



Classiebawn, the home of Lord Mountbatten in Mullaghmore, County Sigo, was built in the 1860's by twice Prime Minister of England, Lord Palmerston. Prince Charles will be visiting Sligo this month where Lord Mountbatten was assassinated in 1979. Story, Page 18.

Photo courtesy Tourism Ireland

Filmmakers seek help from Irish Americans

A chance to help the ‘Peacemaker’

Producer presses case for story of ‘Rising’

**BY PETER F. STEVENS
REPORTER STAFF**

His work is of world importance – literally so. Padraig O'Malley is known as “the Peacemaker,” and for years, the John Joseph Moakley Professor of International Peace and Reconciliation at the University of Massachusetts Boston has worked tirelessly to promote conflict resolution in the world’s deadliest locales, which include Iraq, Nigeria, Kosovo and Northern Ireland.

O'Malley draws upon his experiences with addiction, approaching wars and conflict as a form of compulsion. Confronting cultural and historical demons both internal and external – in the form of one’s entrenched enemies -- requires the help of

fellow “addicts” of other war-ravaged regions, as well as peace brokers. He believes addiction treatment techniques can work at the negotiation table.

For the past five years, the award-winning, Cambridge-based filmmaker James Demo has accompanied O'Malley to direct and produce “The Peacemaker,” a documentary that, in Demo’s words, “will take viewers into Padraig O'Malley’s world of negotiations and conferences with leaders from war-torn regions. Interviews with O'Malley and key figures in his life paint an intricate portrait of what motivates him to take on the seemingly impossible and show us how one man can truly make a difference.”

With the film on the verge of



PADRAIG O'MALLEY
UMass Boston professor

completion, Demo faces the bane of most documentary filmmakers. Unlike the estimable Ken Burns, for whom corporate funding rolls in, funding a documentary is a difficult venture that requires constant appeals for grants and help from the public for worthwhile projects. A director, writer, and producer, Demo’s recent work includes “First Time Long Time,” a short comedy starring John Savage, Amanda

(Continued on page 15)

**BY BILL FORRY
EDITOR**

As the centenary year of the 1916 Easter Rising marches ever closer, the producer of a full-length feature film on the subject is still raising funds and awareness to complete the project. Kevin McCann, the producer of “The Rising,” intends to make another swing through Boston and other Irish-American strongholds this spring as he seeks more investors before filming begins in the fall.

The timing is tight, but McCann told the *Boston Irish Reporter* that it is well within reach. “We have a schedule and our window to shoot it at the end of the fall— in October and November— and then editing through the winter. We’d be

ready for a release around St. Patrick’s Day next year,” said McCann. “It’s ideal that we’re aiming to film in winter, actually, as it’s a wintry film.”

“The Rising” will focus on the events that led up to the actual uprising on April 1916 – and the man who served as its mastermind – Seán MacDiarmada, or John McDermott. The 33-year-old Irish Republican Brotherhood leader was captured and executed alongside James Connolly a few weeks after the six-day Easter rebellion was finally put down by British forces.

MacDiarmada was born and raised in County Leitrim and some of the filming will be done on location around his childhood

(Continued on page 15)

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‘Belpot’ games set for Belfast over the Thanksgiving weekend this year

On Thanksgiving weekend 2015, hockey teams from Brown, Colgate, Northeastern and UMass-Lowell will travel to Belfast for a major international hockey exchange that will include several educational and sporting events hosted by the visiting college students and the Belfast Giants hockey team. Mayor Martin Walsh announced the news on April 10 as part of his first sister city Boston-Belfast partnership event.

Mayor Walsh was joined by Councillor Arder Carson, Lord Mayor of Belfast, Northern Ireland and representatives from the hockey community to announce “The Friendship Four.” The tournament will be staged from November 27 - November 28 at the Belfast Giants/Odyssey Arena.

“During my time in Ireland, I saw firsthand how sports, and hockey in particular, play an incredible role in bridging communities,” said Mayor Walsh at an announcement ceremony. “I am thrilled to announce the first tournament for the Belpot Trophy this fall. I would like to thank former mayor of Belfast Máirtín Ó Muilleoir for his original partnership in this ambitious exchange and

his continued hospitality towards Boston and Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Arder Carson, and the Belfast City Council for their commitment to making this tournament become a reality.”

“The Sister City agreement which we signed with Boston last May is designed to foster stronger economic development, trade and investment, tourism, youth, cultural, faith based exchange and educational linkages between our two cities,” said Lord Mayor, Councillor Arder Carson.

“The Friendship Four will be the first time that teams at this standard of ice hockey will play in Belfast and we expect our fans to be very excited about seeing it at their home arena,” said Eric Porter, Chairman of the Odyssey Trust, tournament hosts and owners of the Odyssey Arena, home to the Belfast Giants.

The City of Boston is working with Secretary of State John Kerry’s Office of Global Partnerships and the Belfast Giants to incorporate educational components to the tournament weekend, including having student-athletes visit classrooms in Belfast.



Mayor Martin Walsh was joined Councillor Arder Carson, Lord Mayor of Belfast, second from left, and representatives from the hockey community on April 10 outside the TD Garden to announce “The Friendship Four,” an international hockey tournament in Belfast in November 2015.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON IRISH CALENDAR

George Mitchell to speak at JFK Library May 12

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum in Dorchester will present Senator George Mitchell speaking on his new book, “The Negotiator: Reflections on an American Life,” on Tues., May 12, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Free, advance reservation required, at jfklibrary.org, or call 617-514-1644. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors to the main hall open one hour before the program begins.

Eire Society, Charitable Irish plan evening at Boston Pops

The Boston Pops, under the direction of conductor Keith Lockhart, will feature two nights of Irish music, “A Celtic Sojourn at the Boston Pops,” on Wednesday and Tuesday,

May 27 and 28, at Boston Symphony Hall at 8 p.m. The Eire Society and the Charitable Irish of Boston will host members at the May 28 concert.

“The Boston Pops has offered us an excellent selection of a block of 75 table seats on the floor of historic Symphony Hall,” said the Eire Society’s Margaret Flagg. “The tickets are in two price categories: 25 @ \$65 and 50 @ \$85.” For more information and to reserve with payment to follow call Ms. Flagg at 617-327-4876 or send an email to flaggm@bc.edu.

Maine Irish planning auction, dinner on May 2

The Maine Irish Heritage Center (MIHC) will hold its sixth annual “Not-So-Silent Auction and Dinner” on Sat., May 2, at 4:30 p.m. at MIHC, corner of Gray and State streets,

Portland. Tickets are \$50 each, table of ten \$500, with a reduced price for paid-up members. Items on action are available for bidding through May 1 online at biddingforgood.com/MIHC2015Auction. For membership information, visit maineirish.com, or phone 207-780-0118.

ICCNE to celebrate its 25th anniversary

The Irish Cultural Centre of New England (ICCNE) will observe the 25th anniversary of its founding with a dinner dance on Sat., May 30, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the ICCNE campus, 200 New Boston Drive, Canton. The event will feature dinner, dancing and cultural performances. For reservations visit irishculture.org, or phone 781-821-8291.

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Irish groups meet at Consulate, plan joint Facebook page

Boston’s Irish Consulate hosted a meeting last month in its offices at 535 Boylston Street with an agenda to establish new and deeper links among the many Irish organizations across the six New England states.

One result was that meeting participants agreed to establish a “Deep Green” private Facebook page, monitored by the Consulate, to help coordinate event plans for the Irish groups.

Said vice consul Jillian O’Keeffe in an invitation sent to about 30 groups in the Boston Irish diaspora: “We would very much appreciate your views on a number of topical and upcoming issues such as preparations in New England for the centenary of the 1916 Rising and the celebration of Yeats 2015. A number of groups have also pointed out to



Members of Irish organizations across New England at the Consulate in Boston.

Photo courtesy Connell Gallagher

us an ongoing problem of conflicting dates of events held by various societies.”

In a follow-up message, O’Keeffe gave a report on the session:

“Our thanks to those of you who were able to attend yesterday’s meeting of Irish organizations in Boston. We felt it was a very useful and produc-

tive meeting and we were delighted to be able to accommodate representatives from so many groups. For those of you who were sadly unable to attend, we wanted to let you know what had been discussed and/or agreed:

- “Prospects for US comprehensive immigration reform: We discussed how

Irish organizations could support work by the IIIC, IPC, ICC and the Consulate on behalf of undocumented members of our community. We agreed to continue to monitor the overall issue of comprehensive immigration reform and support state and city based supportive initiatives as appropriate.

- “1916 Centenary- Please see ireland.ie for information on plans to mark the centenary of 1916 next year. A number of Irish organizations in the New England area have already begun thinking about how they might like to mark the occasion and we would like to hear your ideas. Some funding

may be available for 2016 events.” The deadline for the initial round was April 24, but because many organizations have not finalized their plans, a second calls for proposals will take place in autumn 2015.

- “Improved co-ordination between Irish organizations: It was agreed that a Facebook page, solely for the use of Irish organizations in New England, would be established. It would then be up to individual organizations to post details of the events on it and so help everyone avoid potential scheduling conflicts. As contact information for the participating organizations is to be put on line, it would be appreciated if those interested could send me the appropriate contact information for their organization as soon as possible.”

BC establishes Denis O’Brien Fellowship MBA opportunities for two Irish students

Irish entrepreneur and philanthropist Denis O’Brien has established a fellowship at Boston College that will provide two Irish students annually with a fully-funded master’s degree in business administration (MBA) at its Carroll School of Management.

O’Brien, chairman and principal shareholder of Digicel Group, and owner and board member of Communicorp, Ireland’s largest media holding company, has created the Denis O’Brien Fellowship at Boston College to provide an opportunity for aspiring business leaders from Ireland to obtain a world-class graduate education at a premier American university. He graduated from Boston College with an MBA in corporate finance in 1982.

The O’Brien Fellowship will cover the full cost of attendance, including tuition, fees, books and living expenses for the duration of the MBA program, as well as international travel to and from Boston. The

candidates for the fellowship must be Irish citizens of exceptional academic and/or career achievement, who possess the high personal and professional standards of the program’s namesake.

“Boston College and Ireland have had a long and illustrious association,” said Denis O’Brien. “I am delighted to continue this with a Scholarship Programme for two Irish nationals to have the opportunity to pursue a two-year MBA programme in management at Boston College.”

Andy Boynton, dean of Boston College’s Carroll School of Management, expressed gratitude to O’Brien for the generous gift that established the fellowship.

“We are honored that Denis has created the O’Brien Fellowship at Boston College, as it will provide an invaluable opportunity for Irish students who want to pursue an MBA at one of the top business schools in the United States,”



Denis O’Brien Has MBA from BC

said Boynton. “He is a person who has brought acclaim to his alma mater as a student, global business leader and generous alumnus. We are grateful for his support.”

O’Brien chaired the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Ireland, which featured teams from 160 countries and more than 30,000 volunteers, in the first-ever games held outside of the United States. O’Brien is also a director on the US Board of Concern Worldwide and a member of the United Nations Broadband Commission for Digital Development. Information on how to apply for the O’Brien Fellowship can be found at: bc.edu.

The target: Prostate cancer Boston-Ireland Prostate Cancer Collaboration focuses on cross-Atlantic exchange of human capital and knowledge

With a goal of furthering the understanding of the causes of cancer and identifying new treatments through collaboration, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, and the Irish Cancer Society have formed the Boston-Ireland Prostate Cancer Collaboration. This new entity will conduct and facilitate exchanges of researchers and knowledge between Boston and Ireland.

The announcement was made last month during the inaugural John Fitzpatrick Irish Prostate Cancer Conference in the Aviva Stadium, Dublin. The gathering was named in memory of Prof. John Fitzpatrick, former head of research at the Irish Cancer Society to mark his significant international contribution to prostate cancer research.

Researchers from Dana-Farber and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health will collaborate with researchers from universities across Ireland,

coordinated through the Irish Cancer Society, by participating in periodic teaching and knowledge exchanges with training fellowships and scientific retreats, ultimately resulting in jointly funded high-impact projects and published research papers.

The partnership will create strategic relationships by harnessing the knowledge of cancer researchers in Ireland and Boston to enhance already established programs and initiatives in cancer biology, epidemiology and clinical practice. With a strong research infrastructure including an annotated tissue bank and database linking laboratory data, clinical trial findings and patient data outcomes, the initiative will utilize such technologies such as bio-informatics, micro RNA, gene mapping and other tools to support the work.

The first fellowship is named in honor of Dr. Fitzpatrick. The successful recipient will initially spend a two-year research mentorship in the facili-

ties provided by the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The candidate will then bring his or her expertise back to Ireland and integrate emerging state-of-the-art research methods into Irish prostate cancer research practice.

“The Irish Cancer Society is delighted to be involved in creating this exciting initiative,” said Robert O’Connor, PhD, head of research at the Irish Cancer Society, who will lead the program. “The establishment of a trans-Atlantic partnership of this nature can only have positive outcomes for patients, as cancer researchers in Ireland and Boston work together to enhance existing programs and initiatives in cancer research.”

Funding will be provided through grant awards and philanthropic activities and the first fellowship is co-funded by Sanofi-Ireland and Janssen-Ireland.

Dropkick’s Casey in bid to buy Lower Mills Pub

By BILL FORRY
EDITOR

A team of buyers that includes Dropkick Murphy’s front-man Ken Casey plans to buy the Lower Mills Pub this month in a long-rumored deal that would bring new ownership — and likely, a kitchen and new look — to one of Dorchester Avenue’s last remaining old-school barrooms.

The pub, one of the few in the neighborhood that features live music, will be renovated this summer after Casey and his key partner — Brian O’Donnell of Milton — close on the sale.

There’s no name yet, but Casey told the *Reporter* that he and O’Donnell plan a “family-friendly, neighborhood place” that will include a new kitchen.

It would definitely be a nice tavern with TVs, but we definitely want to put some focus on food. It probably won’t have the biggest kitchen in the world, but we will put one in there.”

Casey owns two other popular bar-restaurants: McGreevey’s on Boylston Street and the newer Whiskey Republic in Providence. Casey and partners are working on a third eatery for the new Ink Block in Boston’s South End.

The Lower Mills Pub is an attractive location to both Casey and O’Donnell, in part, because O’Donnell can walk to the business from his home on the Milton side of Lower Mills. O’Donnell’s wife — interior designer Taniya Nayak, whose work has been



Dropkick Murphy’s front man Ken Casey owns two other pub-restaurants.

featured on HGTV — will be a part of the team that designs the Lower Mills establishment,

Casey said.

Casey, a Milton native himself, used to frequent the Lower Mills Pub. He says he hopes to keep a neighborhood feel to the place, while opening it up to the street more and giving it a more welcoming appearance.

“We’re not turning it into a sushi joint,” joked Casey. “My whole thing with all these places, my favorite part is designing it. A big part of it for me, obviously, will be to have some music in there. We’ll want to build on what the pub has been and make it better.”

Casey says it won’t be a “rock venue,” but he envisions traditional Irish music and acoustic sets on the small stage.

The sale of the pub has been

in the offing for months, but was delayed by complications with the current ownership. The pub was owned for decades by two men, one of whom — Nicholas Byrne — died five years ago. At a hearing before the city’s Licensing Board last January, attorneys for the Byrne family and co-owner Jeremiah Nash asked for permission to extend the bar’s existing license for two months while they finalized a plan to sell the property. The board approved their request, while noting that the bar was presently operating without a proper license, which was never amended after Byrne’s death.

Casey said on Tuesday that he expected the sale to be completed by the end of April.

Quinnipiac is rich in material about the Great Hunger

By Ed Forry

Quinnipiac University Vice President for Public Affairs Lynn Bushnell was in Boston last month seeking to find new audiences for the school's extensive histories of the Great Hunger.

"Quinnipiac hopes to increase awareness of Ireland's Great Hunger Museum and Ireland's Great Hunger Institute in the Boston area with the intent of encouraging visitors from this area to visit the museum," Bushnell said. "I just returned from Ireland where we opened a very special room in Westport House based on research conducted by Christine Kinealy, the founding director of the Institute and the world's foremost authority on this period of Irish history. She would be a tremendous speaker at some future Boston event."

In early April, Bushnell joined with Professor Kinealy in Westport, Co. Mayo, Ireland, where Quinnipiac installed an exhibition of the Famine Letters of Hester Catherine Browne, also known as Lady Sligo. Lady Sligo, a 19th century "grande dame."

On April 12, the *Irish Independent* newspaper reported, "An exhibition of previously unpublished letters has travelled from Quinnipiac University in Connecticut and opens in Westport House on Tuesday. Some 20 letters describe the tragedy of the Great Hunger through Lady Sligo's eyes, revealing her to be a socially aware woman with a keen sense of duty. In May 1845, she writes, with one or two word omissions, to her estate manager at Westport, George Hildebrand: 'I fear there must be a great deal distress & poverty about Westport now that there is so little money spent in the Town, & I do not at all grudge the money you gave away in charity for me.'"

"Four months later, she sends the following description from Clontarf, Dublin: 'I am sorry to say there is in this country a blight on the potatoes, which has caused the stems to turn black, & wither - I believe it was caused by a frosty night we had a fortnight ago. It has occasioned a rise in the price of potatoes here, which shows there is some anxiety on the subject... Let me know whether the potatoe crop in Mayo is affected?' She goes on to comment that stormy and wet weather would be very bad for the harvest and requests that tenants be given good-quality warm blankets. Yet she still needed her gowns and silks for daily life."

The exhibit will become a permanent one at the Westport House "The Lady Sligo letters are a unique collection of documents that chart a turbulent period in Irish history in the mid-19th century," Professor Kinealy said. Despite her wealth and social position, she repeatedly demonstrated her concern for the poor who lived on her estate in Co. Mayo."

Lady Sligo lived from 1800 to 1878. Her collection includes more than 200 letters covering the period of the Great Hunger and adds an important new dimension to scholarly understanding of the tragedy. "Students can view actual documents from the 19th century, which will make their learning experience both more authentic and more powerful," Kinealy said.

"The Lady Sligo Letters were acquired by Quinnipiac University because of their significance in fulfilling the mission of the Lender Special Collection, which is to be the largest repository in the United States related to the history of Ireland's Great Hunger," said University librarian Robert Jiven. "The letters are an important primary resource that provide a view of the famine from a unique perspective, that of a titled woman of the Anglo-Irish gentry."

Ireland's Great Hunger Institute is a scholarly resource for the study of the Great Hunger. Through a strategic program of lectures, conferences, course offerings and publications, the institute fosters a deeper understanding of this tragedy and its causes and consequences.

It's not easy to discern the impact on the North of the British election

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Every time the people of Northern Ireland vote, the political experts look for signs of change. Are those favoring a United Ireland gaining? Are the pro-London Unionist parties maintaining their lead?

It will be the same on Thurs., May 7, when the voters of Scotland, Wales, England, and Northern Ireland elect the 650 members of the new British Parliament. Only 18 members, less than 3 percent, will be elected from Northern Ireland but the results will be very interesting, not only for the Northern Irish but for the entire British nation.

As in any close election, the results cannot now be accurately predicted. Which political party will rule the London parliament, the Conservatives or Labor? In the recent Parliament the Conservatives had 302 votes and Labor had 256. The Conservatives achieved power in a coalition with the Liberal Democrats, who had 56 seats. It is probable that neither major party will receive the necessary 326 seats to gain a clear majority. The two other significant parties, the growing Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) and the Liberal Democrats, appear to have lost considerable ground and have no chance to be the leading party. A coalition of one of the larger parties and a few smaller parties are almost certain to rule the country.

This sort of development is called a "hung parliament," which can only be made to work if deals are made with other losing parties. Given that, Conservatives and Labor are frantically moving positions and trying to make deals for support in whatever coalition may emerge after the votes are counted.

David Cameron, leader of the Conservatives and the current prime minister, has already made overtures to like-minded conservatives by promising a referendum ballot of all British voters sometime after this election on the question of staying in the EU Common Market. Many conservatives, in a classic xenophobic step, would like Britain to leave the Common Market.

And this is where Northern Ireland comes in. The Democratic Unionist Party that Ian Paisley started would be delighted to participate in such a government. They would have much increased influence over deci-

Why execute him and make this murderer a hero/martyr?

Let's refuse to be drawn into vengeance where only another death balances the scale

By James W. Dolan
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is not repentant for the harm he has caused. He is not asking for mercy or forgiveness. He sees himself as a Muslim warrior fully justified in retaliating against America for thousands of innocent civilians who have suffered and died as collateral damage in a war against Islam.

To execute him would simply validate his self-image and his status among those we view as terrorists and whom he sees as holy warriors. Does it make sense to fulfill his ambition by making him a martyr? His behavior during the trial and the manifesto he wrote in the boat just prior to his capture underscore his continuing belief that he acted under some distorted vision of retribution.

Why should the state serve his perceived interests by executing him? It would be doing him a service. Not only would he be a hero but he would also be a martyr in the eyes of fanatics like himself. He and his brother were prepared to die as a consequence of the bombing. Perhaps he is ashamed that, unlike his brother, he was not martyred in the immediate aftermath of the attack. Is it up to us to fulfill that ambition?

I am opposed to capital punishment for several reasons. For the state to respond in kind to the vicious act of taking someone's life is repugnant. We should be better than that, regardless of the provocation. By showing mercy, we refuse to engage at the level of violence set by the murderer. We bring the discussion to a higher moral plain, setting an example by refusing to be drawn into vengeance where only another death balances the scale - cruelty begets cruelty.

Even a mass murderer is worthy of the mercy he never displayed and cannot understand. For our own sake, we must demonstrate that we respond to a higher

sions with the 8-9 votes they are projected to have after the election. Britain leaving the EU would cause a major disruption along the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic, which would serve Unionists well.

As far-fetched as such a development sounds, Sinn Fein, the second most popular party in the North, has published a manifesto decrying the possibility.

It may well be, however, that Ed Miliband, the leader of the Labor Party, will obtain enough votes to enter into a coalition with the Scottish Nationalist Party leader Nicola Sturgeon. With Labor projected to earn about 280 votes, the SNP's projected total of more than 45 votes would get them very close. The Nationalists in Ireland would be much happier with that outcome.

In Northern Ireland there are some very interesting parliamentary constituencies that will be watched carefully:

In East Belfast, the young DUP star Gavin Robinson, a former lord mayor of Belfast (no relation to Peter Robinson), is trying to unseat Naomi Long of the Alliance party. This is one of the four constituencies in which the two Unionist parties have agreed to run only one candidate. Robinson is favored. In the Belfast South constituency, the leader of the SDLP, Alasdair McDonnell, is fighting two Unionists and former Sinn Fein Lord Mayor Mairtin O'Muilleoir. O'Muilleoir is coming on strong in the late stages of the race, but the odds are still with McDonnell.

There could be other surprises. In North Belfast, Sinn Fein's Gerry Kelly has come closer and closer to the deputy leader of the DUP, Nigel Dodds, in each race where they run against each other. This time, the Ulster Unionist party has made a deal with the DUP not to run a candidate so the Dodds would have a clear field for the unionist vote.

In the Fermanagh South Tyrone district, Sinn Fein's Michelle Gildernew won her last race by only one vote and though she appears to be favored, this is another deal by the two Unionist parties to back only one Unionist candidate, in this case, UUP's Tom Elliott.

It does not appear that the political situation after the election will change much in Northern Ireland, but it also appears that things may change dramatically in London, and that would impact the 1.8 million people in Northern Ireland, who, with only 18 votes in the Parliament, unfortunately suffer from their lack of influence.



Hall of Justice: Moakley Federal Courthouse

calling. Only victims can offer forgiveness, but the state can reject violence and, at the least, confound those who show no mercy and display no guilt for the evil acts they have done.

Life imprisonment is a more sensible and probably less expensive option. Tsarnaev would be denied his martyrdom and maybe over time he would come to see the evil that he and others are doing in the name of God. One can only hope that one day he will repent. If so, I expect there are some among his victims who would forgive him.

Most other nations have evolved beyond capital punishment, recognizing it is immoral, impractical, unfair, irreversible, and sometimes mistakenly applied. When it comes to capital punishment, we stand with countries that usually fail to profess our concern for civil rights and justice.

"Boston Strong" means more than being united and resilient in the face of horror. It means more than caring for the victims and their families. It means being better than those who would harm us. To me, it also means we march to a different drum, sing a more inspiring hymn, and respond to higher values than those who would do us harm.

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

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Point of View

‘ONE OF GOD’S BEST NOBLE MEN’

By Peter F. Stevens
BIR Staff

If society truly measures people by both financial success and charitable works, Andrew Carney ranks as one of the greatest rag-to-riches stories in America’s annals.

Before there were “Horatio Alger” stories, there was Andrew Carney. Today, we have numerous politicians and corporate kings and queens who believe that charity does not begin at home or in the boardroom. Everyone is exactly where they deserve to be in life, some will say. No exceptions.

Fortunately, in and around Boston, eminently successful businesspeople such as John Hailer, John Cullinane, Barbara Lynch, Robert Sheridan, and others have embraced many of the tenets embodied by Carney.

In contrast, Irish American Congressman Paul Ryan and a legion of like-minded citizens grumble that when Pope Francis chides the 1 percent about their responsibility to help those less fortunate, he “doesn’t understand capitalism or the American Way.” Andrew Carney understood capitalism, charity, and compassion. He would have grasped exactly what Pope Francis espouses. In the toxic political and corporate climate of May 2015, it might be fitting to look at the lessons that Carney, born in May 1794, can still impart.

The nineteenth-century historian John B. Cullen, in his book “The Story of the Irish in Boston,” aptly wrote: “Of the many representative Irishmen whom Boston can claim as an honored citizen, and refer to the history of his life with the utmost pride, none, perhaps, could have a more exalted position than Andrew Carney. ... To the poor of this city in times of sickness and poverty, he was a kind-hearted, whole-souled, generous friend and protector.”

He was also a tough, pragmatic, innovative businessman who did not sacrifice ethics for fortune.

Carney was born into abject poverty in Ballanagh, Co. Cavan, Ireland, on May 12, 1794. With only a limited education, he was apprenticed to a local tailor and learned the trade. After deciding that few opportunities to rise far in Ireland existed for a poor Catholic, the 20-year-old Carney emigrated to Boston in 1816 with nothing except his trade and ambition far beyond what anyone who knew him back in Ireland thought attainable.

In Boston, he started out in the hardscrabble Irish neighborhoods of Anne and Water Streets in the North End and found work “at the bench” of Kelley & Hudson, tailors, on State Street. “He began life,” said Father John McElroy, a Jesuit founder of Boston College and a close friend, “with nothing but health and labor to rely upon.”

Carney also had something else to rely upon: his determination to be his own boss. After long years of work for Kelley & Hudson, he had saved enough to open a tailoring shop on North Street in partnership with Jacob Sleeper; the venture – equally split between an



ANDREW CARNEY, FOUNDER OF CARNEY HOSPITAL.

Irish Catholic immigrant and an established Yankee businessman – was an almost unheard of union in Brahmin Boston. The two entrepreneurs not only built up a large clientele with their deft and quick tailoring skills, but Carney & Sleeper, Clothiers, were also the first in their profession to unveil “ready-made suits” that were priced for all incomes. A colleague remarked that Carney “was a very keen businessman, was exceedingly shrewd, and could see money in a transaction when others would be blind to the possibilities of the occasion.”

After nearly two decades, Carney cashed out of the business in 1845, having amassed a fortune. In his early fifties, he devoted his energies to help found the Bank of the Republic and the Safety Fund Bank (now Bank of America). A director of the John Hancock Life Insurance Company, he proved instrumental in both the foundation and the funding of Boston College, which, in his day, was first located on Harrison Avenue, in Boston’s South End next to the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

As his fortune expanded, Carney, who had always made considerable contributions to the both the Catholic Church’s and the city’s charitable institutions, turned even more of his energies and his fortune to aiding the sick and the downtrodden. He gave on a scale both personal and grand. Cullen writes: “Many a poor apple-woman of his time, presiding over her ‘little

stand,’ was approached by the Irish merchant and tendered a half-dollar, ‘with no change,’ in payment of his purchase of a [penny] apple. He would walk away with the exclamation, ‘Hush, my dear woman, don’t say a word about it!’”

Carney would many times find that a when he boarded a street car home at the end of a day, he had given away all the money in his wallet. In his expensive overcoat and suit, he would wait patiently for a familiar face because even though he was one of Boston’s wealthiest men, he did not have enough to pay the fare. Cullen notes that Carney would gather “a loan from a neighbor, which he always made it a rule to pay on the following day.”

In 1863, as the Civil War raged, Carney made a profound and long-lasting charitable impact upon Boston’s landscape – literally so. For the staggering price of \$13,500, he purchased the Howe Mansion, atop Dorchester Heights. The house was still stunning, but had fallen into some disrepair. Carney intended to renovate the site, which provided spectacular vistas of Boston and the Harbor Islands, but not for himself. With its cooling summer breezes and its proximity to the city, the Irishman commissioned the renovation of the Howe Mansion into a hospital “to afford relief to the sick and poor.” Cullen lauded how the Carney Hospital, run by the Sisters of Charity, was tasked to receive “patients of all religious denominations. Chronic, acute, and other cases are received.”

Carney demanded that the institution bearing his name be “a hospital where the sick without distinction of creed, color or nation shall be received and cared for.” In an era when ethnic prejudice, racism, elitism, and greed ruled the roost, Carney’s views were both astonishing and visionary.

Andrew Carney would pass away the following year, 1864, his personal donations to the hospital over \$75,000. Cullen and those who knew Carney speculated that his “humble beginnings in Ballanagh...[served] as the impetus for his sincere interest in the less fortunate.” It is undeniable that Carney understood that hard work, ambition, and talent are not always enough to guarantee success and that, as the adage goes, “life is unfair” for many. Despite his success, he never lost sight of those truths. Over the last three years of his life, he gave a stunning amount of money to charity.

Cullen writes that one of Carney’s business associates dubbed him “one of God’s best noblemen.” One can only wonder what the Boston Irish philanthropist would have thought of today’s tycoons and politicians who, bloated with power and wealth, have no qualms about gutting access to health care and cutting food benefits for poor children. One can only wonder how he would have viewed the anti-immigrant bile that runs through society as viciously in 2015 as it did in 1845. Andrew Carney would not have viewed such issues through a prism of the right or the left. He would have done what was morally right.

Commentary

Let’s not quit on Boston 2024

By Jim Keefe
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Frankly, I’m not surprised at the level of skepticism that has greeted the possibility of the Summer Olympics coming to Boston. That Yankee caution and resistance to all things new has permeated our culture for centuries. And while as a region we often take pride in our adherence to tradition, it has often held us back, and the friction that is mounting against the Olympics is a perfect example of this.

Too much caution can put a wet blanket on risk-taking and investment. Tradition can stifle creativity. For example, social media was practically invented here in Boston, but the principals felt compelled to take their ideas to California, where they flourished. The same could be said of the Internet. I fear that too many bright young people, who were either born or studied here, are taking their energy and creative ideas someplace else. Why? Because Boston doesn’t offer the kind of nurturing, supportive, entrepreneurial environment that other areas do.

Ambitious ideas are often unwelcomed. Some of us remember well the skepticism regarding the building of Copley Place. The Central Artery project continues to be the butt of many jokes. Quincy Market couldn’t get financing locally, and had to be taken on by a developer from Baltimore. The harbor cleanup had to be forced upon us by the courts. Can anyone imagine Boston enjoying today’s success if these projects didn’t happen?

To be sure, the Boston 2024 committee members have taken some missteps. They should have anticipated the calls for a referendum. Their initial resistance only gave fuel to the skeptics, and put themselves in a defensive crouch that they have not to date been able to overcome. Further, property owners should have been given a thorough briefing about the possible use of their properties before the plans were published. Still further, elected officials, like our own state senator, Linda Dorcea Forny, want to be the first to know, not the last to know, when Olympic plans involve their districts. It’s a matter of simple courtesy. People need to be consulted before reading about it in the papers.

For all that, I think the critics have gone too far. Here

are just three examples of what I mean:

- No tax dollars. This seems to be the ultimate litmus test. But even using this very limited standard, this sentiment doesn’t make sense. If we are successful, the Olympics will require \$4.7 billion in private investment, which will be the capital costs of all the new venues as well as the operating costs for the games themselves. Without even considering the jobs and other economic opportunities that will follow from such an investment, simply applying sales and/or income taxes to this figure represents a windfall to the Commonwealth of over \$250 million in new tax revenue. This is money the state wouldn’t be receiving if the Games go to Rome.

Similarly, the games take place in July and August, historically a slower time for restaurants and hotels. With every hotel room in the greater Boston area booked, and the restaurants full of customers, this would be a significant boost in meals and lodging taxes, of which Boston would get a significant share. The city and state could come out as major winners financially, so using tax dollars shouldn’t be ruled out categorically.

- John Fish must go. He has become a lightning rod for the naysayers, and there are now calls for him to step down. What a mistake! He has been the single most important person in securing the USOC designation, which was an extraordinary accomplishment. More importantly, by far the biggest challenge to having a successful Olympics in Boston will be the execution of the plan. In other words, getting all of the venues and other support facilities built on time and on budget. John might not be the most diplomatic person, but with Suffolk Construction job signs all over the East Coast, most especially here in Boston, he is by far



the most dynamic construction executive in the city, and maybe even the country. Bill Belichick might be similarly warmth-challenged, but no one is calling for him to step down.

- Deval Patrick’s big stipend. As a successful lawyer, a senior member of the Clinton administration, a former senior executive to two Fortune 500 companies, and a former two-term governor, his compensation was not all that out of line. That statement might be offensive to the op-ed writers at the Globe and Herald, but it’s true. His role will be crucial and he will need to be fully engaged if our bid is to be successful. The last time the United States hosted the Summer Olympics was in Atlanta in 1996. Many observers attributed the city’s surprising success to the role played by Andrew Young. A prominent African American with experience as a US ambassador and mayor of Atlanta, he personally connected with many individual members of the IOC, a large number of whom were people of color. Patrick is perfectly suited to play a similar role, and he will send an important message to the international community that Boston is a diverse and inclusive city. In the end, it’s all about getting the votes, and no true Bostonian can quibble with that.

I don’t think it’s too late to get Boston 2024 back on track; the idea is too good and too promising for the bidding process to fail now. Many of the IOC’s decision makers already have a favorable impression of the Boston area, having come here as students, medical patients, or tourists. And by 2024, the US will not have had the Summer Games in 28 years.

Boston can have a successful Olympics if its citizens can overcome the deeply inbred skepticism and negativity that has been passed down from the Puritans who founded the city in 1630. In so doing, we might just eliminate this self-defeating defect once and for all.

Our biggest challenge will be to stop obsessing about all the things that might go wrong, begin to imagine how great and glorious those three weeks will be, and work hard to make them a reality.

Jim Keefe is the president of Trinity Financial, Inc. He is a longtime resident of Dorchester.

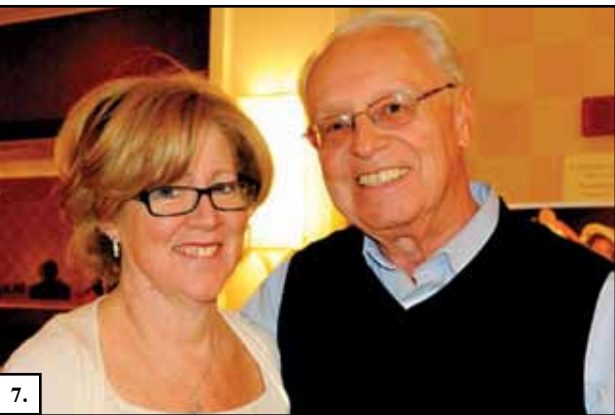
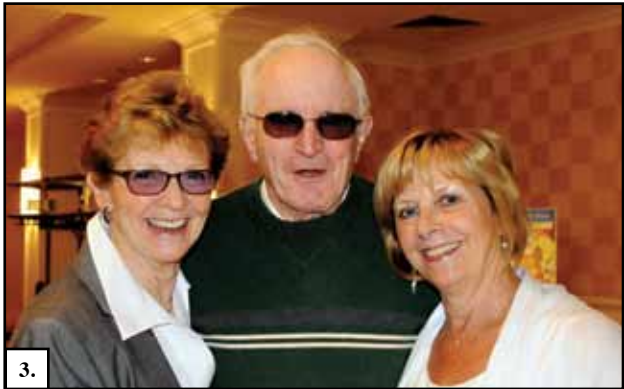
BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The traditional “Irish Hearts for Orphans” fund-raiser was held on April 19 at the Quincy Marriott Hotel. The event supports the efforts of NPH USA, formerly Friends of the Orphans, an agency seeking to transform the lives of orphaned, abandoned, and disadvantaged children in Latin America and the Caribbean. Local contacts are Winnie and Monica Henry at 617-206-4943, mhenry@nphusa.org.

1.) John McManus with grandsons John, John Patrick and his son Steve on right, all of W. Roxbury; 2.) Nora and Patrick Goonan, Quincy; 3.) Sally and Joe Harney, Walpole; Margaret Dalton, Erin’s Melody; 4.) Monica Henry, Grafton, director of NPHUSA and A. Frank Donaghue, Chicago, President/CEO NPHUSA; 5.) Jim and Cheryl Calvey, Woburn; 6.) Winnie Henry and Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch; 7.) Eileen O’Donnell, Quincy; Ed Simmons, Burlington; 8.) Ally Treen, Leominster; Rich Reid, W. Bridgewater; 9.) Eleanor Commene, Arlene Phinney, Joan McCune, all of Milton; 10.) Sheila Cummings, WUNR, with Seamus Mulligan and Bill Baily, both of WROL; 11.) Paula McGrath, Quincy; Mary Wassling, Milton; Kathleen Mitchell Gill, Quincy; 12.) Fr. Patrick McLaughlin, St. Agatha’s, Milton; Maureen and Walter Carr, Milton; 13.) Monica Henry, Grafton; Doc Walsh, Dorchester; Winnie Henry, Milton (all NPHUSA) with awardees Sr. Marguerite Kelly; Bob Faherty; Anna McAuliffe (for her husband Dan McAuliffe), Jerry McGrath and A. Frank Donaghue.

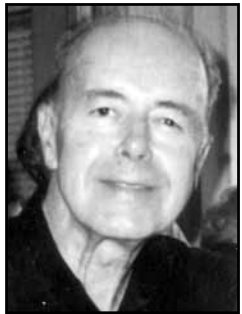


Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

Irish Government Tightening Banking Rules—Ireland's political leaders, like ours here in Congress, don't agree too often, but there is a growing consensus on the isle that it no longer can be business as usual for Irish banks. Enough time has passed since the biggest banks, with their destructive, madcap operating style, and developers and investors brought Ireland's economy to its knees to make reform inevitable.

With memories fresh and a new-found reality the order of the day, the Dublin government has the support of the European Union Commission to strengthen



Bill O'Donnell

its powers over the banks and other financial institutions. The reforms will focus on giving Irish courts the ability by law to veto certain transactions, to intervene to resolve the lingering mortgage arrears crisis, and to propose and enforce certain alternative arrangements when a bank gets into trouble.

In so many words, it is a new deal. Banks won't like the reform game rules, but after the huge role they played in the Irish recession, their clout and command function has noticeably declined.

Also on the reform agenda are proposals to deal with unorthodox or undisciplined behavior by Irish banks and bankers similar to those newly in force in Britain. The Central Bank governor Patrick Honohan said that for the most part the bankers' behavior leading up to the crisis was unwise rather than criminal.

Earlier this year, Boston College Professor of Finance **Ed Kane** was more forceful regarding penalties for bankers who "routinely abused the rules" without penalty. He proposed a permanent structure for "punishing unruly behavior in a meaningful way."

Testimony in the Irish banking inquiry has highlighted several factors that fueled the nation's economic collapse: the lack of a national planning strategy; large scale land rezoning; cheap bank debt; and government tax incentive policy.

Elections in the North, Referendum in the Republic—The British elections will be held on May 7, which we all know includes the North, despite wishful thinking by **Gerry** and the faithful. In the other 26 counties, the focus is on Fri., May 22, when voters will decide whether to approve same-sex marriage. Taoiseach **Enda Kenny** and the government support a Yes vote, with Kenny saying it would underline Ireland's reputation as a tolerant and inclusive nation.

An opinion poll late last year showed that two-thirds of voters would back gay marriage in a referendum. However, the Catholic Church has strongly opposed such marriages in the Republic, so a loss on this issue would be a bitter pill for the church. More recent polling shows some erosion of the early Yes lead. There has been some suggestion that there might be a hidden No response, with voters possibly saying Yes to interviewers, yet voting No on the ballot later this month, thus giving evidence of an underlying anti-gay sentiment.

Vatican Formally Ends Oversight of Nuns—The Vatican officially announced in mid-April that it had ended the oversight of the religious sisters' largest leadership group. The closing of the inquiry comes two years earlier than expected. The oversight initiated under **Pope Benedict XVI**, which has been thought by many to be an increasingly awkward and uncomfortable Vatican position for **Pope Francis**, was clearly controversial, but the Vatican's final report contained no references to the original criticism of the sisters.

As someone who spent more than decade being taught by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Boston I was dismayed by the irrational criticism initially cited in announcing the planned five-year inquiry of the sisters' writings, their guest speakers, and their policies. The Vatican's closing report clearly softens the hard-charging criticism from when the oversight was first introduced, but contains some lingering mention of review, and revised processes for the sisters' choice of speakers, etc.

The reaction by the sisters to the final oversight report seems to be relief that it was even-handed, "very civil," and not contentious. As one of the sisters' leaders characterized it: "It reads to me like women who have been in a long conversation of equals." And most importantly, as another leader noted, "the Leadership Conference of Women Religious has not lost its ability to operate freely"

I hope that we have seen the last of these type of exercises that bring into question the hard work, loyalty, and devotion of the Catholic Church's invaluable religious.

Ready for Summer: Ireland's Welcome Mat is Out—North and south, east to west, the island of Ireland has a variety of new trails and events that ensure a summer of wonderment, historical events, and scenic beauty. A big event in Belfast and the surrounding area will be the arrival of the Tall Ships for four days in high summer—July 2-5. It will be the biggest event to be staged in the city. The city will be host and home port prior to the 2015 race featuring dozens of the world most celebrated and breathtaking ships. The long July weekend will be the third time in the North for the Tall Ships Race; it was previously staged in Belfast in 1991 and 2009.

Participating in Belfast waters for the first leg of

the race this year are more than 50 vessels, including 17 massively impressive Class A ships. Having spent several days in Belfast last autumn, I can tell you it's an exciting city, with a vigorous night life, scenic vistas that just begin in Belfast proper, a young, vital population, historic Queens College, and an array of first-class restaurants and pubs. It is a far cry, a universe away from the grim, grey town of yesteryear. And the rolling countryside, from the Ards Peninsula to the Antrim or Coast Road, is a fitting and splendid counterpoint to urban Belfast.

Another opening in old Belfast is the spanking new FolkTown Market, the first independent outdoor market granted a license in 400 years. It has captivated the townspeople in its early days and attracted crowds to the city's Bank Square. The stalls in the natural stone market area have locally-sourced food, buskers, furniture, music, artisan crafts, and more.

Moving southward to the west is the already established Wild Atlantic Way, that glorious stretch of variegated land and small towns and green byways from Donegal in the northwest through Mayo, Clare, Galway, and Kerry to west Cork, Dingle, Kinsale, and beyond. It's magnificent panorama of Ireland's natural habitat, and an unforgettable pathway in the west of Ireland.

And for those who appreciate a touch of regal splendor and are traveling in County Mayo, there is the refurbished Ashford Castle, newly restored to its original beauty at a cost of \$50 million. The Castle, former home of the Guinness clan, is one of my favorite spots in Ireland for afternoon tea or an early morning breakfast in between our stays in bed & breakfast spots that fit our budget. The latest touches at the castle are a swimming pool, a spa, a billiards room, and a new 32-seat cinema.

Across the country, a new and compelling initiative highlights Ireland's older historical attractions on the eastern side of the isle. "Ireland's Ancient East," it has been designed as a counterpoint to the Wild Atlantic Way and will officially open, with signposts, guidebooks, and the like in 2016. However, there should be details and touring information during this year. When it is officially launched, "Ireland's Ancient East" is expected to attract an additional 600,000 overseas visitors. But for those heading to Ireland this year, there will be an opportunity to get a head start and test drive the historic long trail as pioneering visitors.

Ireland is better than ever. Go home this year. You'll be glad you did.

No Breakthrough in Border Fuel Smuggling—Over the past months there has been increasing concern about the fuel smuggling and related environmental concerns re toxic waste and polluted waterways in the Dundalk area. The EU Agriculture Commissioner, **Phil Hogan** (an Irishman) several weeks ago called out Sinn Féin "to tell more of what they know" about illegal fuel smuggling and laundering just north of the border area with Louth in the Republic.

Political sources estimate that the fuel rackets produce profits of over \$50 million a year, all illegal and untaxed. The operations apparently are a pollution risk to waterways and residents within a 30-mile radius on both sides of the border. The Agricultural Commissioner said "both national authorities [the Garda in the Republic and PSNI in the North] have been well aware of this terrible problem for decades and they are trying, but not really succeeding, in stopping it."

The commissioner also noted that the environmental fallout from abandoned fuel waste risked huge damage to the reputation of Irish food on global export markets. The *Irish Independent* newspaper, published out of Dublin, recently discovered a fuel laundering plant close to a public water supply for Armagh and Monaghan that was discharging toxic sludge.

Put A Woman On US Currency? Yes, Indeed—There is a small-bore campaign afoot to seriously study the idea of putting a woman's face on the \$20 bill. I think it's a first-rate idea and overdue. If not the twenty, then another denomination. In the United States it is roughly a 50-50 split on gender. Maybe more women than men? If we agreed on a woman for the \$20 bill, it would mean jettisoning President Andrew Jackson. Hey, you win some, you lose some.

There's no precedent for a woman on our American currency, but there is ample precedent in Ireland. A lovely lady, born **Hazel Martyn** in Chicago, who became Lady Lavery after marrying Belfast-born painter **Sir John Lavery**, was a mainstay on Irish paper currency from 1928 into the 1970s. Her husband, who became an official artist for the British government painted a number of portraits of his Lady. Following the Anglo-Irish treaty, he was invited by the Irish Free State to create an image of a female personification of Ireland for the new Irish banknotes. Sir John chose (wonders never cease!) his wife and her image adorned Irish paper currency until the euro was introduced.

There is a subtext here. Lady Lavery and Sir John had a palatial house in South Kensington, which they leased to **Michael Collins** and the Irish delegation during the talks on the Treaty of 1921. There has been some suspicion, containing a degree of credence if not compelling evidence, that Lady Lavery and Michael, her tenant, grew closer together in those early 1920s. Paramour or not, Lady Hazel Lavery was for most of the 20th century the face of Ireland and nobody complained. She died in 1935 in London.

Cullinane & Costello At Harvard—My wife Jean and I took the Honda by the horns and drove over to

Harvard Square in early April to the Kennedy School to listen to two gentleman who know a thing or two about Northern Ireland, peace, and public-private partnerships: **John Cullinane**, founder of Cullinet and a pioneer software entrepreneur, and his co pilot for the day **Dr. Frank Costello**, a resident of Belfast and a Visiting Research Professor at Queens University, Belfast.

It was a terrific afternoon at Weil Town Hall on the JFK School's urban campus. Frank and John spoke, answered questions, and chatted about life in Northern Ireland, and the importance of public-private partnerships in the emerging peace process.

Following the session I had a chance to say hello and chat with some old and new friends. It was great craic to see and talk with friend **Phil Haughey**, who goes back to our BIV days and helps wherever he can in the Irish community; with my colleague on this paper, Irish American Partnership leader **Joe Leary**; and with **Patrick McDevitt**, a Boston real estate developer who would never mention it but is usually the smartest man in the room. And it was a treat to meet **Ronnie Millar**, the executive director of the Irish International Immigrant Center and successor there to **Sister Lena Deevy**, a favorite who I once said we would have to invent if she didn't already exist. A grand April day in the Square.

Another Bad Shoe Drop: A General is Flushed Out—Thirty-five years after the savage 1980 murders of four American churchwomen in El Salvador, a former Salvadoran defense minister has been deported by a US immigration appeals court. **General Vides Casanova**, who has been living in Florida for 25 years, was found to have covered up torture and murder by his troops, including the killings of the four women who were working with the Catholic Church as missionaries to the poor.

The deportations of Bides Casanova and others for the untold number of abuses, tortures, and murders that they have been identified with are the result of new anti-terrorist laws that employ the concept of command responsibility.

Vides Casanova was the recipient of two Legion of Merit awards by the Reagan administration and was given safe haven in Florida by the first Bush administration.

Boston Olympics 2024 Picks Board; Support at 40%—The latest numbers for Boston 2024 are better than they have been by a bit, but with only 40 percent support (50 percent against) they are not knocking anyone dead. In the Globe last month, Smith College Economics professor **Andrew Zimbalist** used numbers from past Olympics to definitively show the scarcity of surplus or break-even scenarios.

In his closing, Zimbalist had this to say: "If Boston 2024 really believes in American exceptionalism, there is one way to prove it. It can release both the city and the state from the financial backstop role and accept full responsibility for any revenue shortfalls, cost overruns, or losses." Your serve, Boston 2024.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

The average Irish groom is 35 and the bride he is marrying now is age 33. This is 9 years older for both than it was in 1977. ... The Irish tax agency is adding 400 key staffers to replace retirees and stiffen up the professional talent. ... Ireland is already buzzing about **Johnny Depp and the Whitey Bulger** movie "Black Mass." ... We lost a good man when pub mogul **John Joe Somers** died in late March. Had a meal late last year in his country pub in Wrentham where the chat and the meal were excellent. ... Gillette can't seem to make a decent disposable razor so they are delivering goofy, coded briefcases to get us to buy double-digit-costing futuristic razors to distract us. ... An Irish tractor driver, clocked at 13 mph, was stopped after causing a 7-mile backup. The court will hold his license for a year. ... The columnist and former Nixon apologist **Patrick Buchanan** is running out of newspapers who will run his smarmy column. MSNBC's Morning Joe program finally, and on merit, fired Buchanan for repeated bias that some call bigotry. ... Big Data can potentially change the way businesses operate and could add 20,000 new jobs for Irish workers, a new survey says.

When Pope Francis accepted the forced resignation of US Bishop **Robert Finn** of Missouri, it marked the first time that an American bishop was removed for covering up for guilty clergy. ... In Belfast, **George Mitchell**, peacemaker extraordinary, says he [like Obama] supports integrated Irish schools. ... Sinn Féin has raised some \$12 million in political contributions from American givers over the past 20 years. ... When thinking of great Bostonians don't forget the late **Norman Leventhal**, who convinced then Mayor **Kevin White** to put parking underground and out of sight so that Post Office Square could become the beautiful park and oasis it is today. ... Entrepreneurial plagiarism, big at US colleges, is the latest "pay for words" business at Irish universities. ... A recent survey discovered that a majority of British people believe that Ireland should be independent and united. ... The Famine commemoration will be held for the first time this year in Northern Ireland. Newry will host the Sept. 26 event. ... I love the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an **Elizabeth Warren** creation. My IRS refund came with a short flyer about the benefits of CFPB. Whoever got that message into the envelope, good work!

Immigration Q&A

Re: Passports for US citizen children

Q. *I am an Irish citizen who recently gave birth to a child here in the US. I want to get a US passport for my child before we take a trip to Ireland. Does the child's father need to come with me or sign something to get the passport?*

A. A child born in the US automatically has US citizenship, irrespective of the parents' citizenship (exception: children of foreign diplomats). However, because of child custody and support issues, the US Passport Office in the State Department has set out strict requirements for the issuance of US passports to enable children under the age of 16 to travel abroad:

1. Both parents must appear together and sign the application for the child; or
2. One parent appears, signs the application, and submits the second parent's notarized "Statement of Consent: Issue of a Passport to a Minor Under age 16," Form DS-3053, authorizing passport issuance for the child; or
3. One parent appears, signs, and submits required evidence of sole authority to apply (such as one of the following):
 - The child's certified birth record listing *only* the applying parent; or
 - Consular Report of Birth Abroad (Form FS-240) or Certification of Birth Abroad (Form DS-1350) listing *only* the applying parent; or
 - A court order granting sole custody to the applying parent (unless the child's travel is restricted by that order); or
 - An adoption decree (if the applying parent is the *sole* adopting parent); or
 - A court order specifically permitting an applying parent's or legal guardian's travel with the child; or
 - A judicial declaration of legal incompetence of the non-applying parent; or
 - A death certificate for the non-applying parent.

Note that these requirements apply to all US citizen children under 16, irrespective of their place of birth or the citizenship of their parents. More detailed information about applying for passports, as well as any necessary forms, can be found at the US State Department's website, travel.state.gov/passport/.

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

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110
Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655
Website: iiicenter.org Email: immigration@iiicenter.org

Legal Clinics – Tues., May 5, and Tues., May 19 at the IIIC offices, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston. Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street. ... Mon., May 11 – The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton Center. ... Wed., May 27 – St. Mark's Parish Hall (Church Basement), 1725 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester.

US Citizenship Preparation Class begins on May 7 – Are you interested in becoming a US Citizen? Citizenship classes at the Irish International Immigrant Center (IIIC) will prepare you for the naturalization exam and interview. Study the questions that will be asked, learn what to expect during your interview, and gain confidence that you will pass the exam and be on your way to US citizenship. Tutoring is also available. This six-week class is offered on Thursday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and again on Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fee: \$30.

For further information, contact Sarah at 617-542-7654, Ext. 36; Email: sarahcs@iiicenter.org or visit the Center between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

Black and Green of Boston – When: Sunday, May 17th 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Where: Medicine Wheel Productions, 110 K Street, 2nd Floor, South Boston. Ireland and Monserrat, ("The Emerald Isle of the Caribbean") have much in common and the Irish International Immigrant Center (IIIC) is proud to join our partners, the Montserrat Aspirers, in hosting the Eighteenth Annual Black and Green Celebration.

Join us for an afternoon of cultural exchange – great food, music, and conversation. Enjoy Poetry Reading, Irish dance, urban dance, and world music. Boston's first ever Chief

Diversity Officer, Shaun Blugh, will be our speaker. Performances by: • Zumix • OrigNation, Inc. • Heavy-Quinn Dance School • Jamele Adams.

Admission: Donation \$10 | Free for children 12 and under. Advance registration appreciated.

For further information and reservations, contact Johanne Méléance at 617-542-7654, Ext. 13: Email: jmeleance@iiicenter.org

Domestic Worker's Bill of Rights – The Domestic Worker's Bill of Rights (the "Nanny Bill") took effect on April 1. It is important to remember that the Mas-



Sister Marguerite Kelly Well Done, Sister Marguerite!

A significant event in the Boston Irish community occurred last week when Sister Marguerite Kelly, MFIC, stepped down from her position as pastoral associate at the Irish Pastoral Centre in Quincy. A County Galway native, Sister had previously served as executive director of the Centre from 2004 to 2011.

The staff at the IIIC salutes Sister Marguerite for her numerous accomplishments and generous service to our community. We join her many friends in wishing her the happiest of years in retirement!

sachusetts wage and hour laws, and the Domestic Worker's Bill of Rights apply to all workers regardless of immigration status, including undocumented workers. To more fully understand your rights and obligations, the IIIC suggests that you visit the Massachusetts Attorney General's website for detailed information: <http://tinyurl.com/l5ze7zr>

Career Opportunities at the IIIC – Join the team at the IIIC! The center is seeking a Wellness Director and a Guest Services Coordinator. For full job descriptions, visit the IIIC website (iiicenter.org) and go to "Get Involved – Career Opportunities."

Matters Of Substance

Ten Years On

appropriate counseling and case management to individuals, couples, and families struggling with the impact of alcohol and/or drugs on their lives.

Through the center's legal services we saw first hand the immigration consequences of alcohol and drug use. Driving under the influence, for example, can seriously affect legal permanent resident's (LPR) hopes for citizenship. Those who are undocumented are at even further risk of consequences from misuse of alcohol or drugs. In the 10 years our service has been in operation, immigration laws in the US have not changed, despite repeated efforts for comprehensive immigration reform.

As immigrants (both undocumented and LPRs) we need to realize how vulnerable we are to committing immigration violations when we, or someone we live with, misuses or abuses alcohol and drugs. It's all too easy at a football match, pub, or wedding to find our-

selves drinking and wind up getting involved in a row, or decide it's okay to drive home. We could find ourselves charged with drunk and disorderly, assault and battery or driving while under the influence. Even if we get a caution under criminal law, we are vulnerable, under immigration law, to removal from the United States. We never think it will happen to us, but it does!

The way we understand alcohol and drug use disorders is changing as science shows how repeated use changes the way the brain functions. Some people can use alcohol and recreational or prescription drugs without ever experiencing negative consequences or addiction. For others, substance use can cause problems at school, work, and home, and in relationships.

The most popular drugs in the Boston community - alcohol, cocaine and marijuana - now also include opiates like Oxycodone which can lead to heroin


use. There is much that needs to be done to prevent our loved ones from losing their lives to addiction, overdose, or even suicide. At the IIIC we have guided thousands of individuals and hundreds of families through support and referrals to find tools for recovery and healing. Our work offers an opportunity to re-discover the innate potential that all immigrants have, to achieve the life they dreamed of when they left Ireland.

At the IIIC, we are very proud of the service we offer and believe we are in a stronger position now than we were in 2004. We support immigrants to overcome addiction, behavioral health challenges like depression, anxiety, and suicide risk as well as address the situational concerns that can generate these problems: intimate partner violence, un/underemployment, homelessness, and health care access.

We have created support, contacts, and practical tools to find hope, no matter what brings you to the door - confidentially and without judgment. One of the participants at our recent Family Healing group series shared the following feedback on her experience: "I loved the workshops. Thank you for giving me hope."


Please do not struggle alone! Contact Deirdre on 617-542-7654, Ext: 32 or email dmccann@iiicenter.org. Let us help you live the life you want!

The IIIC's substance abuse prevention services were established in 2004 as a way to offer culturally



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Sarah Chapple-Sokol
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EATING AND EMOTION

Dr. Bernadette Rock

Irish dietary habits present challenges to good health

Hi, I'm Bernadette, and I'm delighted to be writing a series of articles about Irish eating habits and our emotional attachment to food. Eating was once my way of disconnecting from reality when I felt bored, stressed, or overwhelmed. If you eat because you're anxious, or have an 'all-or-nothing' mentality – "I've eaten a few biscuits, I might as well keep eating" – you might well understand the ensuing feelings of guilt and frustration.

These days I help people address unhealthy habits and emotions around eating, drawing on my doctorate in sociology and my own struggles, which I overcame. I deliver the Heyday program in the Weight Management Clinic in Loughlinstown Hospital, Dublin, with the support of Prof. Donal O'Shea.

Heyday's online program and support community is enjoying an enthusiastic response. It's exciting that an increasing number of my online clients are Irish people living in the US. It seems there is some comfort and familiarity in connecting with a program that captures their authentic experiences and challenges around food and weight.

In early April I had the opportunity to travel to Boston, and visit the Irish International Immigrant Center. I met Irish people living and working in Boston, along with Irish-American doctors working in regional hospitals. The experience afforded me an insight into the relatively high cost of good quality food and the widespread availability of cheap food, and the large portions of food, all of which raise the question: "Do I waste good food, or will I clear the plate?!" While these all represent challenges in Ireland, they seemed more acute and frequent in the Boston area.

Often Irish people exhibit similar eating habits, such as a sense of urgency around eating. Some of our habits almost smack of a famine mentality. My mother exemplifies this. Last week I noticed her peeling a wilted banana in the early stages of decay from a bowl of fresh, vibrantly colored fruit. I was tempted to remind her that the Great Famine ended some 160 years ago, but for my mother, who grew up in a large family where food was often scarce, that attachment is powerful.

Our everyday eating is sometimes fueled by urgency and a fear of deprivation, rather than the physical need for food:

Eating to Please: Were you told as a child to "eat it up, that's all you're getting" or "eat up everything before it goes cold"? One of my early memories is sitting around the table with my six siblings and being warned that "there are children starving in Africa so eat it ALL up." We obliged by licking out plates clean, literally, as if that would help alleviate a famine in another continent.

Throwing it all away: As an adult, do you feel riddled with guilt about throwing food out or "wasting" food? Would you sooner eat it all up rather than toss it? Food dumped into your body when you are not hungry is still wasted - it's just going through you first!

Many of us live in a world where food is plentiful, easily accessible, and highly convenient, but nonetheless live in a state of dissatisfaction and emptiness. Food can represent comfort, love, guilt, and punishment. Childhood eating habits can be so deeply ingrained, and show that we do not always need or enjoy the food we eat. Managing your weight and taking charge of your eating needs to mean taking better care of your needs. It's a world apart from feeling out of control around food.

Please let me know what you think

I'm curious about what readers think, and I welcome your comments or questions to hello@heydayworld.com or see facebook.com/heydayworld for tips and advice. See heydayworld.com for details of the online program.

Wishing you good health,
Dr. Bernadette Rock (PhD).



Bernadette Rock and child.

Public regains access to JFK State House statue

BY GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

The John F. Kennedy statue overlooking the State House lawn and Boston Common is again available for close-up viewing to the wider public.

The public will be able to view the statue of the former US president seasonally, through October, starting at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Department of Conservation and Recreation rangers will be available by the statue for security purposes. To visit the statue, members of the public will have to pass through security checks at the State House entrances by the Gen. Joseph Hooker statue and Ashburton Park.

Access to the statue was restricted after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, but visitors still sometimes request to view it.

The current fiscal 2015 budget contains an increase in Department of Conservation and Recreation funding to provide the seasonal access. The cost of two seasonal rangers is about \$45,000, according to the department.

"It's an important piece of Massachusetts history," said Department of Conservation and Recreation spokesman Bill Hickey.

Hickey said tour groups may be able to include the statue as a stop on their route through the State House.

The fiscal 2015 budget also directed the department to conduct a feasibility study on increasing access to the statue and opening the Beacon Street gates near the statue.

The confidential study, which was filed in March and obtained by the News Service, laid out five different options, including the possible relocation of the statue or setting up a special screening facility in front of the Beacon Street entrance.

The statue is located close to the offices of the governor and other lawmakers.

The feasibility study, prepared by Good Harbor Techmark LLC, suggested potentially relocating the statue closer to Beacon Street and creating a "mini well" that would allow visitors to view it. The one-time expense of moving the statue would add up to \$176,000, according to the study.

Commissioning another study, this one focused on moving the statue off the State House grounds, is another option, the Good Harbor Techmark study said, though "consensus on an alternative location could be difficult."

In a letter attached to the study, State Police Lt. Colonel Edward Amodeo told the DCR commission that the State Police would support the relocation of the statue or the construction of a screening facility.

Constructing a screening facility could be costly. Rangers would also need



to staff the facility, which would also carry costs.

The statue was briefly open to the public in November 2013, the fiftieth anniversary of President Kennedy's assassination in Dallas.

The statue, eight feet high, was unveiled on a rainy day in May 1990, according to News Service archives. A special

commission chose the sculptor, Isabel McIlvain of Concord, and raised the \$300,000 for the statue.

Before the statue was unveiled on that day, Dave Powers, a Kennedy adviser, told the News Service he approved of the design which showed the former president appearing to walk forward with determination.

"This is how I remember him, bare-headed, confident, striding through history," Powers said.

"He must have walked by that site 1,000 times," Powers added. "Not only that, it's in his (congressional) district, a stone's throw from where he lived at 122 Bowdoin St. So it's kind of like home."

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World premiere at New Rep for Noone's bawdy comedy

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

What private thoughts and information are we obligated to share with friends, family, and spouses? And how does loyalty and transparency enter into the equation?

Those questions and more are raised in Ronan Noone's "Scenes from an Adultery," the final production of New Repertory Theatre's 30th anniversary season, playing through May 17. This marks Ronan's second world premiere in the past five months, coming on the heels of "The Second Girl" at the Huntington.

"Scenes from an Adultery" is described as a bawdy drawing room comedy of manners, miscommunication, and miscalculations that test the boundaries of true love and friendship.

In the play, best friends Tony and Gasper meet up at a local pub in Britain. Gasper spills the news to Tony that a mutual friend might be having an affair. Should they tell their friend what he saw? Tony's wife Lisa is caught up in it but doesn't know. Should they tell her? Should they tell anyone? Tony says it's none of their business and wants to forget it ever happened. Naturally, chaos erupts.

Noone has spent this past theater season as a Next Voices Playwriting Fellow at New Rep, developing "Scenes" through a variety of readings and workshops culminating with the world premiere.

The New Rep production is being directed by the theater's associate artistic director, Bridget Kathleen O'Leary. She and Noone, who emigrated from Clifden, Ireland, in 1994, first crossed paths when she selected one of his plays to present during the 2009 Boston Theater Marathon.

When she read "Scenes," she loved it because "I thought, God, nobody really writes broad comedy anymore. Very smart comedy is very hard to write and I think [Ronan] really nailed it with this."

Noone says that "Scenes" initially stemmed from a desire to explore new themes. "I was looking at Noel Coward and a lot of those plays that have to do with marriage and relationships. I wanted to look at marriage and relationships from that point of view."

Because "The Second Girl" originated out of the Irish immigrant experience, Noone was eager to explore other avenues. "I wanted to write a play that wasn't in that world, necessarily. I sometimes feel I might just get typecast as the 'go-to' Irish immigrant guy. I wanted to be the 'go-to' let's-have-a-look-at-people's-souls guy, wherever they may be from. So 'Scenes from an Adultery' came from that."

His jumping-off point for the plot can be traced to a seemingly innocent encounter he had with some friends, one of whom was smoking a cigarette. The friend's wife wasn't aware he smoked. When she found out, Noone said, "she castigated him for



Leda Uberbacher, Ciaran Crawford and Peter Stray star in the world premiere of Ronan Noone's "Scenes From An Adultery" at New Repertory Theatre through May 17. Rob Lorino photo

it, and then us as well, for not having told her. We suddenly became involved in the betrayal."

That, in turn, sparked the idea, said Noone, of "what would happen to another person's marriage if they had heard that some of their best friends may have committed adultery. Would you tell? How far do you go? It became a question of truth."

O'Leary, who received her MFA in directing at Boston University, believes the play is "about how vulnerable and susceptible we are to other people's lives . . . I think the play is at its best, at its most fruitful, when we're talking about how we communicate. Who knows what? And how what we know influences decisions we make."

She said many people assume a certain status and expectation within a relationship. "This is not so much about how the world knows us . . . it's about what we choose to offer to our friends and our spouses or our lovers. It's the expectation that if you are in a friendship you will have access to everything about your friend . . . It's the expectation that the other person in that relationship is going to share everything with you."

She carried the thought one step further, questioning, "What does it mean when you find out that your friend (or your spouse or your lover) didn't share something with you? You start to wonder why? . . . Why are you keeping this from me? What are the implications of not sharing a part of oneself with someone who has that expectation?"

Interestingly, Noone had initially set the story in America. However, when working with the cast, he and O'Leary and New Rep Artistic Director Jim Petosa discovered an additional dimension in the piece, almost by accident.

Cast members Ciaran Crawford (from Ramelton, County Donegal), Peter Stray (from Swansea, Wales) and

Leda Uberbacher (from Edinburgh, Scotland) had all been using American accents as they developed their characters.

However, when the creative team asked Uberbacher to speak in her own voice, everything suddenly changed. "She was actually the reason the play shifted (to the UK)," O'Leary said. "It was the minute she dropped the accent. Suddenly there was something about the syntax and the rhythm of the play that unlocked for everyone." The level of humor was kicked up significantly by moving the story to England.

O'Leary has such a strongly rooted Irish name that it was inevitable to ask about her own heritage. She explained that when she was growing up, life in the O'Leary household was punctuated with Irish

symbols, boiled dinners, and more. She was raised to be extremely proud of who she was. Such that

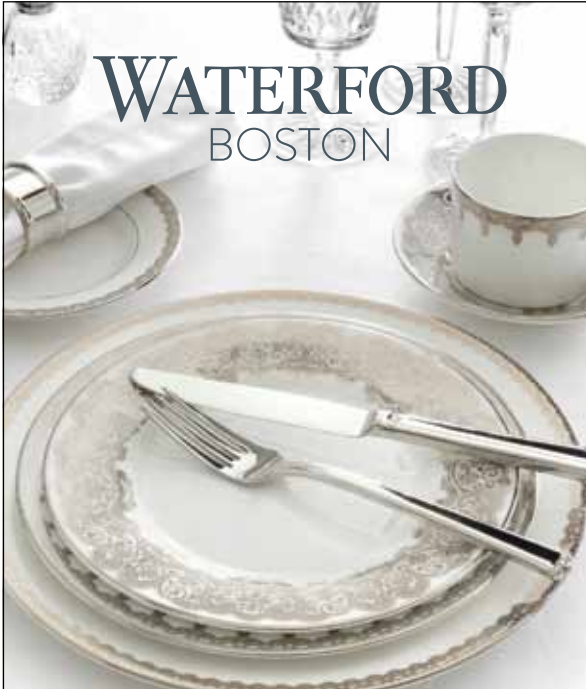
from the time she was just learning to speak, her father instructed the tiny girl to introduce herself emphatically as "Bridget Kathleen O'Leary! I'm Irish!"

That pride triggered a funny experience much later during her college days. "I had a roommate who was from Germany," she said. "I remember the only fight we ever had came after a few beers when she said, 'You know, it's ridiculous that when you ask an American where they're from, they tell you, I'm Irish, I'm French . . . She said, 'You're American.' And I said (laughing) 'The hell I am! I'm Irish!'"

R. J. Donovan is Editor and Publisher of on-stageboston.com.

...

"Scenes From An Adultery," through May 17 at New Repertory Theatre, Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown. Info: 617-923-8487 or newrep.org.



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Call David Doocey happy with his career path in music

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

You have to feel pretty good about your direction in life when you land a job in your desired field and the ink on your college diploma is barely dry.

So it was with Worcester native David Doocey, who on the day he graduated from the National University of Ireland-Galway got an invitation to join the band Gráda. In the seven years since then, Doocey has built on his successful beginnings – which included All-Ireland titles in fiddle and concertina and the first-ever World Fleadh fiddle championship – and ensconced himself firmly in the Irish music scene.

In addition to Gráda, he has played in the band of Mayo accordionist David Munnelly as well as the Salamanca Ceili Band, and toured with international dance shows like “Irish Dreams.” And in 2013 he released his first (and presumably not last) solo album, “Changing Time,” containing not only traditional tunes but some of his own compositions, and featuring his brothers Patrick and Kevin on several tracks.

In fact, with Gráda on a hiatus offlate, these days Doocey is able to focus quite a bit on his own work, including a recent tour that took him back to his old stomping grounds, playing a gig with Patrick at the Worcester Hibernian Cultural Center.

“It was good to be back,” said Doocey, who at present is dividing his time between Mayo and New York City. “We went down to Tatnuck, our old neighborhood [to the northwest of Worcester], and drove past our old house. And we saw a bunch of old friends. Just a very enjoyable experience overall.”

Doocey’s days in Tatnuck were the start of his involvement in music, but not of the Irish variety. His school had a strings program, and his parents – Irish natives who had immigrated from Foxford in Co. Mayo during the 1980s – insisted that Doocey and his brothers take violin. Doocey got to use his grandfather’s fiddle, although at the time he wasn’t playing jigs or reels on it. That didn’t happen until after he and his family moved to Foxford, when he was 11.

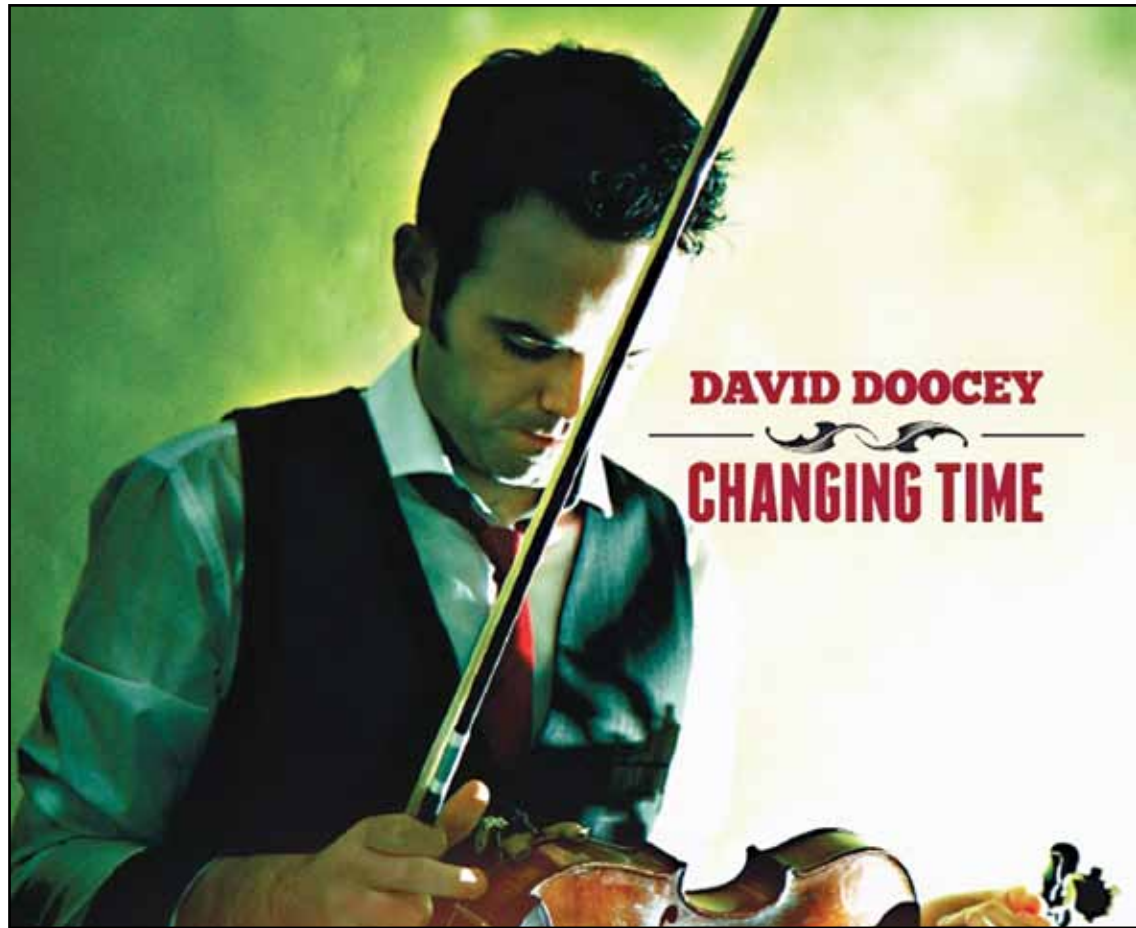
“We always said we’d learn Irish music,” Doocey explained. “The strings program at school had given us the basics in playing and sight-reading. So when we got to Ireland and saw how thriving the traditional music scene was, that really got the ball rolling.”

Ironically, Doocey first found himself under the tutelage of an American fiddler, Rob Thornburgh, who had been a member of the Washington, DC-based band Celtic Thunder (not to be confused with the stage show of the same name). Doocey soaked up the teachings of Thornburgh, listened to numerous CDs and tapes to orient himself to Irish fiddle, and received occasional mentoring from notables like Oisín Mac Diarmada, Frankie Gavin, and Liz Carroll.

While he was at it, Doocey picked up concertina: “I got a piece of paper of where all the notes were off Tommy Doherty, a great musician from Foxford, and then got a lesson off Bernie Geraghty, a wonderful musician and teacher from Mayo. After that I kinda figured out things on my own and went to a summer school or two for a few ideas and techniques. I guess my biggest influences would be Micheál Ó Ragháilagh and



Worcester native David Doocey has garnered attention for his work with Gráda and the David Munnelly Band, but also his solo CD, “Changing Time.”



Among the tracks on Doocey’s album are two tunes he composed for a documentary on survivors of the infamous Magdalene Laundries.

Padraig Rynne. But I listened to, and still listen to, as many concertina players as I can: Noel Hill, Niall Vallely just to name a few. It’s an interesting instrument as it’s completely different from the fiddle, so it’s great to try and bring ideas from the fiddle to the concertina and vice versa.”

But even as Doocey honed his trad Irish fiddle style – he pegs it as largely Mayo but “inclined toward Sligo” – he also gravitated to jazz violinist Stéphane Grappelli, as well as bluegrass fiddlers like Stuart Duncan and Darol Anger, and even the Quebecois *je ne sais quoi* of André Brunet. As it turned out, this expansive set of tastes helped to prepare him for his stint with Gráda, a band

pretty cosmopolitan in its outlook as well – their repertoire has included Eastern European and Breton material, and songs by writers as varied as Suzanne Vega and Sonny Condell.

“They’ve always been known for trying different things,” said Doocey, “so they seemed a natural fit for me.”

The fit had to be a rather quick one, because Gráda was about to embark on a tour of Denmark when he joined them, and he had about two weeks to learn the sets and arrangements. Nonetheless, Doocey was able to catch on quick and found that he liked his initial plunge into life as a touring musician.

“I always had thought it would be nice to play with a band,” he said. “I really enjoyed it – you

just learn so much on the road. So I kept going.”

His foundational Gráda experience came about a year later, when the band went to Nashville to record their fourth album, “Natural Angle,” with American roots mainstay Tim O’Brien serving as producer and guest star. True to Gráda form, the album included traditional Irish tunes and songs, but also O’Brien’s “John Riley” – about an Irishman serving with the San Patricio (St. Patrick’s) Brigade in the US-Mexican War – and even a cover of blues legend Mississippi John Hurt’s “Louis Collins.”

“It was so exciting,” said Doocey. “Meeting all the different musicians we worked with – like Tim, who’s an iconic

figure, and [five-string banjo player] Alison Brown, who’s just outstanding – was a thrill, and then seeing how it all worked out in the two-and-a-half weeks or so we spent recording was so rewarding. You pick up so much from an experience like that.”

So when Doocey had a relatively clear calendar a couple of years ago, he decided the time was ripe to make his own album. Recorded at Sonas Studio in Killarney, “Changing Time” reflects the kaleidoscope of influences and impressions he’s gathered throughout his musical explorations.

The CD includes brisk fiddle-guitar duets (“Martin Wynne’s #2/Man from Dunblane”) out of which occasionally pop some jazz stylings; small-ensemble arrangements that balance the traditional and contemporary (“Captain Kelly/Humours of Westport” and “Collins/Mist-Covered Mountain/Mary’s Shoes”) with texture from flute, percussion, accordion and bass; straightforward pure-drop-style (“Man of the House/Laurel Tree/King of the Clans,” in which Doocey showcases his concertina playing).

Three tracks put Doocey’s compositional talents squarely into focus. One pairs the Breton-flavored “Up Bráid” (named for a small mountain near Mayo) with another unusually accented tune, “Tory Fort Lane” (the street in Tatnuck where the family lived), enlivened by Ryan Molloy’s electric piano. And then there are two tracks that, while separate, essentially function as one: Doocey penned these for an as-yet unreleased documentary about the Magdalene Laundry survivors produced by a friend of his.

“She had about 20 survivors come for a retreat, during which they talked about their experiences,” said Doocey. “She asked me to come down on the last night to play some music for them. They were amazing to be around, so full life of life but with so much suffering in their past.”

The mournful and minor-key “Dark Shadows” is meant “to convey the hardship and abuse the Magdalenes endured,” explained Doocey, while the hopeful, hymn-like “A New Dawn” points to the promise of redemption in light of the Irish government’s acknowledgement of the decades-old scandal and agreement to discussion compensation for the survivors.

“Normally, when you compose something, you kind of wait for the tune to come to you,” said Doocey. “But this time, I was trying to bring to life an idea and create a mood, an emotion. So this was a great experience in many ways, not the least of which was the opportunity to get an insight into the Magdalenes and their lives.”

Doocey has plenty on his plate for the rest of 2015. In July, for example, he’ll be teaching at “Willie Week” – the Willie Clancy Summer School of Irish music, song and dance – in Mil-town Malbay in Clare. Come fall, he and Patrick will hit the road for tours of Japan, New Zealand, and England.

“Gráda is taking a bit of a sabbatical – mainly because we’re all so busy with other projects – but we’re in touch and always bumping into each other, so we’re definitely keeping up the connection,” said Doocey. “That’s just how it is when you’re part of this music scene, sometimes: There’s a lot of stuff in the pipeline. But I enjoy it a lot, because you meet so many great people.”



Keith Murphy, at left, a fixture in the annual “St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn,” among other activities, recently released a solo album of songs from Newfoundland and New England.

Above, Murphy with Nightingale at the 2007 ICONS Festival. “I certainly had some anxiety as to how I’d feel, but I’m very happy with how it’s turned out,” he says of the band’s decision to retire four years ago. *Sean Smith photos*

Murphy finds satisfaction in his post-Nightingale life

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

He may not have intended it that way, but the title for New England folk musician Keith Murphy’s fine recent solo album seems a little autobiographical.

“Suffer No Loss” is a refrain from one of the album’s songs, a dialogue between a couple on the pros and cons of relocating from Vermont to the Wisconsin wilderness. And while his circumstances may not have been as dramatic or compelling as those faced by the couple in question, Murphy can relate to the challenge of letting go of the familiar.

A native of Newfoundland and resident of Brattleboro, Murphy is familiar to Boston-area audiences through the annual “St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn” show in Sanders Theater – for which he is music director as well as a performer – a member of the Childsplay ensemble, and frequent accompanist for local Scottish fiddler Hanneke Cassel. He has also collaborated with prominent Irish performers like fiddler Liz Carroll and vocalist Karan Casey, among others.

But for nearly two decades, Murphy was best known for his work with Nightingale, the groundbreaking trio he founded with his fiddle-playing wife, Becky Tracy, and accordionist/pianist Jeremiah McLane. Nightingale’s intricate arrangements, driving rhythmic groove, and excellent musicianship helped them build a following beyond the New England contra dance circuit, and Murphy’s percussive guitar style – which has inspired and influenced numerous other guitarists – along with his skill on mandolin, piano, and foot percussion, was an important feature of the band’s sound. Further broadening their appeal as a performance ensemble was Murphy’s extensive song repertoire from Newfoundland and New England and his cogent, expressive vocals in English and French.

After 17 years and four albums, however, in 2011 Nightingale decided to ring down the curtain. No acrimony, no tantrums or objects thrown, just a mutual agreement that the band had come about as far as it could. This was not a decision made lightly, says Murphy, but it has brought substantially more gain than loss.

“I certainly had some anxiety as to how I’d feel, but I’m very happy with how it’s turned out,” he says. “We had done what we needed to do. Everyone knows bands that go on forever, and there is certainly validity to that, especially when you’ve worked hard to create something. Some people want to hear a band’s sound, whether old or new; some bands can recreate themselves.

“I realized, though, that I didn’t need to be in a band for another 20 years. It’s a matter of diminishing returns. You form a band, and it’s all new and exciting for a while, and the reward you get back is great. But over time you have to work hard to keep moving things forward. Ending Nightingale before it stopped being rewarding just seemed the best thing for all of us.”

And one of the more immediate dividends of the decision turned out to be “Suffer No Loss,” a collection of traditional songs from Newfoundland and New England. Although Murphy’s 2005 release “Bound for Canaan” was technically a solo album, he was joined by Tracy and other friends on various tracks. “Suffer No Loss” is all and only Murphy, just voice and guitar (and on one track, his percussive feet) and it is marvelous, right from the get-go with “Great Big Sea,” which he fashions with intertwined, complex rhythms. He rescues another Newfoundland classic, “Lukey’s Boat,” from its current pub-anthem status and gives it the feel of cruising on a leisurely flowing tide.

“The Golden Willow Tree” (known

elsewhere as “The Golden Vanity”), its tense narrative spiked with themes of sacrifice and betrayal, is set to an entrancing melody that Murphy’s guitar focuses on with an almost mesmerizing intensity. By contrast, “Lass Among the Heather” – also ubiquitous in British Isles and American traditions – is about as upbeat and amiable as they come, and as Murphy explains, somewhat of an outlier in tales of courtship: “The mother seems happy with the arrangement and nobody dies,” he writes in the liner notes. “You’d be surprised how rare that storyline occurs in traditional songs.”

Less familiar may be “The Boatman’s Cure,” a contemporary song by George Ward of upstate New York that brings to life the lives of 18th-century boatmen with convincing folk humor and not a little wisdom. Then there’s “The Wisconsin Emigrant” – the aforementioned song with the “suffer no loss” refrain – and its tender yet compelling point-counterpoint, where the husband, beat down by the hard times, wants to strike out to the Midwest, where he’ll get settled and send for the rest of the family; the wife lovingly, yet very directly, refutes his arguments.

“That song has an historical resonance for me, in that you had entire villages and towns in Vermont that simply moved west – there were quite a few ‘Vermontvilles.’ And here is the immigrant’s experience of weighing risks, looking at realities, and feeling torn about leaving. It’s just incredible to me in terms of the level of realism and honesty in the exchange between husband and wife.”

Capping off the album is “Let Me Fish Off Cape St. Mary’s,” which Murphy describes as “the ‘Danny Boy’ of Newfoundland – it’s often a vehicle for someone with a big voice, but the song has an intimate quality I’ve always liked.

“A lot of these are songs I’ve known for a while, but for one reason or another hadn’t recorded or played them much – sometimes I’d been too embarrassed, I guess. It wasn’t a big effort to come to them on my own terms.”

Born in the harbor city of St. John’s (“My life didn’t involve being out on the ocean,” he says, “but most anyone who lived there couldn’t help feeling a strong connection to it”) to a Newfoundland father and Scottish mother, Murphy recalls growing up amidst a thriving folk music scene rooted firmly in the area’s dance traditions: “We were lucky in that folk music is a big part of the mainstream culture in Newfoundland, so there’s a big awareness of the tradition.”

Though he got his first guitar before he turned 10, Murphy focused more attention in school on studying classical music and developing his music theory than playing folk and traditional music (school was also where he learned to speak French). For a long time he was convinced his career path would be in academics, and he wound up going to graduate school in Toronto to study political science. But then “I hit the wall, and just felt I needed a break from all the arcane material I was dealing with every day.”

So Murphy picked up his guitar and began finding other musicians around town to play with, including fiddler/composer Oliver Schroer, whose musical interests spanned well beyond Canadian

traditions to include jazz, Balkan, Scandinavian, and Asian music. This idea of a diverse musical mindset would stay with Murphy as he began to expand his activities into New England, first with Scottish-oriented events and then into the contra dance scene, where band repertoires would typically include material from Irish, Scottish, French Canadian, and American traditions. Among the many venues Murphy traveled to was the Pinewoods music and dance camp in Plymouth, where he met Tracy.

Reflecting on his musical journey, Murphy sees the Irish traditions as having a particularly major role in his development. “I feel like Irish set dances had a big effect on me. The phrasing of that step work, the connection with the music, those percussive patterns – it all really shaped my guitar and piano playing. When I accompany a tune, I’m often thinking of the cadences in the dancing figures.”

The 1970s Irish music revival, and the advent of bands like Planxty and The Bothy Band, also was a significant influence, Murphy says, especially for Nightingale. “Those groups added so much layering to their arrangements, yet without really taking away from the melody; they definitely were a model for what we ended up doing – as they were for many other people.”

And Murphy had his own, earlier education from which to draw: “I was lucky to have a strong theoretical basis, and an understanding of chords and four-part arrangements. So, as I began to work with Nightingale, and then Childsplay and ‘St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn,’ which all had a lot of that ‘layered’ sound, having that background was really helpful.”

Yet when it came to “Suffer No Loss,” Murphy threw out a lot of his usual modus operandi. “I’d put a lot of energy into the texture of arrangements, and never really thought about doing a completely solo album, and I wanted to try something different: focusing on songs in their own right, with minimal, sparse accompaniment.”

The big change centered on his guitar-playing. Murphy tried different tunings other than his typical DADGAD, worked on fingerstyle technique and made his strum less percussive. And while the accompaniment is spare on “Suffer No Loss,” it runs along a fascinating spectrum: the syncopated picking on “Great Big Sea,” very much in the Nic Jones mode; the warm, full-bodied backing to “Lukey’s Boat” and “Boatman’s Cure”; the bouncy lift to “Lass Among the Heather,” recalling the 1960s folk/blues style; and the meditative arpeggios on “Quand J’étais Fille À L’Âge De Quinze Ans,” which now and then brings to mind the moody, sometimes ethereal pieces of Nick Drake.

With “Suffer No Loss” now done, Murphy is now able to turn his attention to another recording project, this one with Tracy: “We’ve developed a repertoire over the years for just the two of us, so it seemed like a good idea to put it on an album. I’d say our work is about 90 percent done – we’ll probably invite in some guests.”

Is there a target date for the release of this CD? “Two years ago,” quips Murphy, clearly not suffering for loss of time.

CALENDAR FOR MAY

St. Brendan’s celebration highlights May music events

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

When it comes to feting saints with an Irish connection, Patrick is – of course – the biggest name out there. But on May 16, the Feast of St. Brendan, the Canadian-American Club in Watertown will host a musical celebration in honor of the legendary sixth-century explorer-monk who, some believe, discovered North America well before the Vikings or Columbus.

The celebration, which begins at 7:30 p.m., will feature maritime and seafaring songs – traditional and contemporary – performed by local band Tin Can Hooley, along with special guests John Allen and Paul Harty. This will be the second go-round for the event, and Tin Can Hooley’s Patrick Kennedy hopes that it can catch on.

“It’s very appropriate for us to celebrate Brendan the Navigator,” he says. “After all, a tradition rooted in an island nation has so many songs centered on the sea, or reference the sea: Think of ‘The Irish Rover,’ ‘South Australia,’

‘Greenland Whale Fisheries,’ ‘Botany Bay,’ ‘The Holy Ground.’ Then, of course, there are many songs of emigration and deportation. The Irish have been traveling globally for centuries, most of that time by boat, and so many of the tradition’s songs reflect that.

“Brendan is the patron saint of sailors and travelers, and while none of us in the band are sailors, per se – although our accordionist has been all over the world in two stints with the Marines, and has spent time at sea – we’ve all traveled across the US playing music in different bands over the years, so Brendan’s peripatetic spirit of adventure definitely strikes a chord. Not to mention we’re from Boston, with its maritime history, and I know at least I had forebears who were sailors and shipbuilders; probably the other guys did as well.”

Finally, Kennedy says, the story of Brendan is just too good, and so quintessentially Irish, to ignore. “The theory that he sailed from Ireland all the way to Newfoundland on a small leather

(Continued on page 15)

CD Reviews

By Sean Smith
Special to the BIR

Altan, “The Widening Gyre” • It’s possible to be cynical about this: Oh, look, it’s yet another Irish-American fusion, vis-a-vis We Banjo 3, Gráda and Cherish the Ladies’ “Country Crossroads” CD of a few years back. But that would not be fair at all to Altan and their musical guests, who have put together a brilliantly realized album that amply, and intelligently, captures the well-documented connections between the two countries’ music traditions.

Recorded in Nashville, “The Widening Gyre” includes appearances by luminaries like Alison Brown, Bruce Molsky, Sam Bush, Jerry Douglas, Tim O’Brien, Stuart Duncan, Mary Chapin Carpenter and Boston’s own Darol Anger, some of the most prominent figures in the bluegrass/American roots domain; not to mention other worthies such as Natalie Haas, Michael McGoldrick, Eddi Reader, and Julee Glaub Weems. At various times and in various combinations, they supplement the Altan core: Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh (vocals, fiddle), Ciaran Curran (bouzouki), Ciaran Tourish (fiddle, octave fiddle, whistles, vocals), Dáithí Sproule (guitar, vocals), Mark Kelly (guitar, vocals) and Martin Tourish (accordion, keyboards).

In some cases, this makes for a high-energy big-band sound, such as on the opening medley of three reels (Stuart Morrison’s ever-popular “Maggie’s Pancakes,” the traditional “Píohaire an Chéide” and Ní Mhaonaigh’s “The Friel Deal”), a classic American set of “Buffalo Gals/Leather Britches/Leslie’s Reel,” and

Ciaran Tourish’s “The Triple T.” If you’re unfamiliar with the nimbleness of Brown’s banjo, Bush’s mandolin, Duncan’s and Anger’s fiddles, or Douglas’ dobro – or even if you are – suffice it to say they galvanize the proceedings, and bond delightfully with the Altanians, particularly Tourish’s accordion. Other tracks – such as “The Road Home” (a Martin Tourish composition) and Sproule’s original “Tune for Mairéad and Anna Ní Mhanoaigh” – feature smaller ensembles and mellower tones.

Strong as the instrumental content is, though, it’s often rivaled by the album’s songs, full of grace and majesty, whether in English or Gaelic. One highlight is Walt Aldridge’s bit of homespun philosophy, “No Ash Will Burn,” with Molsky’s warm, honest baritone settling in alongside the higher-timbre voices of Ní Mhanoaigh and Jenée Fleemor. By contrast, in “Cúirt Robin Finley,” a song in praise of a Donegal mountain, Ní Mhanoaigh’s Gaelic vocals hover over a stark, eerily beautiful soundscape created by the bowing of Anger and Haas, as well as Kelly on the E-bow guitar. Carpenter guest stars on “White Birds,” a setting by Scottish musician Fiona Black of the poem by William B. Yeats, characteristically mystical and brooding. The Appalachian-Celtic crossroads is in full view on the well-traveled ballad “The House Carpenter (Gypsy Davy),” with O’Brien and Weems joining in on vocals, and a periodic break for “The Old-Time Wedding Reel,” often found in the Scots/Cape Breton fiddling canon.

What’s impressive about “The Widening Gyre” is that Altan is not straitjacketed by the Irish-American-

mash-up concept, but allows it to take them – and their guest performers – wherever seems appropriate or enjoyable. If there are times when the band seems to disappear into the mix, there are plenty of other instances where it reasserts its personality, with nary a hint of self-consciousness, and shows that virtuosity we’ve come to expect lo these 35 years.

Malinky, “Far Better Days” • There have been such exciting, inventive explorations of Scottish instrumental music, this past decade or so in particular, that it’s sometimes easy to overlook the fact that, you know, Scotland has a pretty darn impressive song tradition, too. Fortunately, we have Malinky – back after about a three-year hiatus – to remind us, because there is perhaps no band today that is better at representing it. In an age where distinctive regional accents and dialects are less prominent than before, for one reason or another, it’s refreshing to hear undiluted, and unapologetic, Scots voices (yes, the CD booklet has the lyrics, if you need them).

“Far Better Days,” their first album since 2008’s “Flower and Iron,” sees the return of co-founder Mark Dunlop (bodhran, flute, whistles) to join fellow keeper-of-the-faith Steve Byrne (guitar, bouzouki, jew’s harp, harmonica), and Fiona Hunter (cello) and Mark Vass (fiddle, tenor guitar). Byrne, Hunter and Dunlop handle the lead vocal chores, which gives the band an appealing array of tone and personality. Hunter – who had the unenviable task of succeeding Karine Polwart as the band’s female voice – has fully come into her own, the diversity in her expression matching her musical range. More to the point, she is simply a delight to listen to, whether she’s recounting the misadventures of a hung-over ploughman in “Tarves Parish,” voicing a young woman’s disappointment with her lover in the infectious “Brisk Young Lad,” or relating the tragedy and drama in the historical ballad “Bonnie Hoose o’ Airlie.”

Byrne has a very direct, assertive voice equally suited for the brash and bold (the comical “Moss o’Burreldale”) as well as the quiescent and quiet, notably on the plaintive “Wild Geese,” a 1915 Violet Jacob poem that is the very essence of homesickness, set to music by the late Jim Reid. Dunlop, meanwhile, contributes a gentle, soft-edged sound to the romantic “Fairy King’s Courtship” and “Long Cookstown,” a variant on “Nancy Whiskey.”

The singing is wonderful on an individual basis; collectively it’s sublime. The track that begins with Byrne on the aforementioned “Moss o’Burreldale” ends with Hunter gliding through the sweetly tender “Lady Mary Ann,” Byrne joining in on the last few verses – one of many instances of lovely harmonizing to be heard on the album, reaching its pinnacle on “Son David” (a version of the fratricidal “Lord Randall” ballad family), with all four members’ voices together over a harmonium drone.

Perhaps the most intriguing song on the album is “Twa Sisters,” which also illustrates the band’s instrumental and arrangement capabilities, as Dunlop’s flute and Vass’ fiddle provide a gradually flowering backdrop behind Byrne’s vocals. This is a Swedish version of the well-known ballad – in which a victim of deadly sisterly jealousy is reborn, and exacts justice, as a musical instrument – and the band retains the alluring Scandinavian melody, thereby ratcheting up the supernatural atmosphere. [A bit of indulgence here: Eight years ago, Malinky performed this in concert with the Swedish band Ranarim, in both Scots English and Swedish; according to Byrne, the two groups had hoped to record their collaboration, but Ranarim has since disbanded. Fortunately, their rendition is preserved on YouTube – search for “Malinky Ranarim Twa Sisters” and prepare to experience goose bumps.]

So, a most welcome return for Malinky, indeed, and here’s hoping there are even better days ahead for them.

Father Ray Kelly, “Where I Belong” • This album essentially falls into the category of “review-proof.” I mean, we’re talking about a 62-year-old priest from Co. Meath who sings REM (“Everybody Hurts”) and Eric Clapton (“Tears in Heaven”), as well as Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah” – his performance of the latter at a wedding, captured on YouTube, became a paradigmatic Internet sensation and landed him a record deal. But don’t expect a full-throated John McCormack or Irish Tenors classical-goes-mainstream vocal style: Father Ray definitely has pop chops, yet delivers in an accessible and, um, down-to-earth way.

Other than the aforementioned REM and Clapton covers, “Where I Belong” doesn’t have a lot of surprises, content-wise. There are a few manifestly Irish songs – a fine take on Brendan Graham’s “Isle of Hope,” along with “Galway Bay” (the Arthur Colohan composition, made famous by Bing Crosby) and, inevitably, “Danny Boy” – and faith standards like “Amazing Grace,” “How Great Thou Art” and “How Marvelous”; Father Ray also includes a couple of originals, “Together Forever (The Wedding Song)” and the title song. While some of the tracks have the predictable full orchestration, on others the arrangements are lower key (at least at the outset) and even “Celtic-flavored” – vis-à-vis the acoustic guitar, fiddle and flute on “Everybody Hurts.” One very commendable aspect of the CD project, incidentally, is that Father Ray brought in local choirs to sing on many of the tracks, rather than outsourcing the work.

But as mentioned at the outset, there’s almost no point in reviewing “Where I Belong.” It’s a very 21st-century story, demonstrating the role of social media in bringing to our collective attention people whose talents, in another era, might remain obscured because of their humble profession. If you don’t believe me, go to YouTube and search for “tap dancing priests.”

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Producer makes case for story of the 'Rising'

(Continued from page 1)

village of Corranmore. "MacDiarmada was born right in the middle of this mysterious land surrounded by megalithic tombs and famine houses. This was his playground. And the magical thing is that it has been preserved really through the millennia and there's a spirit within it. He was very much influenced by that spirit," explained McCann.

"We're very lucky that MacDiarmada's cottage is still completely intact and is protected as building of national heritage. His home town will be featured heavily in the film," he added.

Casting for the film continues from McCann's base in Belfast. The lead character of MacDiarmada will be played by Colin Morgan, a 28-year-old actor from the North who is best known as the lead in the BBC show "Merlin."

"He's a huge star in the UK, but not a superstar in the states yet," said McCann. "We expect to have some major Irish stars in supporting roles and they want to see the script. There are some parts — like Padraig

Pearse — that are open. We've had actors like Stephen Rey who have already expressed their interest."

Importantly, the film has won support from the Northern Ireland Screen board and its counterpart in the Republic, the Irish Film Board, has recently agreed to fund the project as well. McCann and his partners are now doubling back to the US to renew their request for further financing from Irish-American investors.

"There is a strong possibility that this film will do well next year," said McCann, who makes a pitch that the 100-year anniversary of the actual rebellion will help fuel a box office return. "There are too many films in circulation and many get drowned, but with this project there will be a large amount of free publicity because of the 1916 anniversary. And there's only one movie to serve that appetite."

"It's almost as if it's a calling," said McCann of the budding interest at home and abroad. "It's not an easy thing to do because it's very politically sensitive in Ireland. 1916 is tough for the



Colin Morgan as John McDermott

Irish to deal with. All too often the Easter Rising is portrayed as a failure and that they were naïve and romantic. To call something that James Connolly and Pearse did a mistake, it's us avoiding engaging with why did they do it — they did it because there was an injustice in their land and they did something about it."

In Boston, McCann has found a welcome audience from Mayor Martin Walsh, with whom he met earlier this year. "We've found that people want to see this movie. We've had a successful crowd-funding campaign that's raised over 50 thousand Euro," said McCann. "I suppose part of the reason — maybe the main reason — is that we are saying to the world that there is such a thing as an Irish hero. There really are not many examples on film."

For more on the film project, visit the website therising.ie.



A chance to help the 'Peacemaker'

(Continued from page 1)

Plummer, and Karen Black. Demo founded Central Square Films in Cambridge in 2009. Now, Demo is seeking the final funding to complete the remarkable journey of Padraig O'Malley.

From his native Dublin to the negotiating tables of seemingly intractable conflicts, O'Malley has made an impact. He landed in war-ravaged Baghdad in 2007 with a plan that countless cynics deemed the equivalent of Don Quixote's tilting at windmills. O'Malley intended to buy airline tickets for bitter enemies among Iraq's splintered political and religious factions to travel to Helsinki, Finland, where he would help lead proposed discussions to broker a peace agreement.

With the support of Nobel Peace Prize winner Martti Ahtisaari, O'Malley convinced Iraqi leaders to make the trip. What emerged from fractious rounds of meetings was the Helsinki Agreement, the first glimmer of hope that even an uneasy truce might be possible. One of the methods O'Malley employed was to include erstwhile foes from Northern Ireland and South Africa to take part in the Helsinki negotiations.

As Demos has noted, "the basic premise of O'Malley's work is that cultures in conflict are in the best position to help other cultures in conflict." O'Malley's first effort to test the approach was during "The Troubles," when he persuaded Northern Irish leaders from all sides to fly to South Africa for the "Great Indaba Conference." The host was none other than Nelson Mandela, who helped the Catholic and Protestant enemies to start talk that

many observers later viewed as essential to the Good Friday Agreement a year later.

Demo's film chronicles the evolution of O'Malley's work, showing how O'Malley has crafted the Forum for Cities in Transition program, whose goal is to "annually convene ten cities in deep sectarian conflict from around the globe." To O'Malley, cities such as Mitrovica, in Kosovo, where Serbs and Albanians are terrified to even step into each other's neighborhoods, can start to address their fears and historic antipathy through tough discussions and negotiations. Among the other troubled cities with whom he has worked are Jerusalem, Haifa (Israel), Beirut (Lebanon), Kaduna (Nigeria), Mostar (Bosnia), Belfast (Ireland), Derry (Ireland), Kirkuk (Iraq) and Nicosia (Cyprus).

As Padraig O'Malley's quest to bring peace to the globe by bringing troubled cultures to the negotiation table has unfolded, Demo's camera has accompanied him. "The Peacemaker" promises to be a remarkable chronicle of a visionary who believes that even the most entrenched enemies can find common ground. Calling attention to O'Malley's work is both important and expensive. It is for that reason that Demo is appealing to the public to ensure that the saga of the "Peacemaker" reaches the widest possible audience.

Demo notes: "We have received funding from prestigious documentary institutions such as the Sundance Institute and the LEF Foundation. The LEF funding helped us finish production and with the Sundance money we entered the post-production phase of the

film last December. We have edited the film for four months. By the end of April 30, we will be completely out of money and forced to stop the post-production process indefinitely. We have created a Kickstarter campaign with the specific goal of funding the editing for the film and to begin animated sequences that will tell Padraig O'Malley's dramatic back-story."

Anyone who would like to contribute to make certain that the moving and important saga of Padraig O'Malley's life and work can check out both the film's trailer and the Kickstarter site at the following link: kickstarter.com/projects/1688693416/the-peacemaker-post-production-fundraiser.

Yeats reading at Consulate

This years marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of William Butler Yeats and celebrations have been taking place worldwide.

"We had hoped to host a lunch time reading at the Consulate-General on Monday 2 February 2015 but unfortunately had to postpone the event due to severe winter weather conditions," vice consul Jillian O'keeffe said.

The new day and time for the readings are Mon., May 11, from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Consulate-General offices, 535 Boylston Street, Copley Square.

"It will be a very informal event," O'keeffe said. "If you would like to attend and/or perhaps read a favorite Yeats poem on the day, please let the Consulate know by close of business on Wed., May 6."

All replies should be emailed to: bostoncongen@dfa.ie.

St. Brendan's celebration highlights May music events

(Continued from page 13)

boat is, on the one hand, so outlandish and smacking of Irish hyperbole as to be comical — yet on the other hand genuinely inspirational in terms of following one's dreams and beating long odds. Because lest we forget, there is the tantalizing possibility that maybe the guy pulled it off. A sailor named Tim Severin in the 20th century did manage to follow Brendan's supposed route using only the materials and technology that would have been available in the sixth century.

"So who knows? As I like to point out, there's no proof Brendan *didn't* do it."

The \$10 cover charge for the St. Brendan's celebration includes baked goods and — what else? — clam chowder. For directions to the Canadian-American Club, see canadianamericanclub.com.

A look at other Irish/Celtic events in Greater Boston during May:

- The Canadian-American Club also will be the venue for a ceili mor on

May 26 with the Matt Cunningham Band, hosted by Boston's Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. Galway native Cunningham has been a fixture in set and ceili dancing for five decades, and in addition to making annual tours of the US — with many stops in Boston — has produced 26 albums and six DVDs. The event starts at 7:30 p.m.; admission is \$15. For more information, see ceeboston.org.

- The Burren "Backroom" series will host three concerts this month, beginning with Open the Door for Three, the trio of Liz Knowles (fiddle), Kieran O'Hare (uilleann pipes, flute, whistle) and Pat Broaders (bouzouki, vocals) on May 6. On May 20 will be a CD release party for Alba's Edge, which brings together Scottish, jazz and Latin influences — Boston-based keyboardist and mandolinist Neal Pearlman is one of the members. Paddy Keenan, one of the most respected uilleann pipers



Open the Door for Three (Pat Broaders, Kieran O'Hare and Liz Knowles) will be the first of three shows presented in The Burren "Backroom" series this month.

of the Irish traditional music revival, and a few of his friends will perform on May 27. All shows begin at 7:30 p.m. More details are available at burren.com/Backroom-Series.html.

- Fiddle-cello duo Alasdair Fraser and Nata-

lie Haas, who recently released their new CD "Abundance," comes to the First Parish Unitarian Church in Harvard Square on May 9 at 8 p.m. The concert is sponsored by World Music/CRASHarts; for informa-

tion, see worldmusic.org/events/list-events.

- Club Passim in Harvard Square will feature a performance by Mari Black, a Boston native whose repertoire spans Irish, Scottish, and American traditions as well as

Argentine tangos, swing tunes and more, and guitarist Joseph Carmichael on May 13. The following night (May 14) will be a concert with fiddler-stepdancer Adrianna Ciconne, a Berklee College of Music alumnus who has expanded her roots in the Ottawa Valley and Québécois fiddle traditions to other styles of Canada and the world including Appalachian, Métis, Cape Breton, Irish, Scottish & Scandinavian music. On May 29, harpist Maeve Gilchrist and percussive dancer Nic Gareiss will present their unique approach to traditional music that draws on contemporary elements of music, dance, rhythm and improvisation. All shows begin at 8 p.m. For ticket information and other details, see passim.org.

- Finally, Legendary fiddler Frankie Gavin, co-founder of De Danaan, will lead an afternoon workshop and present an evening concert at The Burren on May 30. For more information, see burren.com.

Traveling People

More and more are finding that Ireland is made for walking

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR
Healthy and active vacations are very much the focus for visitors to Ireland these days.

Walking/cycling trails abound for those energetic souls who want to get out and go, but there are also options for the traveler who just wants to take a slow amble through the countryside or a gentle bike ride. Of course, there are many other forms of exercise for visitors and residents such as the more than 300 golf courses in the North and in the Republic as well as almost any sport and adventure on land and sea that you can imagine.

Failte Ireland, the Irish arm of our Irish Tourist Board, says more than 775,000 overseas visitors come to Ireland each year to hike, walk cross-country and hill walk. About a third of those queried by Failte Ireland said that walking was an important factor when they were choosing a holiday destination.

Up in Mayo, the Great Western Greenway, which opened in 2010, reportedly drew 200,000 walkers and cyclists last year alone and has been a huge boon to the area. Bike rental and other businesses have opened and pubs, hotels and restaurants have flourished along the route that runs from Westport to Achill Island.

In Clare, a newly completed Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk from Hags Head near Liscannor to Doolin was opened this spring to become part of the 70-plus mile Burren Way walking trail. Some 400,000-euro was spent developing the Coastal Walk, a collaborative effort between Clare County Council, Clare Local Development Company, The National Trails Office, Failte Ireland, the local community, and some 40 landowners along the route.

The Coastal Walk is geared to more experienced walkers because of the challenging, remote, and exposed cliff top trail that requires fitness and an ability to adapt to changing and extreme weather conditions. Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk trail maps are available to download free from discoverireland.ie and irishtrails.ie

The Burren Way extends from Lahinch to Ballyvaughan and Corofin and winds through Lisdoonvarna and scenic, small villages along unused and seldom used roads and paths. The Burren is one of the largest karst limestone landscapes in Europe and the walk, if done end to end, reportedly takes five days and introduces walkers to the area's spectacular scenery.

BURREN IN BLOOM
If you happen to be in Co. Clare through May 18, be sure to check the Burrenbeo Trust or local tourist offices for information on the Burren in Bloom Festival, which includes a series of illustrated talks on Tuesdays and Thursdays and organized walks on Wednesdays and Sundays.

The festival is designed to promote an understanding and appreciation of the Burren, its formation, and why it is a source of botanical, archaeological, and cultural wealth with its unique wild flowers and ancient sites.

There is a fee of 10 euro to join a walk and of 5 euro for the talks unless otherwise stated, but they are free for Burrenbeo Trust members. You can join the Trust online and support its efforts to protect and promote the mystical Burren. See burrenbeo.com for more.

And, if you're in the area, another great take is the Burren Slow Food Festival, which runs from May 16 to May 24. The theme this year is Land and Sea and every kind of food provided by both. Events have been organized by the Burren Food Trail, food producers, chefs and restaurants. Three Michelin-starred chefs – Derry Clarke from L'Ecrivain and Ross Lewis from Chapter One, both in Dublin, and JP McMahon from Aniar in Galway - will participate in the festival and share their expertise with demonstrations and talks. The Food Festival will be launched on Sat., May 16, at the Ballyvaughan Farmers' Market.

Further south in Clare, the Loop Head Walking, Biking and Heritage Festival takes place from May 1 to May 4. See loophead.ie for more details.

Heading north, walkers will enjoy the 7th Annual Leenane Mountain Walking Festival for May 1 to May 3. The festival is designed to suit all levels of walkers and each day there is a choice of at least



Visitors enjoy a coastal walk along a section of The Burren Way, accessed from the hill above Fisher Street in Doolin, Co. Clare. This section of The Burren Way runs from Doolin to Liscannor.
Judy Enright photos

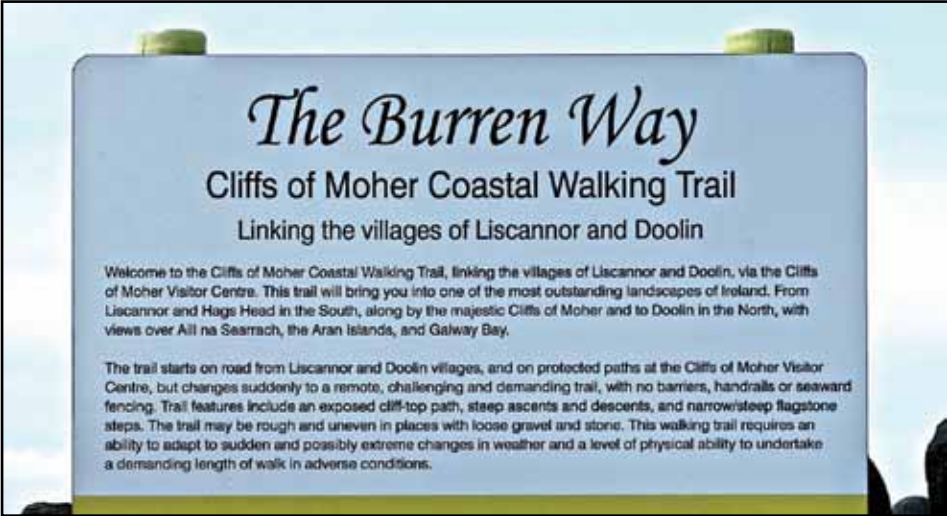
three walks. This year the program includes Mweelrea as well as Devil's Mother and the Sheeffry Hills. Michael Gibbons, one of Ireland's leading field archaeologists, will be featured as the leader of an archeological walk. The full program can be seen on the village's website: leenanevillage.com.

BLUEWAY
In Mayo, there's the Great Western Greenway and, not to be outdone by their seacoast cousins, a Blueway has now been created to bring attention - and visitors - to Ireland's many waterways and adjoining trails.

The Shannon Blueway is the first of its kind in Ireland and is billed as "an innovative, safe and easy-to-use series of on-water and land-based trails." There is guided and unguided paddling and walking along the Lough Allen Canal and River Shannon from Drumshanbo to Leitrim Village, as well as paddling on a looped trail on the Camlin and Shannon Rivers, starting from Richmond Harbor. See bluwaysireland.org for more.

Visit waterwaysireland.org for information on the Shannon Blueway Adventure Festival, from May 1 to May 3 with music, live entertainment, a carnival and more.

FESTIVALS
Festivals, as you can see, are the order of the day in Ireland during



May and there are many in every county.

The Wicklow Gardens Festival runs from May 1 through July 31 and features more than 20 private new and ancient gardens. Wicklow is known as the "Garden of Ireland" thanks to a climate that is so conducive to gardening. More information is available from wicklow.ie

And, while you're in Wicklow, make a note that the 12th Wicklow Arts Festival is in Wicklow town from May 22 to May 24. There will be an assortment of workshops and events, including a yarn bomb and art installations. Explore Wicklow's heritage as part of the festival as an interactive medieval village is recreated on the site of ruins of a 13th century Franciscan friary. For more details, visit wicklowartsfestival.ie

MORE FESTIVALS
Other festivals around the country include:

- Cork International Choral Festival, through May 3, see corkchoral.ie for details;
- Drogheda Arts Festival, through May 4, see droghedaartsfestival.ie for details;
- Barrow River Arts Festival, in Borris House, Co. Carlow, May 15-17, barrowriverartsfestival.com for more;
- Galway Early Music Festival, May 14-17, galwayearlymusic.com for information;
- Dublin Writers' Festival, May 16-24, visit dublinwritersfestival.com for details on authors and events.

• 44th Listowel Writers' Week, Co. Kerry, May 27-31. See writersweek.ie for details.

• 12th annual Heinrich Boll Weekend, May 1 to 3, on Achill Island with walks, talks and exhibitions. See heinrichbollcotage.com for more.

• Connacht Spring Show, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, exhibitions, demonstrations, trade stands, competitions and all aspects of farming life. See connachtspringshow.com.

• Rory Gallagher Tribute Festival, May 28-31, will draw devotees of the guitarist's life and work to Ballyshannon in Co. Donegal. See rorygallagherfestival.com for more information.

• 30th annual Conamara Bog Week Festival, May 22-June 1, concerts at Kylemore Abbey and in Letterfrack Church, guided walks, bog paintings and more. See ceec.org for details.

ASHFORD CASTLE
Lovely Ashford Castle in Cong, Co. Mayo, is even more lovely now that new owners (the South African Company Red Carnation Hotels) have spent the past two years completing a 50 million euro renovation that included more than 800 new windows, new wiring, a new lead roof, and repointed stonework. Grounds have been done over, according to a

report in *The Irish Times*, and additions to the property have included a spa, billiards room, swimming pool, 32-seat cinema and cigar terrace. Some 500,000 euro have been spent on the nine-hole golf course

Red Carnation purchased the 350-acre Ashford property in 2013 for a reported 25 million euro before dropping another 50 million into the upgrade. The company also bought the 50-bedroom Lodge nearby for 1.8-million euro in 2014. Taoiseach Enda Kenny, himself a Mayo man, was slated to be on hand for the official reopening on April 17.

Room rates have increased (high season from 495 euro per night for B&B in a Corrib room) to reflect the investment costs, the newspaper reported. If you're feeling like royalty some day soon, you can book the split-level Reagan Presidential Suite – in high season – for a mere 2,500 euro per night.

About 85 percent of the high season guests at Ashford are from the US. The five-star resort is best known for its link to the 1952 film, "The Quiet Man," with John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara.

TRAVEL
Enjoy your trip to Ireland whenever and wherever you go. Spring and summer days ahead are bursting with all kinds of activities and fun things to do, so jump right in.



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From Red Sox poet laureate Flavin: ‘Red Sox Rhymes: Verses and Curses’

Come summertime, Dick Flavin, the voice of Fenway Park, will publish a new book, “Red Sox Rhymes: Verses and Curses,” a collection of 64 humorous and nostalgic poems celebrating the Boston Red Sox.

A Boston institution and popular local televi-

sion personality who is also the announcer, ambassador, and poet laureate for Fenway Park, Flavin has entertained audiences with a keenly honed talent for poetry and verse that expresses his abiding love for the Red Sox.

Publication date is set for July 14, 2015.

Flavin’s pithy comedic verses—including such offerings as “The Beards of Summer,” “Long Live Fenway Park,” and his best known, “Teddy at the Bat”—pay homage to the American pastime, New England’s favorite team (and the curses and legends that have followed it), and the passionate Nation that has remained faithful through victory and defeat. Illustrated with more than fifty photos from the official Red Sox archives, “Red Sox Rhymes” honors all of Red Sox fandom.



Catherine Shannon was presented the 2015 Eire Society’s Gold Medal honor by Eire president Ed Duffy at the society’s April 25 banquet at Boston’s Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. Dr. Shannon had a storied career as a professor of history and Irish studies at Westfield State University.

Ed Forry photo

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

A March 2011 survey from Genworth Financial and the University of Virginia’s Darden School of Business found that almost 70% of single parents and 45% of married parents were living without any coverage.¹



Why don’t more young adults buy life insurance? Shopping for life insurance may seem confusing, boring, or unnecessary. Yet when you have kids, get married, buy a house or live a lifestyle funded by significant salaries, the need arises.

Finding the right policy may be simpler than you think. There are two basic types of life insurance: term and cash value. Cash value (or “permanent”) life insurance policies offer death benefits and some of the characteristics of an investment - a percentage of the money you spend to fund the policy goes into a savings program. Cash value policies have correspondingly higher premiums than term policies, which give you death benefits only and have terms of 10 years or longer. Term may be a good choice for young adults because it is relatively inexpensive. But there is an economic downside to term life coverage: if you outlive the term of the policy, you and/or your loved ones get nothing back. Term life policies can be renewed (though many are not) and some can be converted to permanent coverage.²

The key question is: how long do you plan to keep the policy? If you don’t want to pay premiums on an insurance policy for more than 10 years, then term life stands out as the most attractive option. If you are just looking for a short-term hedge against calamity, that’s the whole reason behind term life insurance. If you’re getting into estate planning, then permanent life insurance may prove a better choice.

Confer, compare and contrast. Talk with a financial or insurance professional you trust before plunking down money for a policy. That professional can perform a term-versus-permanent analysis for you and help you weigh per-policy variables.

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

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A royal return to Sligo recalls a lord's murder

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN – Prince Charles is expected to visit the scene of the Irish Republican Army's most high-profile assassination – the 1979 slaying of Charles's great-uncle, Lord Mountbatten – during an official visit to Ireland this month to Ireland.

The British and Irish governments said that details are still being confirmed for Charles's tour involving Co. Sligo in western Ireland, where Mountbatten lived without security in a castle residence for many years despite the IRA threat.

The outlawed group killed the 79-year-old World War II hero and Britain's last viceroy of India, and three other people, by detonating a remote-control bomb hidden aboard his yacht in the port village of Mullaghmore.

At the time, Sinn Fein politician Gerry Adams justified Mountbatten's killing. "With his war



August 1979: Lord Mountbatten (top right) with members of his family aboard the boat that was blown up by members of the IRA and Thomas McMahon (bottom right) who was convicted of the murders in 1979 of Lord Mountbatten and three other people

Photo: Pacemaker

record I don't think he could have objected to dying in what was clearly a war situation. He knew

the danger involved in coming to this country," Adams said.

Charles has been the

diplomatic trailblazer for the British royal family in Ireland. In 1995, a year after the dominant

branch of the IRA called an open-ended cease-fire, he became the first British royal since Irish in-

dependence in 1922 to pay an official visit to the republic. Charles made a second official visit in 2002 that paved the way for his mother, Queen Elizabeth, to make a state visit across Ireland in 2011.

This will be the first joint visit to the Republic of Ireland by Charles and his wife Camilla, the duchess of Cornwall. Sligo is famed as the setting for much of the poetry of W.B. Yeats, who is buried there, for historically significant country homes – and, improbably, for Ireland's most vibrant surfing scene.

The two governments have confirmed that the couple will visit both the republic and Northern Ireland May 19-22. Royal visits to Northern Ireland, a part of the United Kingdom, are common.

Classiebawn, that great impressive hulk of Mountcharles sandstone, was built in the 1860s by twice Prime Minister of England, Lord Palmerston,

Lord Mountbatten was a regular visitor to Mullaghmore in North Sligo where he owned a fishing vessel known as the Shadow V. Before his assassination on Aug. 27, 1979, Mountbatten had been warned about visiting Sligo by Gardaí, but he went out fishing that day anyway.

Thomas McMahon, an IRA member and the man who was charged with killing Mountbatten, fitted a radio-controlled bomb to the Shadow V the evening before. The next morning the bomb was detonated as Mountbatten made his way into Donegal Bay. 14-year-old Nicholas Knatchbull was killed instantly, along with Paul Maxwell from Fermanagh. Mountbatten survived the explosion but later died from his injuries along with Lady Brabourne.

In the wake of the explosion, the IRA claimed responsibility for the attack. They issued a statement saying "the IRA claim responsibility for the death of Lord Mountbatten. This operation is one of the discriminate ways we can bring to the attention of the English people the continuing occupation of our country."

On the same day as the explosion in Mullaghmore, 18 British soldiers were killed in an ambush that became known as the 'Warrenpoint Ambush'.

In 2014, Ireland President Michael D. Higgins paid a silent tribute to Lord Mountbatten when he was on an official State visit at Westminster Abbey where there is a memorial to the one-time Viceroy of India and Allied theater commander during World War II.



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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

A few months ago we reviewed the combined forms of the personal nouns and the preposition **do**, “to” or “toward.” These Irish combinations are called **prepositional pronouns**. This month we will review the **prepositional pronouns** made from a combination of **le** /ley/, “with, by, against” or to show “ownership.”

mé	+ le	=	liom	/luhm/
tú	+ le	=	leat	/let/
sé	+ le	=	leis	/lehsh/
sí	+ le	=	léi	/ley/
muid	+ le	=	linn	/leen/
sibh	+ le	=	libh	/leev/
siad	+ le	=	leo	/lohw/

A tip on the pronunciation of these forms – all **l**- are pronounced at the front of the mouth. That is why **liom** /luhm/ has the **i** there, to show you that the **l**- is a “front **l**”; similarly the **-e**- in **leo**. Be sure not to pronounce it as the English “low” with the **l**- in the back of the mouth. Rather, think of singing, “La, la, la, la, la, la”.

You have already learned the phrase **Slan leat!** /slahn let/, “Goodbye” which actually means “Health with you.” In modern spoken Irish a simple **Slan!**, “Bye!” will do but **Slan leat** /slahn let/ or **Slan libh** /slahn leev/ are nicer.

Of course, you are not confined to using personal pronouns in combination with **le**.

You have already learned the use of **le** in comparatives – **Tá Nóra chomh airde le Liam** “Nora is as tall as Liam.” In this sentence either Nora or Liam – or both – can be replaced by a **personal pronoun** (“I, you, he, her, we, you-all, they”). This **personal pronoun** will then combine with **le**. **Tá Nóra chomh airde leis** – “Nora is as tall as he.” Notice that I am using the bookish “proper” and obsolete form in English “... as he (is tall)” to make it clear. Most American English speakers today say, “Nora is as tall as him” or “She is as tall as *him*.” **Tá sí chomh airde leis**.

Le can have a variety of equivalents in English. You have already learned and just been reminded how **le** is used to express comparisons. **Tá X chomh tana le Y**, “Is X as thin as Y” in Irish word order becomes “X is as thin as Y” in English. **Le** is also used to show “authorship”. **Is sé dráma le Shaw** “It is a play by Shaw.”

Le can also mean “possession” or “ownership”. **Tá carr liom**, “I have/own a car.” This is different than **Tá carr agam** “I have a car”. That car might belong to my parents. You can also say such sentences as “I have the coat with me”, **Tá an gcóta liom**. The difference is the article, **an** “the”.

Le can also be used to express “fondness” or “liking”: **Is maith le Liam uisce beatha / Is maith leis uisce beatha** – /iss MAH leysh OOSH-kuh BEY-uh/ “Liam/He likes whisky/He likes whisky.”

You can also introduce some one as **Seo Liam, gaol linn** /SHAW LEE-uhm, geel leen/, “This (is) Liam, a relative of ours.”

There are a number of other Irish idiomatic uses of **le** such as **D’éirigh le Liam**, “Arose Liam” or “Liam succeeded” and any good Irish-English dictionary will illustrate many of them.

If a following word begins with a vowel, the **le** requires the prefix **h**- in written Irish. However, the **h**- is not normally pronounced in spoken Irish. – **Tá an dán seo le hEamann**, “This poem is by Eamon.” Remember, write the **h** but don’t say it.

Le /leh/ is a **preposition** and should not be confused with **lé**, pronounced with a longer /eh/. **Lé** is a **noun** and means “partial toward” or “prejudiced”. It will never combine with a pronoun. The context or position in a sentence will allow you (and others in case you hold it too long) to see the meaning.


Did you notice the form of “he” in the model sentence **Tá sí chomh airde le seisean**, “She is as tall as *him*.”

Irish adds emphasis to a noun or pronoun in two ways. One is by suffixing **féin** “self” and the other is by suffixing some form of **-sa/se** to the pronoun. We will deal with **féin** in another column. For now let’s look at the forms of the emphatic pronouns.

Basic Form	Emphatic Form	
mé	mise	/MISH-uh/
tú	tusa	/TOO-suh/
sé	seisean	/SHAYSH-uhn/
sí	sise	/SHESH-uh/
muid muid		/MEEJ-uh/
sibh	sibhse	/SHEEV-suh/
siad	siadsan	/SHEE-uhd-suhn/

These forms are used for emphasis and my clue to you will be the same as that used by other writers, italics: “*He* hit the ball though the window”, **Bhuail seiasan an mball trí an bhfuinneog** /VU-eel SHAYSH-uhn uh mahl tree uh OON-yahk/.

You can now sign your letters and cards with **Is mise le meas**, “It is *me* with respect”, the Irish equivalent of “Sincerely”.



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Sunday 10 Wild Rovers

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Saturday 16 Irish Pastoral Center Spring Fundraiser

Sunday 17 Andy Healy

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