Dr. Jobe, he’s mystified by how casually the procedure is now viewed, believing, as the good doctor did, that more attention should be given to preventing arm injuries than to repairing them. He feels strongly that the problem begins when pitchers are teen-age phenoms, being grossly over-used and obliged to pitch 12 months a year, with no break. Like most old-timers, John disputes pitch counts and sees no problem with pitchers simply pitching, as long as they’re fundamentally healthy to begin with. But too often nowadays the seeds of a pitcher’s destruction have been firmly planted by the time they reach the big leagues.



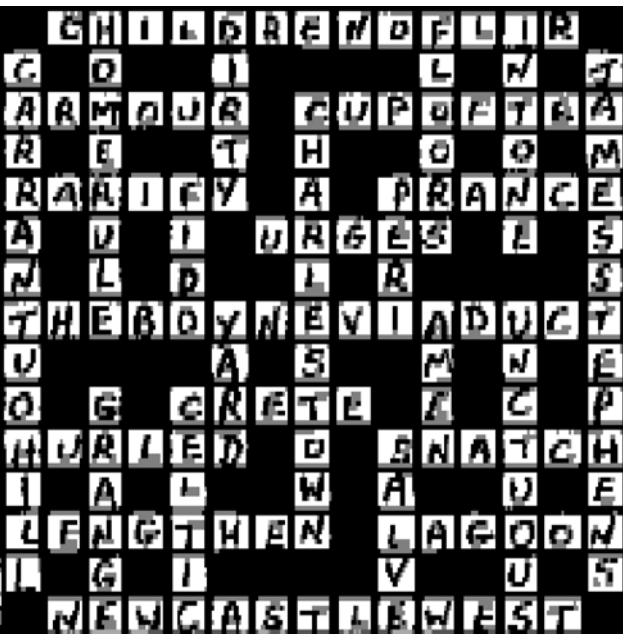
On this, old-timers and medical folks seem to agree. As for the modern-day performers and those who must coach, guide, and heal them, they increasingly seem to be unsure of what to think, or do. What’s beyond dispute is the obvious: they have a crisis on their hands.

Is it about pitching too much? Or not enough? About throwing too hard, or using too many trick pitches? Is it all about mechanics? Does youth sport need to be reformed? Should conditioning procedures be strengthened or relaxed? Is radical surgery always the answer? Might it never be the answer?

There are many theories but no consensus. Meanwhile, the casualties pile up. It’s being called “an epidemic,” an over-statement fairly typical of the sporting media, which can now and again be guilty of scrambled perspective. True epidemics have to do with deeper and far more serious calamities than the mere ordeals of millionaire ballplayers, however painful.

Not that Tommy John surgery is a day at the beach, mind you. We understand that much.

## PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 18



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- MAY

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4 Sunday – Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton

10 Saturday – Lucy’s Love Bus Fundraiser. Admission is \$20.

11 Sunday – Fintan Stanley

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17 Saturday – Irish Pastoral Centre Volunteer Appreciation Night. Music by Andy Healy. There will be raffles and admission is only \$15

18 Sunday – Noel Henry Irish Show Band

24 Saturday – Pub Night with Colm O’ Brien

25 Sunday – Andy Healy

29 Thursday – Members Meeting at 7:30 pm
- 30 Friday – West Roxbury Rocks fundraiser for the Ethos AgeWell West Roxbury Program. Music, buffet, raffles, auction. Admission is only \$35. Call Ann Glora for more information at 617-477-6616.

31 Saturday – SMA Fathers Spring Dance. Great raffles, including a limited number \$100 ticket with top prize of \$8,000. Music by Fintan Stanley. Admission is only \$10. Call Fr. Darcy for more info at 781-326-3288.



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