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Lt. Pauline Wells singing the anthems at the March 19 St. Patrick's Breakfast.

Don West photo

Singing and policing are a match, says Cambridge Lt. Pauline Wells

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It's not that Pauline Wells wasn't used to singing: Growing up in a family with strong Irish roots, and a father who loved to sing, there were plenty of opportunities for her at home or in the church choir. But getting up by herself to sing in front of a roomful of people – let alone a packed stadium? Not a chance.

Her husband, however, had other ideas.

"This is all Richard. If not for him, I never would've tried," says Wells, who has made more than 500 public appearances – including at

Fenway Park, Gillette Stadium and Faneuil Hall – in nearly 16 years of singing professionally. "I had such huge stage fright. But when we were on the dance floor together, I just quietly sang along to the songs that were playing, and he loved it. He always encouraged me. And then one year, he got me singing lessons as a Christmas present. That was how it started."

Wells has become an iconic figure in Boston, not only as a singer but also as a police officer – roles she regards as intertwined – performing the national anthem in full uniform at civic, charitable, and other special

events. She has headlined benefit concerts (some of which she attends in civilian attire) to support military veterans, foster children, homeless people, and others in need, and she has sung at naturalization ceremonies for new American citizens. Her repertoire includes many familiar Irish and Celtic as well as American songs, contemporary as well as traditional, including the likes of "Fields of Athenry," "Tell Me Ma," "Hard Times," "Ride On" and "Auld Lang Syne."

On May 11, Wells will perform for a cause that is particularly near

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'The Peacemaker' lays out the trials and successes of Padraig O'Malley

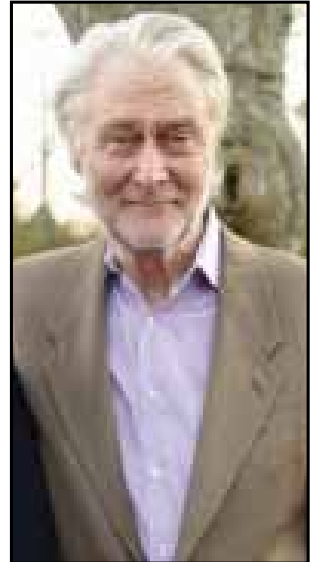
By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

His work is of world importance – literally so. At a recent screening of the documentary "The Peacemaker" at Plimoth Plantation, the personal struggles of Padraig O'Malley are presented on a parallel track with his labors to bring conflict resolution to the world's bloodiest, most intractable trouble spots.

O'Malley, the John Joseph Moakley Professor of International Peace and Reconciliation at the University of Massachusetts Boston, has worked tirelessly in such lethal locales as Iraq, Nigeria, Kosovo, and Northern Ireland.

As the film explores, the 73-year-old O'Malley draws upon his experiences with addiction, approaching wars and conflict as a form of that disease. 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 more than five



Padraig O'Malley
Traveler for peace

years, the award-winning Cambridge-based filmmaker James Demo accompanied O'Malley to direct and produce "The Peacemaker," a documentary that, in Demo's words, "takes 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 seem-

(Continued on page 17)

Photos of the event, Page 6

GPA players get big Boston welcome at inaugural event

By BILL FORRY
EDITOR

The first-ever Boston gala devoted exclusively to a celebration of Gaelic Games players was a smashing success last month as a sell-out crowd packed the State Room overlooking the city's harbor to dine and drink with an all-star line-up of GAA stars past and present.

The gala – hosted by the newly formed Boston Friends of the Gaelic Players Association – also served as a launch pad to announce the return of hurling to Fenway Park with a pair of matches planned for this November.

An array of legends – including 17-time All Ireland champion Briege

Corkery – was on hand for the dinner and reception, which featured Irish sports commentator and TV personality Marty Morrissey in the role of master of ceremonies. Aidan Browne, a partner at event sponsor Sullivan & Worcester and chairman of Boston Friends of the GPA, kicked off the night with a rousing introduction of the cause itself – which was aided immensely by the work of the Irish American Partnership, the key local organization in support of the dinner.

The Gaelic Players Association (GPA) represents more than 2,200 current Gaelic footballers and hurlers in Ireland. Its services include personal

(Continued on page 19)



Séamus Darby (far right) who scored perhaps the most famous goal in GAA history to give Offaly an upset win over Kerry during the 1982 All-Ireland Final, is shown during an interview with his Kerry counterpart, Tommy Doyle, and sports commentator Marty Morrissey at the Boston Friends of the GPA Dinner on April 7.

Bill Brett photo



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

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Jump Into Ireland- Tourism Ireland hosted an annual sales presentation April 13 to Boston-area travel and media professionals at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. Delegations from 12 Irish tourism companies were joined by TI North America EVP Alison Metcalfe and her staff to showcase travel options to Ireland. See Ed Forry's column, page 4. *Sandie McDaid photo*

Taking a peek inside The Industry, next pub-eatery in Adams Village

BY BILL FORRY
EDITOR

It's called The Industry, a 140-seat lounge and restaurant serving up American comfort food and a large variety of wines and whiskeys, and it's on track for a summertime completion in Adams Corner. The eatery will replace Sonny's, the longtime neighborhood hangout that was sold last year to David Arrowsmith and Martin Davis.

This is the first restaurant-bar project for the duo. Arrowsmith, who owns Neponset-based Capital Construction, is leading a team of builders who are installing new windows, doors and building out the interior of the space, including a state-of-the-art, 618-square foot kitchen.

The partners led the Reporter on a tour of the space on Monday. A 30-seat main bar will feature 16 tap beers— including nitrogen-fueled Guinness— and a massive, mahogany wine cabinet. The large room will be lined with red-leather booths and floor-to-ceiling windows that will open up to Adams Street.

As they promised, the partners are leaving no trace of the Sonny's footprint. His bar's wooden front doors are in the basement, where there'll be re-used out of public sight. Otherwise, everything is brand new— gas lines, HVAC systems, and plumbing.

"The neighbors here have been fantastic," said Arrowsmith. "The two things they said they wanted most was live entertainment and a private room for functions and we're doing both." The private room will accommodate up to 38 seats and a small stage near the front of the main dining



Inside The Industry— co-owners David Arrowsmith and Martin Davis are supervising the complete renovation of the old Sonny's in Dorchester's Adams Corner. *Bill Forry photo*

room will allow for two or three musicians, he said.

Davis, who will serve as general manager, said the bar will include a chilled-glass system, which will allow every pint poured to be ice cold. Arrowsmith added that the bar will also feature Dorchester's largest variety of whiskeys, with more than 50 different labels on offer.

"We are really looking to give the neighborhood something different," said Arrowsmith. The eatery will eventually serve

breakfast, lunch and dinner, but will begin with just dinner during a soft opening period.

"We'll have a great menu, from flatbreads and seafood to steaks— and an amazing burger," he said. And, of course, this being Adams Corner— a full Irish breakfast.

The Industry, at 750 Adams St., will sit in a village that has become a mecca for pubs and a diverse range of dining options. Eire Pub, Lucy's, Molinari's, Blasi's, and



Dawn Morrissey, president of the Irish Film Festival in Boston, took the oath to become a US citizen last month. The native of Kildare says she applied for citizenship the day after the 2016 presidential election because "I really want to have a voice in the midterm elections." Dawn is pictured here after her April 20 naturalization ceremony at Faneuil Hall. *IrishNetwork/Boston photo*

For the record

Because of a production error, the page folio in last month's issue, VOL. 28 #4, was incorrect. It should have read April 2017

Volunteers pitch-in, recall victims on One Boston Day

BY JENNIFER SMITH
REPORTER STAFF

More than 100 people gathered in Peabody Square on Saturday, April 15 to mark One Boston Day and share a moment of silence with the Richard family, whose 8-year-old son Martin lost his life during the bombing attack at the Boston Marathon four years ago.

The day of public service and unity commemorates those lost in the twin bombings on April 15, 2013 — BU student Lingzi Lu, and Medford's Krystle Campbell were also killed in the blasts. MIT Police Officer Sean Collier, who was killed three days later by the bombers, and Boston Police Officer Dennis Simmonds, who died a year after he sustained injuries during a confrontation with the killers, were also remembered at the ceremony.

Standing beside a white wreath, and flanked by his wife Denise and their children, Henry and Jane, Bill Richard said, "People look at us and ask how we do it. It's within our family, it's the strength of our family. But if you look to your left and look to your right and look around, this is the reason," he said. "This is how we do it. This is how we get by. This is how we move forward."

He added: "And One Boston Day, while it's about hanging wreaths and re-

flecting, it's about moving forward for us as a family and as a community."

Mayor Martin Walsh and Gov. Charlie Baker joined in the moment of silence at 2:49 p.m. — the time of the first explosion — as the bells of All Saints' Church rang out. "It's just amazing that the community that we're in today, Dorchester, it's just amazing that every time you're asked, you rise to the occasion," Walsh said.

Earlier that afternoon, volunteers cleaned and beautified stretches of Dorchester Avenue. New plantings stood in the square. Food tents and canvases bearing messages of solidarity rose outside Ashmont Station. Members of Team MR8, some of whom would run the Marathon two days later, draped blue and white ribbons around the Peabody Square clock tower.

"The work you did today, it looks incredible," Bill Richard said. "I just want to thank you on behalf of our family, and you know, when we go across the street for hot dogs and ice cream and some drinks today, think of Martin, 'cause I mean like most kids, it was his favorite food."

A number of runners from Dorchester plugged along and made it through the Boston Marathon's 26 miles and 385 yards of winding road from Hopkinton to Boylston Street.

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Publisher's Notebook

It's a good time to take the 'Jump'

By Ed Forry

It's time to Jump into Ireland! That's the catch line this year in the marketing strategy of Tourism Ireland, the agency that promotes travel and tours to the Emerald Isle, both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The flight time from Boston to Dublin is "almost the same as from New York to Los Angeles," according to the agency. In fact, with a strong tailwind across the Atlantic, the flight time is a little more than five hours, and this year, with a new Delta Airline daily flight, and added Aer Lingus planes from Logan, there are more seats than ever before, and the increased competition affords some real airfare bargains this summer.



"Jump into Ireland" was the theme of an evening of entertainment and marketing efforts presented recently by Tourism Ireland to some 150 members of Boston's travel trade and local media. The guests at the Fairmont Copley Plaza learned details about such attractions as the "Wild Atlantic Way", the Causeway Coastal Route, Belfast's Titanic heritage, Waterford Crystal's new visitor center, and featured details about "Ireland's Ancient East," highlighting the cities of Cork and Dublin.

Said Alison Metcalfe, Tourism Ireland's Head of North America: "Tourism Ireland has prioritized North America for 2017 as a market which offers a strong return on investment in terms of holiday visitors and expenditure. A number of factors are working in our favor, including more airline seats than ever before, from 20 gateway cities across North America to the island of Ireland, with numerous new flights and expanded services in the pipeline for this year."

The delegation of 12 Irish tourism companies had met with travel professionals based in Texas and Chicago before making their final stop in Boston. According to Tourism Ireland staff, the presentation featured a 60-minute "TV show format" sales pitch, highlighting the island of Ireland, and networking sessions with travel and lifestyle journalists, providing a platform to showcase and sell Ireland to travel decision-makers in each city. Attendees were treated to servings of gourmet Irish food dishes, including a lamb stew, baked salmon, Irish potatoes, and an assortment of Irish cheeses and desserts. "We are delighted to be here in Boston profiling everything that is great about a trip to Ireland, Metcalfe said. "In 2016, we welcomed a record 1.4 million US visitors. Looking to the year ahead, we are confident that our strategy, combined with more airline seats, a strong dollar, as well as the strength and competitiveness of the vacation experience around the island of Ireland, will deliver further growth.

"Boston is an important outbound market for tourism to Ireland, and events like this provide a welcome opportunity to cement the great links that exist between this part of the US and Ireland, and to highlight what is new and exciting on the island." Exhibitors each had a station where they met and mingled with guests, giving details about their properties and handing out an array of pamphlets and brochures. Afterwards, a 60-minute theatrical show featured live Irish music and spokespeople from each of the Irish trade visitors from a dozen hotels, guest houses, tour operators and and tourist attractions.

Among the Irish businesses making their pitch to the audience were: Authentic Ireland, Brendan Vacations, Globus Family of Brands, Adams and Butler travel, B&B Ireland, Lynott Tours, Sceptre Tours, Specialized Travel Services, Ballynahinch Castle, Culture & Heritage Tours Ireland, Extreme Ireland (EI) Travel, Epic-The Irish Emigration Museum, Glasnevin Cemetery Museum, Monart Hotel & Spa, Inchydoney Island Lodge & Spa, Lough Eske Castle Hotel & Spa, Manor House Hotels & Irish Country Hotels, and The Merrion Hotel. For more details about summer attractions in Ireland, visit online tinyurl.com/lrst2yj.

The Irish don't matter much as the British deal with Brexit plan

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

For over six centuries Ireland has suffered from its imperialistic neighbor. Located just across the Irish Sea, certain parts of the three cultures of Wales, Scotland, and England, collectively known as the British people, have considered Ireland their personal punching bag. And now it is happening again.

Led by their conservative ruling class, the British have always set themselves above other countries. The notion of a United Kingdom or Great Britain came from an attitude toward the world that was enhanced by their powerful Navy, which for years defeated and dominated many other nations.

Today, countries like Canada, Australia, India, and Israel are free from British control. It is no longer true that the sun never sets on the British Empire. But we still see Britain holding on to bits and pieces like Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands, and Northern Ireland.

Unfortunately, the Republic of Ireland still suffers from the weight of British imperialism in Northern Ireland. The British attitude of superiority exists today in the vote of its people to leave the European Union. It was close – 52 percent to leave and 48 percent to stay in the EU, with Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the millions around London voted against leaving.

The new Conservative government, however, is fighting hard to leave the Union. A formal letter has been sent to the EU by British Prime Minister Theresa May announcing her intention to begin negotiations to leave the organization. Any agreement must be approved by all the 27 countries remaining, and everyone agrees that the final exit will take at least two years and probably longer.

Meanwhile, the idea that Britain will be leaving the European Union is causing immense worry nearly everywhere. Brexit, as it is called, will be extremely difficult to manage. The other EU countries are not happy with Britain and it is anticipated they will make it a long and tedious process to discourage any more countries from leaving. No one knows what the final agreement will look like.

The chief negotiator for Europe, Michel Barnier, has said that any agreement about Gibraltar will have to be approved by Spain. Immediately, a conservative British leader, Lord Michael Howard, threatened to go to war, citing the example of The Falkland Islands war. Howard's reaction is classic British. The Falklands war resulted in 2,700 killed and wounded for an island thousands of miles from London with a population of 3,000.

Barnier has said that the first item on his agenda is the payment of 50 billion euro to the EU for British obligations under the current agreement. That should be interesting.

In a surprise move in April, May called for a snap

election for the 650 members of the British Parliament. It is scheduled for June 8. A regular election was not due until 2020. The reason given was her desire to strengthen her majority while she is negotiating Brexit. But the move shows uncertainty at best and, probably, a worry about the weakness in her position. She has said she will not participate in television debates.



Joe Leary

Meanwhile, in Ireland and Northern Ireland, there is fear that their people will suffer greatly because of Brexit. The political situation in the North is already in turmoil due to the startling success of Sinn Fein in the March election. The parties cannot come to agreement on new rules for government and Northern Ireland Secretary of State James Brokenshire, who reports to May, had set a deadline of early May for agreement by all parties.

With the death of Martin McGuinness, there does not appear to be a leader in the North with enough stature to bring everyone together to form a government. There even seems to be a rise in dissident IRA activity. The alternatives for the government are another election or the return of all power to London, which, of course, was the cause of much of the violence in the first place.

Most of the Unionists in Northern Ireland are delighted with Brexit, seeing it as another step away from a united Ireland. They would also be delighted with government returning to London. In all, it is a very volatile situation.

According to the Belfast Telegraph in early April, "The Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Charles Flanagan, called Brexit 'a bad decision,' and added that Ireland "should not be placed at more of a disadvantage than the UK as a result of its decision to leave."

A well-known Irish reporter, John Spain of Irish Central, says: "Brexit can only have two outcomes for Ireland, extremely bad or even worse. There is no possible upside for us."

Ray Bassett, former Irish Ambassador to Canada, has been as saying, "There are 500,000 Irish citizens living in England. Who is protecting their rights?"

Colum Eastwood, head of the SDLP, recently said that when May called for a snap election, she threw a "hand grenade" into the middle of the peace process.

Secretary of State Brokenshire has now changed his mind in view of the snap election and postponed the deadline for a new government agreement in the North to June 28.

To London and Theresa May, the Irish don't matter much. The people of Northern Ireland should remember this.

Off the Bench

The good ship Faith can wander off course, but I remain aboard

By James W. Dolan
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER



James W. Dolan

From nothing to nothing; is it all a dream, swirling fantasies lacking substance? Are we just another species to come and go, links in a twisted chain of happenstance and chance? Does life matter or is it a bridge from nothing to nowhere? Are efforts to find a deeper meaning futile?

Is truth an illusion, spun from thin air with no more substance than a cloud? Does justice even exist? Or is it as transient as shifting sand?

And what of love: Is it only the means to perpetuate a species? Are we adrift in a sea with no absolutes, one wave overcoming another in the eternal tides?

Such questions are often lost in life's turbulence as we struggle with the stuff of daily living. Is life a play without a script, a series of frenzied vignettes made up as the drama unfolds? What's the point or, deeper still, is there a point? Some say, "It is what it is. Don't look for problems; life's complicated enough."

Are we characters in a complex play on a spinning stage against a cosmic backdrop, making up lines that make no sense beyond the narrow here and now? Or do we fit into some larger, mysterious plan? Questions abound: Is there a source? What is stuff? Where did it come from and what holds it together? Who are we? Why are we? Where did we come from and where are we going? From cradle to grave or beyond?

Are what we call "virtues" absolute and, if so, what is their source? Are love, truth, justice, compassion, humility, understanding, generosity, courage, and self-control human inventions, and as such concepts subject to modification? The recent introduction of "alternate truth" is a troubling example. Can wholesale deportation be described as "alternate justice" or restrictive healthcare be "alternate compassion?"

Did we invent right and wrong? Can something that's wrong for me be right for someone else? Can my weakness be another's strength? Just how malleable are qualities once considered enduring? Where does conscience fit in? To what degree is intent an aggravating or mitigating factor?

These questions have no easy answers, but, when considered, they can provide a framework, or what scientists might call a "working hypothesis," to explain who, what, and where we are, particularly when supported by theology and philosophy. Less exacting or restrictive than science, they, too, probe the unknown.

Faith generates many unanswered and unanswerable questions, but it provides a platform from which to confront the doubt that accompanies any thoughtful consideration of these issues. Faith is a choice; it is the affirmation of hope. Defined as a "confident expectation," hope assumes doubt. So much of faith is beyond our capacity to understand that a struggle to sustain it is almost inevitable. My journey convinces me that the universe and all in it are not the result of an endless series of cosmic accidents and coincidences with no design or purpose.

My Christian faith involves trust and submission. The Catholic Church throughout history has often failed to live up to its divinely inspired message. As a result, many have left. I remain because I understand that, like any institution, the church is composed of flawed human beings who sometimes do dreadful things. Unfortunately, these failings get far more attention than the good works performed by the church and the many dedicated clergy who persevere in an increasingly secular society. The message of love as set forth in the beatitudes remains my inspiration.

Born, raised, and educated a Catholic, I cannot abandon the faith upon which I have for so long depended as the church contends with the tension between tradition and evolution. The ship may be rusty and taking on water, and it may find itself off course on occasion, but it's the one I embarked upon in my youth and will remain aboard, hoping to see a light through the fog when the voyage ends.

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Point of View

Two men: A GOP prince at the public trough, and Daniel O'Connell, 'The King of the Beggars'

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

Like father, like son. This is not a matter of Republican vs. Democrat or Left, Center, or Right. In more dizzying ways than can be tallied, President Trump and his family are flouting any distinction between the family business and the nation's welfare. "Welfare" is the key word here: The Trumps are bigger pigs at the public trough than the stereotypical Conservative target: Anyone receiving public assistance, Unemployment Insurance, Medicare, or even Social Security. Case in point: Eric Trump and his latest Irish junket — all at taxpayer expense.



Eric Trump

No rational person can deny that the Trumps, as with every president and first family are entitled to Secret Service protection. The Trumps, however, also feel entitled to use the Secret Service as a traveling Praetorian guard on business trips and that you, I, and all American taxpayers should foot the costs to put up Eric Trump's protective detail in hotels and pay the bill for meals and every other cost that Eric and his brother, Donald, Jr., hand off to the government.

As Eric conducts the family business in Doonbeg and other Irish locales, what is known is that the taxpayers doled out \$4,029.85 on limousines and \$11,261 in hotel fees for Lord Eric's Secret Service team. The family and their supporters will not reveal if the Trumps billed the government to house the agents at Trump's Irish resort. The silence speaks for itself. We paid for that, too. In all likelihood, we also paid for the airfares of Eric's personal/public bodyguards so that he could conduct family business.

Eric's taxpayer-funded business featured a two-day stay in Co. Clare at the posh Trump International Golf Links (formerly the Doonbeg Golf Club), where, displaying a pronounced case of foot-in-mouth-disease, elitist tone deafness, or clueless privilege — take your pick — he held a number of business meetings at the property, played a round of golf, and spoke at length to the Irish media. "From a big picture standpoint,"

he told the *Irish Times* and *Irish America's* Irish Central, "Ireland will have no better ally in the world than America. It has always been that way, but even more so." He neglected to add that as of this writing, Ireland's importance to the Trump Administration is such that the president has not found the time to appoint a new ambassador to the Emerald Isle — nor to some 50 other nations.

Young Trump was just warming up. In an interview with the *Sunday Independent*, he slammed Irish and humanitarian icon Bono, who, it must be pointed out, did not hold back in his criticism of Eric's daddy during the presidential campaign. "The American dream was running away very, very quickly. I think Bono got it exactly wrong," Eric said. "In all fairness," he added, "it is very easy for Bono to say that the American dream ran away as he sings from a stage for \$5 million a night. I mean, give me a break!"

Give us a break, Eric. I guess that your upbringing in a world of private family wealth and tony schools exposed you to average or impoverished folks in some way that Bono and his band-mates, who grew up with none of those advantages, could never grasp. Eric Trump, champion of the common man, also reflected on how his Irish nanny, Dorothy Curry, gave him special insights into the Irish: "So I feel like I have a lot of Irish heritage in me based on her, based on the fact that I was coming over here with her every single summer. And, again, it wasn't like I was going to Dublin and staying in some hotel. I mean this was real Ireland. She would take a car and we drove all over Ireland together. It was a lot of fun."

It's nice to know that Eric knows the "real Ireland" in ways that have eluded the U2 lads.

The price tag of Eric's and Donald, Jr.'s trips have not eluded numerous critics. At some \$200,000 and climbing, the junkets have led Congressman Elijah Cummings to charge that the taxpayers are being gamed by the Trump clan: "The Trump family's frequent travel to international destinations purely to promote the Trump family business is burning through taxpayer dollars at an unprecedented rate and stretching the Secret Service increasingly thin."

Recalling a titan's passing

While strolling along the scenic streets of Genoa on a recent sojourn to Italy, I happened to glimpse a large plaque affixed to a building. Staring down at me was the visage of Daniel O'Connell, revered by Ireland as "The Liberator" and reviled in the 19th century by the

Crown and Parliament as the "King of the Beggars." The statesman, who devoted his life and career to winning Catholic emancipation for his oppressed co-religionists but fell short in his battle to win repeal of the Union with Britain, died in Genoa at the age of 71 on May 15, 1847, 170 years ago.

Aware that he was dying, worn down by his labors and the onset of the Great Famine, O'Connell had set out on a pilgrimage to Rome but made it only as far as Genoa. His personal chaplain, Father Miley, wrote to O'Connell's son: "...the worst has befallen us — the Liberator, your illustrious father — the father of his country — the glory and the wonder of Christendom — is dead! Dead! No, I should say rather, O'Connell is in Heaven, his death was happy; he received in the most fervent sentiments the last rites, and up to the last sigh was surrounded by every consolation provided by our holy religion."

Today, O'Connell's body reposes in a splendid mausoleum in the form of an Irish round tower at Glasnevin Cemetery. His heart, according to his wishes, was sent to Rome shortly after his death.

Like so many of his fellow Irish, O'Connell died far from his homeland, but still burned with love for it and for the poor and downtrodden. He had always refused to visit America because of his vehement hatred of slavery. His doctrine of nonviolent protest and political action foreshadowed that of Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., among others. One suspects that Daniel O'Connell, a genuine man of the people, would have scoffed at the notion of the Trumps as friends of anyone beneath the so-called "upper one percent."



A plaque commemorating Daniel O'Connell, that was taken outside the house where he died on May 15, 1847. Winnie H. Liang photo

Hostile climate for immigrants seen as threat to New England economy

By COLIN A. YOUNG
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Immigrants are the underpinning of entire sectors of the region's economy and have been the driving force behind Boston's population and workforce growth since 1980. But now policy proposals from the White House threaten to upend entire sectors of the region's economy, city officials and immigrant advocates said last week.

"The deeper you go into how we are affected -- whether it's being served a meal at a restaurant at lunch or having a loved one cared for -- I think it becomes very apparent that we are at the cusp of a very serious problem," Jewish Vocational Services President Jerry Rubin said, noting the prevalence of foreign-born workers in the service and long-term care industries.

There are 1,095,953 Massachusetts residents who were born in another country -- totaling about 16 percent of the state's population — and 28.4 percent of Boston residents, or 190,123 people, were foreign-born, according to Boston Planning and Development Agency data.

Since 1980, Boston's population has grown by 14 percent and immigrants have accounted for almost all of that growth, Alvaro Lima, the BPDA's director of research, said Wednesday morning at an event hosted by the Boston Foundation. "Immigrants are crucial to the growth of the population, they are crucial to the diversity of the city, they contribute into Boston's economic growth," Lima said. "It's very hard to have wealth and health in a society and in a city if it's not by advancing the integration of immigrants."

People born in other countries hold 27 percent of the jobs in Suffolk County and

account for roughly 24 percent of the county's economic output, Lima said.

But President Donald Trump's executive orders on immigration and refugee policy are having a chilling effect on the immigrant community, stopping immigrants from coming to the United States and causing immigrants already in the country to question their place in American society, Eva Millona, executive director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition said.

"The vision of the new president since the campaign has been unapologetically anti-immigrant, anti-refugee, and many thought it might just be a marketing tool during the campaign but he's kept his promise and he is delivering on all those promises as to what the new vision is," Millona said. "Over the years we've seen mood swings about our immigration and integration policies ... but we haven't seen anything like this; running an election with a notion of seeing all immigrants and refugees through the lens of terrorism."

And that chilling effect could have drastic impacts on the region's economy. As the Baby Boomer generation ages out of the workforce and while the state's unemployment rate hovers around 3 percent, growth will be limited unless there are new workers entering the labor force here, according to Rubin.

"Boston in particular, but Massachusetts and probably New England in general, is facing a very serious challenge to our economic growth because you cannot grow when you are full employment without additional workers," he said. "As you can see immigration has been the driver, really the entire driver, of the growth of the labor force and that presents a very, very serious problem to the overall economy, to the

health and the welfare of the community, and particularly to the business community."

Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Analytics, said at an economic conference in Boston earlier this year that as the Baby Boomer generation departs the workforce, a lack of immigration would be "a very significant constraint on the economy's potential growth."

"Not only do we need to maintain the level of immigration that we have now, which is about a million per annum -- that's legal and illegal -- but we need more," Zandi said. "In fact, I think the biggest problem businesses are going to face going forward is a lack of labor. It's going to be a very tight labor market."

The Boston region in particular could be affected by an executive order signed Tuesday by Trump. The order directs the secretary of state, the attorney general, the secretary of labor, and the secretary of homeland security to conduct an interdepartmental review of the H-1B visa program, which allows companies to bring "skilled" foreign workers to fill jobs in America for a set amount of time. During a April 19 event in Wisconsin, the president said the H-1B visa program "should include only the most skilled and highest-paid applicants and should never, ever be used to replace American workers."

The rise of Massachusetts' innovation economy has been driven by the region's concentration of higher education institutions and the "internationalization" that leads to employers seeking out world-class talent that can come to America with an H-1B visa, Rubin said.

"That whole segment of our economy, what you might think of as the innovation economy or the knowledge-based

"Not only do we need to maintain the level of immigration that we have now, which is about a million per annum -- that's legal and illegal -- but we need more. In fact, I think the biggest problem businesses are going to face going forward is a lack of labor. It's going to be a very tight labor market."

economy where we are leaders nationally and internationally ... sits on that base of immigrant talent," he said. "That's a major area of concern and I'm sure there many people who were nervous about yesterday's news."

While Trump's administration ratchets up enforcement of immigration laws and presses ahead on its "America first" agenda, the executive director of an organization that helps immigrants become U.S. citizens said many immigrants have become increasingly interested in obtaining full legal citizenship. Only 10 percent of the 8.8 million eligible Green Card holders apply for full citizenship, she said.

"Citizenship was previously, I think, considered kind of a luxury, a sort of bucket list item to be crossed off," Veronica Serrato, executive director of Project Citizenship, said. "But now it has really changed to an urgent need as the only protection against deportation."

BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett
Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

“The Peacemaker,” a documentary film about the life and work of Padraig O’Malley, was given a special screening on April 23 at Plimoth Plantation. The film takes viewers from O’Malley’s life in Cambridge to some of the most dangerous crisis zones on Earth—from Northern Ireland to Kosovo to Nigeria to Iraq—over five years as he employs a peacemaking model based on his own recovery from addiction.

1.) Deanne Kelley, Marblehead, Ryan Ford, Somerville, Edris Kelley, Marshfield, Morgan Ford, Somerville, Kathryn & David DeMoss, Westport; 2.) Magdalen & Glyn Dowden, Plymouth; 3.) James Demo, Padraig O’Malley 4.) Emily Grogan, Cambridge, Susan Epstein, Hull; 5.) Steve Silva, Carol Tinkham, Buzzards Bay; 6.) Bill & Jean O’Donnell, Woonsocket RI; 7.) Candyce Carragher, Hull, James Demo, film director; 8.) Janice Plunkett, Barry Velleman, Marshfield; 9.) Andrea King, Sharyn Waters, Plymouth; 10.) Susan NiCastro, John Twohig, Brockton; 11.) Colleen & Ed Silvia, Lakeville; 12.) Paul & Susan McCarthy, Jody Regan, Steve Aucella, all of Marshfield.

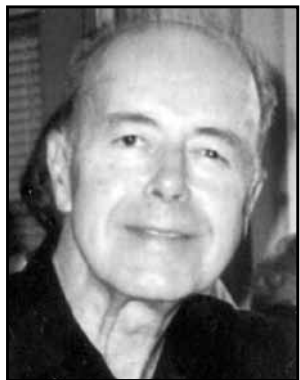


Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

BY BILL O'DONNELL

Tightening the Screws on Detained Immigrants – In a recent column, I outlined the extreme difficulties that detained immigrants face prior to deportation, but the rules in some instances were there to protect those awaiting deportation.

Now, however, a Trump regime seeking to find jail space to hold detainees has moved to curtail practices that help make life bearable for detainees.



Bill O'Donnell

New rules under Trump now make no mention of translation services or expedited medical needs. This, of course, reflects the president's belief that our government should be more harsh with unauthorized immigrants. Yet another show and tell for his voters.

There have been additional moves to increase detainee facilities as the administration moves ahead with added detention beds for increased numbers. Little of constructive programming is being advanced as the campaign moves ahead to round up and incarcerate those who run afoul of the ICE Brigade, even lowering the threshold of what were previously criminal acts or behavior, in essence, that is, treating detainees as criminals, not civil detainees.

One factor that Trump and customs enforcement pre-Trump encouraged, or at least never publicly corrected, is the myth that undocumented immigrants in the US are freeloaders who are living off welfare and taking jobs away from American citizens while not paying their share of the national tax burden.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is encouraging that the *Boston Globe* and a growing number of respected newspapers have been publishing editorials correcting the record to factually report incorrect data or intentionally false beliefs that, sadly, help distort the massive contributions of undocumented immigrants.

A *Globe* editorial (April 18) may have surprised some when it outlined nearly \$12 billion of undocumented immigrant tax contributions. Other papers have reported in detail that undocumented immigrants pay more into the US Treasury each year than they ever receive in benefits. It is clearly time that these and other factual details be well publicized by immigrant groups and their allies.

At Long Last, People See the Truth of Bill O'Reilly – He has had a long and profitable broadcasting career, most of it at Fox News since the mid-1990s. His major flaw, aside from that raging ego and a penchant for making up stories and falsehoods, is that he has no respect for women in the workplace. And when he starts huffing and puffing and women repel his efforts, more often than not he tries in many small (and successful) ways to harm their careers. Cross Bill O and you were headed for the hinterlands. He was the persistent stalker in the corridors, and being a Big Star with the ratings, he had an edge when he entered his own Spin Zone. Finally, though, he hit a critical mass of complaints from women who had spent too many uncomfortable hours fending off unwanted advances and crude dialogue. They lawyered up; others went public (not an easy choice); and more became yet more as time went by.

In response, he first talked about the perils of money and celebrity, then he resorted to the haven of those many others who would "do anything" to avoid hurting their children, "and so I have put to rest my controversies to spare my children." That sentiment apparently never came to mind when he was prowling the corridors of business.

Bill O and his former boss, Roger Ailes – and Trump makes three – have crippling social problems and all are fueled by a core disrespect for women. That's so unfashionably retro, didn't they know!

Ian Paisley Phone Was Tapped, Says His Son – Ian Paisley Jr., a North Antrim MP and son of the late DUP Leader in the North, announced in Parliament in mid-April that his father's phones were tapped when he was an MP. Former deputy prime minister **Lord Prescott** claimed that, in 2005, then British prime minister **Tony Blair** told him that security services had eavesdropped on an MP, and that MP was the **Rev. Ian Paisley**.

Paisley junior said he hoped a full inquiry will be held into the claim. "I want to know what course of action can be taken to verify Lord Prescott's claim and how do we hold those to account." The rule at the time, and likely still in use, was the Wilson Doctrine mandating that no government MPs were to be tapped.

In an open parliamentary debate it was fairly agreed that phone tapping "does take place as a matter of course." For the record, former PM Blair has denied he authorized any taps.

It must have been a slow and tedious session in Commons when Paisley junior arose to see if he could get any attention on the alleged wiretapping of his father some dozen years ago. Surely, the alleged tapping of yesteryear has nowhere near the cachet that Trump's bogus claim against Obama has today.

CNN's John King Calls Out Fox & Friends – Boston, and Dorchester's, own **John King** of CNN had

some fun with the Fox channel for its telling President Trump that he is doing a "flawless job." King chided Fox for calling the chaos that was the first 90 days of the Trump reign into serious question. Consider: the cabinet choices, with one being fired and another, the weasel **Attorney General Jeff Sessions**, having to recuse himself on the Russia contacts; two stories on the "armada" that Trump had steaming into the waters off North Korea and the Pentagon had heading in the other direction off Singapore; a number of critical agencies nowhere near fully staffed; travel bills in the tens of millions for Trump's retreats to Mar-a-Lago; West Wing feuds and the dumping of Steve Bannon from his eagle's perch; the courts rejecting Trump's "performance treats" when he shows off his executive orders; a growing pile of Trumpian flip-flops; and his staff in waiting fearful of fielding the next phone call from Russia.

This is a "smooth-running machine?" As King said, "The president has to watch Fox & Friends in the morning to be reminded of the flawless job he's doing."

John Hume, The Statesman of the North – He had a birthday this year, his 80th, the "Four Score" event. He is retired after a lifetime of devotion, vision, and courage. He once said that he spent half his time in the air and half in wood-paneled conference rooms. He is right except it was more like three-quarters of his time in the air, traveling from Derry to Dublin, Belfast, London, Washington, Boston, and the EU's sister cities. Yet they were years of accomplishment and accolades and it was the **John Hume** energy, foresight, and belief in peace that played a unique role in the Good Friday agreement and the ultimate peace.

I spent happy and satisfying hours watching John chipping away at the violence. We were never close friends. I was happy with being a spearcarrier, an admirer from the first time I met him, in the 1980s, through my time with Boston Ireland Ventures, the

Four-trade festivals in Boston's World Trade Center, and the creation of the Foyleside Shopping Centre in Derry. Boston had a large role in that singular enterprise.

Ireland needed a helping hand back in the day, but it clearly had the leadership in John Hume and his storied career. Heroes have their own ways and John's were strewn with wreckage needing hands to tend to it. And in that sporting bromide that describes his personal approach, "He had your back."

We were so fortunate in having a John Hume during those perilous, troubled years. And he made all the difference. I hope that his twilight years are comfortable and safe, and that he knows how much we respect all he does for Ireland, the island of Ireland. Happy Birthday, John, and God bless, from a longtime believer.

Ivanka Spins The Wheel, and Yes, Coincidences Happen in China – President Trump dines with Chinese President **Xi Jinping** on Dover sole and New York strip steak. On that day that **Ivanka Trump** also met the Chinese leader, China granted preliminary approval for three new trademarks for her line of jewelry, hand bags, and spa service. Ivanka has also been granted four additional trademarks since her father's inauguration and has 32 pending, according to the Associated Press. Certainly a good day for Ivanka and her dad.

Of course, Ivanka's products are made almost entirely in China, and there's a side-pocket bonus that the policy on trade or China's currency could benefit her financially. All of this business traffic between the Trump family and China doesn't impact the rest of us who think Rodeo Drive is bull-riding and calf-roping, but a former chief ethics adviser to **President Obama** says, "I would never have allowed it." And, he adds: "For their own sake, and the country's, Ivanka and Jared [Kushner, her husband] should consider stepping away from China matters." Don't hold your breath. And do not expect anytime soon to hear from civilian Barack Obama.

I don't know how to break this to the faithful, but Trump's bed and golf course are in Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach and that storied winter White House has a few problems. Restaurant inspectors recently found a dozen violations in the kitchen at the private club. The violations were rated as high priority: The meats were not being stored properly, and fish served raw or undercooked "had not undergone proper parasite destruction."

And you think you have problems? Let me tell you...

'The Peacekeeper' Wins Jury Prize at Cleveland – The documentary about **Padraig O'Malley** and his work has been moving to different screenings recently; the most recent was in Plymouth, MA on April 23 at the Plimoth Cinema where the film was shown at a post-production fundraiser organized by producer **Jim Demo**. There will also be a screening in Orlando's Florida Film Festival. The jury prize "Peacemaker" won in Cleveland was strong recognition for the documentary that follows Prof. Padraig O'Malley over a number of foreign locales as Padraig "The Peacemaker" brings conflicting sides together in search of elusive peace.

Are Ireland's Gardai Reducing Numbers? – An increasing number of villages and small towns in Ireland no longer have a dedicated garda. Newest figures show that 7 percent of the country's 500 plus stations no longer have a full-time gardai assigned to them. Official figures show nearly 40 police stations now policed by officers from neighboring stations. Additionally, 139 stations closed in the past five years,

most of them in rural communities.

Looking at the big picture, overall the number of gardai are 10,987. Planning calls for a garda work force of 21,000 by 2021, comprising 15,000 gardai, 2,000 reserve members, and 4,000 civilians. Despite the rise in gardai numbers, there was a reduction in the number in such counties as Kerry, Roscommon, Meath, Mayo, Waterford, Leitrim, Donegal, and Monaghan.

Information in this report was provided under Freedom of Information regulations.

Reveal Social Media Codes to Enter US? The latest from the Trump administration and Homeland Security is that some airline passengers entering the US will be asked to provide the passwords to their social media accounts as a condition of entry. A social sweep of this type, if implemented, would provide government officials access to American relatives, friends and colleagues. Other countries, forced to have their travelers provide media account numbers, could retaliate against air travelers from America to other countries. A case needs to be made for this proposal. The problem is that we don't know what standards would be used to decide entry and what would happen to the media code data. Would this information be used to create a social media data base, and if so, whom would it be shared with?

The ACLU, asserting that forcing travelers to provide social media codes is a violation of our civil liberties, has decided to "fight back." The organization has joined with partners to convince Homeland Security Secretary Kelly that these proposed new rules are a "non-starter." More to come with this

A Good Man Gone To His Rest – Dan Rooney, chairman emeritus of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Barack Obama's ambassador to Ireland for over three years, has died after a lifetime of achievements and faithful service to America and Ireland. He was a co-founder of the American Ireland Fund, a longtime and sturdy proprietor with the National Football League, and co-founder of the Newry/Pittsburgh Partnership. He was a most likable, smiling personality who graced his long life with giving and service.

Art Rooney had much to be proud of: He was the first ambassador to Ireland to visit all 32 counties and he wrote and created the "Rooney Rule," an NFL mandate that all hiring for NFL coaching vacancies include a minority candidate among those invited for interviews. And he maintained strong personal and familial links with the town of Newry and the border area in Ireland.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

A few forests have been felled covering the firing of Bill O'Reilly by Fox amidst a gathering storm of complaints against him by female victims of sexual harassment. But he is walking away with a \$25 million "settlement." Maybe it was to avoid messy litigation, but I do have one question to ask Fox News: Have they ever heard the expression "for cause?" Go to trial, and if Fox loses, they pay, but if they beat O'Reilly in court, they give the \$25 million to charitable women's causes and soften their image with the viewing public for harboring Bill O for so long. ...

Some ask what killed **Martin McGuinness**. The answer is amyloidosis, a rare protein-related disease. ... Patriots' All World tight end **Rob Gronkowski** brought a few laughs to White House press secretary **Sean Spicer** as the Pats grin and gripped with President Trump. ... Some fool splashed paint on Glasnevin Cemetery's Remembrance Wall where the names of all the dead from the 1916 Rising are displayed. ... A shout-out to Bay State Attorney General **Maura Healey** for recouping more than \$80 million in damages for fraud against the state's Medicaid program.

Looking for a few nights holiday stay at \$400 a night? Take a look into Inis Meain Restaurant & Suites, a perfect hideaway just 12 miles from Galway City. ... Will somebody remind Donald the President that neither Hillary nor his predecessor are his enemy. Truth is. ... Congress, desperate to find money for Trump's fantasy agenda, is considering a plan to increase insurance premiums for older Americans. They call it "age rating," but you can call it "pocket-picking." No way, **Speaker Ryan**. ... The *National Catholic Reporter* newspaper has taken an aggressive stance against fake news and is prepared to lead the fight against Trump's unsourced insult that the US press is the "enemy of the people." ... The snap British election called by Prime Minister **Theresa May** is being strongly criticized in Northern Ireland, which is in terrible shape and won't be helped by internal British politics. ... More on Martin McGuinness: Loyalists are going after him regarding his headstone, which refers to the former IRA commander and Deputy First Minister as an IRA volunteer. He had admitted that years ago, unlike Gerry Adams. So what's new?

Golfer **Rory McIlroy** and his bride were married last month at Ashford Castle in Cong, scene years ago of the filming of the O'Hara-Wayne opus, "The Quiet Man." ... Former Taoiseach and Fianna Fail party leader **Bertie Ahern** returned to the hustings recently for a public FF event, his first attendance at a party event since March 2012. ... Another longtime Ireland no show is **Prince Charles**, who is heading for Kilkenny. It will be the first royal visit since 1904 when **King Edward and Queen Alexandra** stayed at Kilkenny Castle. ... A satisfying adieu to Bill O'Reilly and his made-up tales of derring-do. Fox has just come clean in admitting that Bill O "did not witness any bombings in the Troubles" despite his many claims that he did.

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

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Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655

Website: iiicenter.org Email: immigration@iiicenter.org

Legal Services Update – The Irish International Immigrant Center has a team of immigration attorneys and social workers who are available for all Irish immigrants especially during this time of uncertainty. We are closely following changes in immigration policy and if you or anyone you know wants to speak to an immigration attorney or a social worker please call us at 617-542-7654.

Legal Clinic Schedule – Downtown Boston: One State Street, May 2, May 16; Brighton: Green Briar, May 8; Dorchester: St. Mark's Parish School Hall, May 24. Please call 617.542.7654 for details.

'Emerald City': Unique Film tribute to the Irish in NYC

"My propensity for addiction arose out of the need to escape my body. I was in pain, I needed medication. It was that simple. Alcohol and drugs worked for many years to numb the pain, then one day it didn't anymore." These are the words of Colin Broderick of Tyrone and then New York City.

Colin is the brave and talented author of two memoirs, and now of the wonderful film,

"Emerald City," which has garnered love and praise this past year at multiple film festivals: Manhattan, London, Derry, Belfast and Omagh. IIIC Wellness Services was excited and proud to bring this film of hard-working Irish construction workers to Boston on Sun., April 30, at 1 pm at Studio Cinema, Belmont.

Colin decided it was time to tell the unsung story



Christopher Dixon-O'Mara (second from right) with members of Climate Action Campaign gathered in support of the Climate Action Plan in Del Mar, California. The plan successfully passed June 6, 2016.

of the men who helped to build one of the greatest cities in the world and the joys, losses, pain and camaraderie that it all entailed.

He was immersed himself in this world of hard work and play for 20 years and has written and spoken openly about climbing out of an addiction that ran parallel for many of those days and cost him three marriages, many relationships, his teeth, hospital visits, and car wrecks. The drink of this sub-culture, and his own path to recovery, is a thread in this brutally honest, sad, and funny film.

Joining Colin in the cast are John Duddy, the "Derry the Destroyer" boxer, comedic actor John Keating, and an amazingly talented cast culled from the many men and women Broderick has known through his years in NYC construction. They all bring an authenticity and vibrancy to this rendering of an Irish world that many have been fascinated with for years, yet a world that hasn't seen itself portrayed on the big screen

in quite this way ever. The pool of natural talent is a treasure and the losses and pain they confront head on, without flinching, make for a breath of fresh air.

Throughout the many story lines, alcohol and what it means to be Irish, and to be drinking or trying not to drink, is a main theme. Colly, the main character, has begun to try to confront this piece of his story. We see him attend AA meetings, avoiding his pals' pleas to join him at the bar, and trying to navigate finding himself again after decades with "the drink." We see his crew boss nearly lose his family and business to addiction and we see the gang of friends binge drink the evenings away. Colin regains a footing in early sobriety as he finds love, dares to produce his first play, and discovers the quiet power of yoga quite accidentally.

This is all based on Broderick's real story and his willingness to show vulnerability, weakness and his faltering steps, and invite us in for an

intimate ride.

The power of Irish community is an ever-familiar theme. In "Emerald City," Broderick's community of characters on the work site, and the ones he coaxes onto the literal stage in New York as he corrals them all into his play, ultimately accept his sober self. They cling together as the world they've known at the core of NY construction begins to fade and we see strength and submission unfold in many ways. Some take chances on new life stories and some succumb to sorrow. They rejoice and grieve together and remind us along the way of the strengths and passions of the Irish. This film dares to shed light on the shame and vulnerability that fuels addiction by giving us lots of love and laughter along the way.

For further info on IIIC services, please see our website iiicenter.org and Facebook Page; Irish Outreach & Wellness Services Boston-IIIC; or contact Rachel Reisman, LICSW, at rreisman@iiicenter.org - 617-542-7654, Ext. 14.

One Clare man's J-1 suggestion: 'Simply go for it!'

Following the completion of a master's degree in energy and environmental policy, Christopher Dixon O'Mara faced a dilemma. The Co. Clare native researched job opportunities within the sustainable energy sector in Ireland, and found limited employment options. Dixon-O'Mara noted, "Following some research, it was evident that Southern California was a global leader in sustainability- an area perfectly suited for an environment graduate... San Diego is home to the national lead-

ers of the solar industry in the USA." The graduate of University College Dublin decided to pursue the J-1 Irish Work and Travel visa program and contacted the Irish International Immigrant Center for assistance.

Dixon-O'Mara traveled to San Diego, and armed with a fierce determination, began job hunting. He credits the immense amount of preparation done before his arrival in California as a vital factor in attaining an interview with Sullivan Solar

Power. "Even though the company had no open positions," Dixon-O'Mara's unparalleled work ethic and education so impressed Sullivan Solar Power that he received an offer of employment. "My internship allowed me to work in public affairs and energy policy – this was not a position previously with my company, but created for me."

Dixon-O'Mara added, "My J-1 IWT program in San Diego provided me with a professional and personal development that was unparalleled to any other option." The internship gave him the opportunity to participate in solar conferences across the region, notably San Francisco and Las Vegas.

He also traveled to Sacramento to meet with elected officials and he spoke at city council meetings across San Diego County on the merits of solar power. At a rally in San Diego supporting the national environmental movement, "I got to see President Obama!" Dixon-O'Mara recalled.

He also took advantage of the numerous recreational opportunities offered throughout the San

Diego area, "California was my playground... I was provided with ample opportunities to hike, surf, cycle and run alongside the Pacific Coast. The most scenic and breathtaking beaches afforded the opportunity to relax and unwind in the evenings after work. I got to attend football, basketball, hockey games, and I even watched Robbie Keane and Kevin Doyle in action in Major League Soccer!" Dixon-O'Mara noted that the American work culture favored a "work hard/play hard" attitude, which in his opinion, "suits young Irish graduates who have a ferocious work ethic, and are able to have fun." Upon conclusion of Dixon-O'Mara's internship at Sullivan Solar Power, he accepted a highly prestigious traineeship with the European Union in Brussels.

He summed up his year and offered advice to other Irish graduates: "The J-1 IWT program is by far the best opportunity for graduates who want to gain vital work experience and go on a life changing adventure... simply go for it."

Immigration Q&A

About conditional permanent residence – crucial next steps

Q. I received a green card valid for two years, based on my marriage to a US citizen. I see that the card is due to expire in a few months. What do I do now?

A. Your two-year permanent residence (as opposed to green cards good for ten years in other circumstances) is "conditional," because you were married to your US citizen spouse for less than two years at the time when your legal permanent residence was granted. Now you and your spouse *must* jointly file Form I-751 with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) during the three-month window before your current card expires, in order to "remove the condition" and obtain a green card with a ten-year validity period. Neglecting to file this application on time can have serious adverse consequences, including the loss of permanent resident status.

USCIS wants to see that you are still married and living with your spouse, and that you therefore still have a basis for permanent residence (and also that you do not have any possibly disqualifying issues such as criminal convictions). The kinds of evidence that you use to demonstrate the marriage relationship are essentially the same as at your original green card interview, except that this time you mail the evidence to USCIS along with the Form I-751. For example:

- Birth certificates of any children born of the relationship, showing the applicant and spouse as the parents.
- Copies of federal and state tax returns with the "married filing jointly" filing status.
- Evidence of joint checking, savings, or other accounts or assets (certificates of deposit, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, retirement accounts, pension plans, etc.), or joint obligations on any loans.
- Photo ID cards (such as driver's licenses, school IDs, or amended passports) showing the couple's joint address.
- An apartment lease or a letter from the landlord indicating that both spouses live at the apartment, or copies of rent receipts showing both parties' names.
- House or condominium deeds or mortgage documents showing joint tenancy and obligation.
- Credit cards showing both spouses' names on the accounts.
- Documents from an employer showing a change in records to reflect the spouse's new marital status or showing designation of the spouse as the person to be notified in event of accident, sickness, or other emergency.
- Evidence of life insurance policies where one spouse is named as the beneficiary of the other.
- Evidence of one spouse's medical or health insurance plan that has coverage for the other spouse.
- Copies of gas, electric, telephone, cable, and other utility bills showing both parties' names (or at least the same mailing address).
- Evidence of joint ownership of an automobile (title, insurance, registration, financing). If one spouse owns the car, show at least that the other is covered as a driver on the insurance policy.
- Evidence of vacations and other trips taken together, including airline tickets and hotel bills.
- Evidence of major purchases made together, such as computers, audio equipment, television, refrigerator, washer, dryer etc., including any financing documents.
- Photographs that show both spouses together with family and friends.
- Two sworn affidavits from people who know the spouses as a married couple and who can briefly describe their relationship with them. These can be relatives, close friends, employers and others, preferably US citizens.

No one has all the evidence listed above, but every couple has at least some of these items. The point is to submit everything that fits your particular situation. Another important reminder is that USCIS expects you to submit documentation that covers the entire two-year period of conditional residence. The biggest mistake that people make is not submitting enough documentation. If not enough proof is submitted, USCIS will issue a request for further evidence or even schedule the couple for an interview, which will delay processing of the case.

Note that in some circumstances you can file this petition without your spouse if, for example, you are now divorced or if you are a victim of domestic violence. In these circumstances, you are required to show that you had a "good faith" marriage, among other things.

IIIC can assist you with the I-751 form and affidavits and help you to evaluate whether your marriage evidence documentation is sufficient. Also, if you have been arrested for any reason since you were granted conditional permanent residence, it is essential that you consult with an immigration lawyer before filing. Visit one of IIIC's weekly clinics advertised in the Boston Irish Reporter for a free, confidential consultation about this or any other immigration law issue.

Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. 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
IMMIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE

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

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

Downtown Boston
IIIC, One State Street, Boston MA 02109
Tuesday, May 2nd & May 16th

Brighton
Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St, Brighton MA 02130
Monday, May 8th & June 12th

Dorchester
St. Mark's Parish School Hall, 1725 Dorchester Ave, Dorchester MA 02124
Wednesday, May 24th

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Dorchester's Jennifer Ellis does her own thing well in "Bridges of Madison County"

SpeakEasy Stage, May 6 to June 3

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

In Robert James Waller's best-selling novel "The Bridges of Madison County," a lonely war bride in 1960s Iowa has a three-day affair with a handsome National Geographic photographer who came to town to shoot the community's covered bridges.

Published in 1992, Waller's work sold more than 60 million copies around the world. In 1995, a film version followed, starring Meryl Streep, Oscar-nominated as the housewife, and Clint Eastwood as the photographer.

With a lush score by Jason Robert Brown, a musical adaptation premiered at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in 2013. A year later, the show opened on Broadway and was subsequently



Jennifer Ellis as Francesca

nominated for multiple Tony Awards.

SpeakEasy Stage at the Calderwood Pavilion on Tremont Street presents the Boston premiere of the musical from May 6 to June 3. Boston's award-winning Jennifer Ellis stars as

Francesca, the Italian war bride, opposite Christiaan Smith as Robert, the photographer.

Ellis has been critically acclaimed for her work in everything from "Nine" to "Far From Heaven," "1776," "Carousel" and more. She has also appeared in "Shear Madness" in both Boston and New York. In 2016 she received the Norton and IRNE Best Actress awards for her performance as Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady" at Lyric Stage. And last summer she achieved a personal dream when she sang the National Anthem before a Red Sox-Yankees game at Fenway Park.

A Whitman native, Ellis now lives in Dorchester with her husband, an organic chemist. Together, the couple has traveled the world, swimming with sharks in Australia's Great Barrier Reef and staring down a lion while on a safari in Africa. She is also an animal rights activist.

With a warm personality and an easy sense of humor, she spoke about the show as she was mastering her lines. Here's

an edited look at our conversation.

Q. "Bridges" is a popular novel and film. What's your creative process when dealing with a story or a character that brings its own audience recognition.

A. When I did "My Fair Lady" with [director] Scott Edmiston, on day one he held up a picture of Audrey Hepburn, just put a big X through it and said, "We will not be doing this. Expectations aside, we going to do our own thing." And that's the approach I'm taking with this. I can't live up to anyone's expectations. I can just put myself into it as honestly as I can, approach it that way and hope that it resonates with people.

Q. Your character faces a life-altering emotional choice. Does the tragedy of the story lie in Francesca betraying her husband or in staying with him?

A. There's a beautiful song at the end, which is, I guess, a spoiler alert. She sings about how maybe it would have been better if Robert didn't come to town. Then she wouldn't have this pain that she has to live with. But she also wouldn't know that she could love in that capacity . . . It's so complex.

Q. The situation she faces goes far beyond the setting of time and place.

A. It is a very relatable story, which is funny, because it's about adultery. I think people either see themselves in Francesca or Robert, or the husband, Bud. It's funny that it's sort of an immoral thing that happens, but you root for them at the same time.

Q. Of course, over a three-day period it's tough to fully experience who the other person really is.

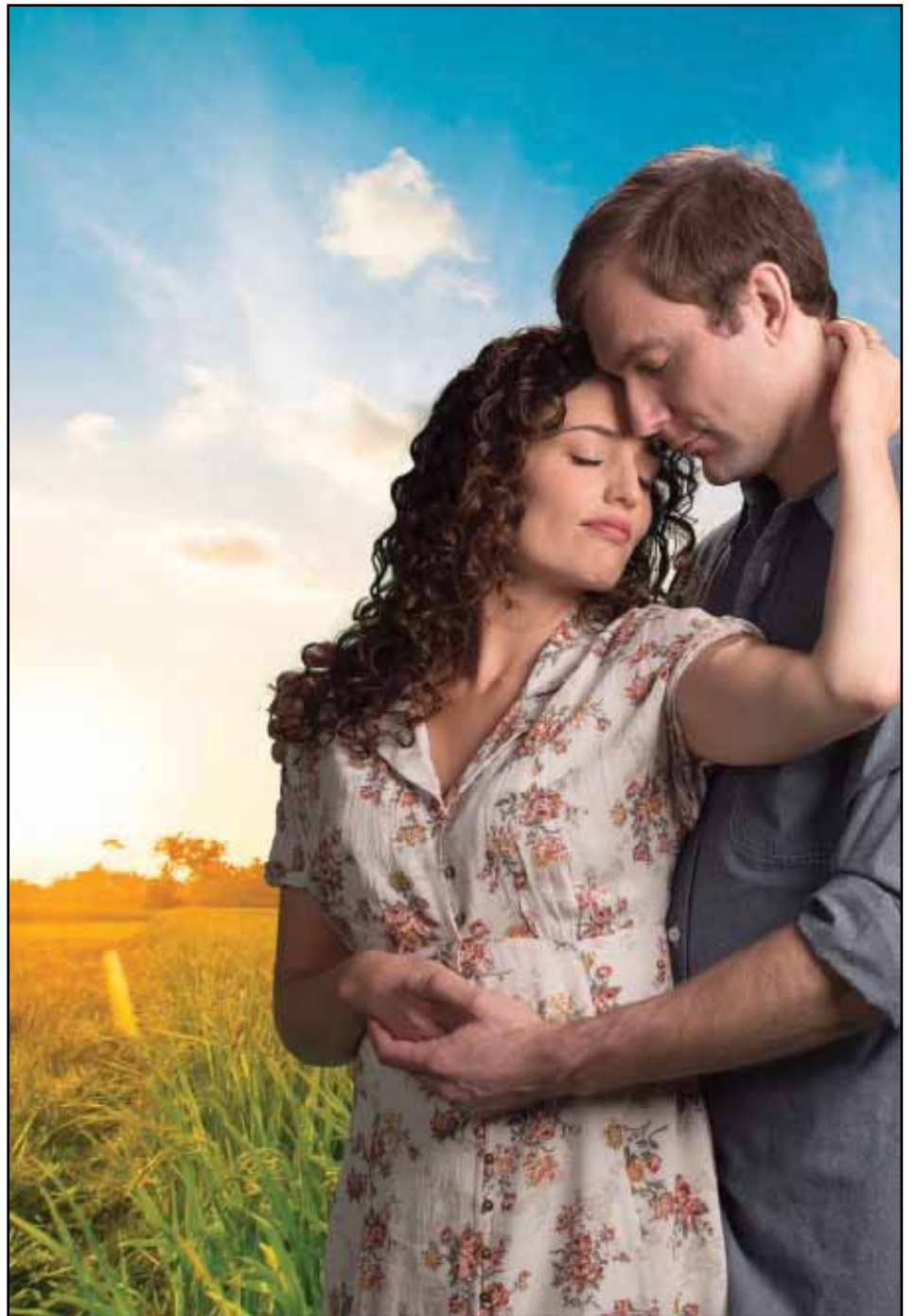
A. Right, all the warts and scars. That's so true. Just three days is not enough time to get on each other's nerves.

Q. You're so well known for your musical roles here in Boston. Is your family musical or are you the lone artist?

A. I was the lone artist. It turned out my Dad's Mom played piano beautifully, by ear, and that really fascinated me as a kid. So I would always bang on her piano. And then she eventually gave it to me . . . I feel like I got that sort of musical element from Nana Ellis. But we're Irish, so there's always a lot of singing. I was about about six when I joined the choir at my church. Someone gave me a solo, and that was just a big mistake because I wouldn't step away from the microphone.

Q. You're a member of the "Shear Madness" club, having done the show both here and in New York.

A. Man, I love those guys. I was so lucky to get into that. It's kind of like an institution . . . like Comedy Improv Boot Camp. It's its own type of family because so many people have done it. Some really great actors have done it and said, "The improv element is terrifying



Jennifer Ellis is Francesca Johnson and Christiaan Smith is Robert Kincaid in "The Bridges of Madison County," at SpeakEasy Stage from May 6 - June 3.

Glenn Perry Photography

and I can't do it."

Q. What was it like swimming with sharks in Australia?

A. They're huge, but they're reef sharks . . . they're like big dogs and they're afraid of people . . . They're so beautiful. They're swimming by you, not at you -- there's a big difference . . . There was something very ethereal about them . . . I actually started to swim after one of them, and my husband made this face in his snorkel mask like, "What the hell???"

Q. Tell me about your Irish roots.

A. I just did the "23andMe" thing. We've always given my Mom kind of a hard time because she's always said we're 100 percent Irish (on her side) . . . We always thought she was making it up, but it turns out she was right. We're from the Connemara region.

Q. Have you visited?

A. Oh my God, it's such a beautiful

place . . . My Mom said, "You have to go to Inishmore, Dingle, the Ring of Kerry and Kinsale." Inishmore, in particular, because I knew some of my ancestry was there . . . It was so beautiful. Just crossing to get there on the boat was one of the most terrifying boat trips of my life. It was so rough. They were like, "Focus on the horizon." But you'd look out the window and it was either sea or sky . . . Imagine doing this in a wooden boat a hundred years ago!

R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of onstageboston.com.

•••

"The Bridges of Madison County," SpeakEasy Stage, May 6 – June 3, Calderwood Pavilion, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. Info: speakeasystage.com or 617-933-8600.

Celtic music/dance events for May

• Among other Irish/Celtic events of note this month, the Burren Backroom series will present a double-duo show on May 3: **Matt and Shannon Heaton**, with their flute/whistle-guitar/bouzouki instrumentals and richly harmonized songs, grounded in Irish tradition but also drawing on other sources, and **Natalie Haas and Yann Falquet**, whose repertoire includes Scottish, American, Scandinavian, and Quebecois music.

Highly praised Newfoundland-born singer and guitarist **Matthew Byrne** comes to the Backroom on May 10. Byrne – who appeared in last year's "St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn" – has fast become known for his sensitive vocals and interpretations of traditional songs from Irish, British, and Canadian folk traditions, and contemporary songs in the traditional mode. His most recent album, "Hearts & Heroes," was selected as the 2015 Canadian Folk Music Awards "Traditional Album of the Year."

On May 17, the Backroom will feature legendary accordionist **John Whelan** – who is in the midst of departing New England for the Pacific Northwest – with fiddler **Dylan Foley** and guitarist **Flynn Cohen**. Whelan grew up outside London in the heavily Irish community

of Dunstable, won seven accordion competitions and – at age 14 – recorded his first album. Moving to the US in 1980, he formed a hugely popular partnership with fiddler Eileen Ivers, and went on to play with other major figures of Irish and Irish-American music like Seamus Egan, Tim O'Brien and Kathy Mattea. One of his most celebrated projects was the 2001 album "Celtic Fire," in which he collaborated with a number of young American musicians who went on to become well-established in the Irish/Celtic scene, including Paddy League, Patrick Mangan, and Elliott Grasso.

Also on the bill that night are Nova Scotian sisters **Cassie and Maggie MacDonald**, who have brought a contemporary perspective to their island's celebrated music tradition. Cassie's fiddle-playing, Maggie's piano and guitar accompaniment, and their singing – in Gaelic as well as English – have won them numerous honors, including "Female Singer of the Year" and "New Group of the Year" (Live Ireland), and "Emerging Artist Album of the Year" (*Chicago Irish-American News*), as well as nominations for the Canadian Folk Music Awards and East Coast Music Awards.

All Backroom shows begin at 7:30 p.m.

Go to burren.com/Backroom-Series.htm for information and tickets.

• At the Canadian American Club in Watertown, local band **Tin Can Hooley** will perform its special tribute to St. Brendan on May 13 at 8 p.m., celebrating the fabled sixth-century explorer-monk who, some believe, discovered North America well before the Vikings or Columbus. Appropriately enough, the concert will include maritime and sea-faring songs, traditional and contemporary, performed by the band and special guests.

On May 27, the club will host a dance and concert with Cape Breton fiddler **Andrea Beaton** beginning at 8 p.m. Beaton is part of a distinguished family musical heritage that includes her fiddle-playing father Kinnon and pianist mother Betty – both acknowledged as among the most influential Cape Breton musicians of their generation – and her cousin Natalie MacMaster. She has built up her own impressive resume, with five solo recordings – one of which, "Branches," won the East Coast Music Awards "Instrumental Recording of the Year." Tickets will be available at the door or in advance at: brownpapertickets.com/event/2932715.

For more about the Canadian American Club, see canadianamericanclub.com.

• **Daniel O'Donnell**, a popular Irish singer and entertainer for more than three decades, will take the stage at the Schubert Theater in Boston on May 16. The native of Donegal has enjoyed considerable success with his renditions of Irish, country and pop songs: 20 UK Top 40 albums and 15 Top 40 singles, 18 albums in the *Billboard* "World Music Chart," and more than 10 million records sold overall. He's also appeared regularly on TV in Ireland and the US, including several concert specials on PBS.

For tickets and other information, go to bochcenter.org/buy/show-listing/daniel-odonnell.

• **Irish Mythen**, an Irish-born singer-songwriter from Canada's Prince Edward Island, will perform at the Me&Thee Coffeehouse in Marblehead on May 12 at 8 p.m. Her edgy humor, powerful voice and stage presence have won her many fans at the various concerts and festivals where she's appeared, along with notables like Rod Stewart, Gordon Lightfoot and Lucinda Williams. For more information, go to meandthee.org.

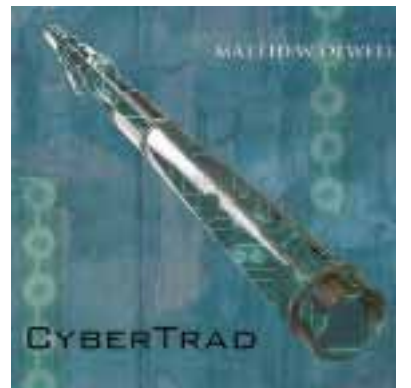
– SEAN SMITH

BY SEAN SMITH

Rusby's music. Here, electric guitar, Moog synthesizer, percussion, and drum programming are as much

“Only Desire What You Have” has familiar Rusby elements, like a rollicking rhythm, whistle solos by Michael McGoldrick (one of few holdovers from the Early Kate era) and a special guest male harmony vocalist – in this case Dan Tyminski (of Alison Krauss and Union Station, and “Man of Constant Sorrow” fame). Those who fondly recall Archie Fisher’s “Witch of the West-Mer-Lands” – a splendidly constructed and paced supernatural ballad – as a 1970s/80s coffeehouse staple (thanks in great part to the late Stan Rogers) should listen with an open mind to Rusby’s treatment: slower, pensive and atmospheric, yet still drawing out the vivid imagery in Fisher’s lyrics.

If IMLE is more about overall concept than follow-through, that's fine. Considering how much Gaelic has endured down through the centuries – suppression, near-extinction – there's no harm done here at all. [imle.ie]



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PEI's Ten Strings and a Goat Skin trio revel in savoring the island's traditions

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Atlantic Canada has made a strong and wide-ranging contribution to Celtic music, especially in recent decades, what with performers like Natalie MacMaster of Cape Breton, Matthew Byrne of Newfoundland and, from Prince Edward Island, Vishten and now the young trio Ten Strings and a Goat Skin: brothers Rowen and Caleb Gallant on fiddle and percussion, respectively, and guitarist Jesse Périard, all in their early 20s. (The Gallants are nephews of Lennie Gallant, an award-winning singer-songwriter and musician.)

Formed during its members' high school years, "TSAAGS" showcases PEI's fascinating amalgam of traditions (among them Irish, Scottish, and French) in its own inimitable fashion, blending contemporary material that includes tunes and songs by the Gallants and Périard with centuries-old ballads and instrumentals – all delivered with a robust joie d'être and precision. The trio has taken its music well beyond PEI's shores to Boston and elsewhere in the US, and overseas to events such as France's Festival Interceltique de L'orient and England's Shrewsbury Folk Festival, while releasing two albums, including last year's "Auprès du Poêle."

Last month saw Ten Strings and a Goat Skin embark on a brief tour of New England that included performances at Boston College's Gaelic Roots series and The Burren Backroom (their second visit there). During a pause in their travels, Rowen Gallant reflected on the band's growth and its ties to PEI culture and tradition.

Boston, and other areas of New England, have longstanding ties to Atlantic Canada – places where many natives from, say, Nova Scotia as well as PEI have settled. When it comes to Celtic music, how does Boston and New England fit in?

Gallant: I, like lots of other musicians from our part of the world, have always seen Boston as a big traditional music hub, with an incredibly deep-rooted history. To



"We started very young, so this vocation has really colored who and what we are," says Ten Strings and a Goat Skin fiddler Rowen Gallant (left), shown with brother Caleb (center) and Jesse Périard at a concert during the trio's recent New England tour. Sean Smith photo

know you're playing in a community that is studied with such a distinctive historical influence is very exciting.

We certainly recognize that traditional Irish music forms a big part of the Celtic music scene in Boston. But the last time we played at The Burren, although there were a lot of trad fans there, they were mainly interested in Acadian and Cape Breton music. We also found a group of people interested in Quebecois music. So there's quite a diversity of tastes and interests in and around Boston.

During your performances, you often talk about historical and cultural aspects of PEI. Do you feel it's incumbent upon you to serve as sort of "cultural ambassadors" as well as musicians?

Gallant: I don't think we feel obligated, really. It's a couple of things. In some ways, we're trying to find our place in the tradition, so talking about PEI helps us to connect with the history, with our roots. At the same time, there may be a lot of people in the audience who aren't familiar with PEI, so hopefully, through our words as well as our music, they can envision themselves in that history. Most of all, we just want everyone to know the qualities that make

PEI such a special place.

Growing up, was traditional music a big presence in your household?

Gallant: Where Caleb and I are concerned, you wouldn't consider our family to be super-trad. On our mom's side, they liked singing, but as something personal, and festive. On the other side, you can find more of an involvement in traditional music, like playing fiddle and pipes – but again, more for personal enjoyment. Our only professional influence was our uncle, of course, and he obviously followed a somewhat different musical path. So we're not first-generation traditional musicians, but the first to really take the music onto ourselves and make it the focus of our lives.

How did it all start?

Gallant: Our parents had no agenda; they just thought music would be something we could enjoy. I started fiddling at age 6, just like my grandpa did, and took lessons from Kim Vincent – who taught a lot of people in PEI – and just kept going on. Caleb started with the bodhran, but his musical development was less planned – they just put it into his hands, and he went with it, never took a lesson. He did eventually get involved with a local bagpipe and drum corps,

so that was an important part of his musical activity. And we'd go with our mom to some Scottish and Irish sessions.

For Jesse, it was something similar: His parents offered him guitar lessons, and he really took to it. When Caleb and I met him in school, playing traditional music just seemed a natural thing to do for where we were at the time. But at the same time, we didn't see ourselves as tied to any one tradition in particular.

And PEI has so many traditions and influences anyway.

Gallant: Yes, there's Irish, Scottish, English, but also Acadian and French. Everyone gets along, so there is a lot of tune and song-sharing among those different communities. You do get groups that are dedicated to preserving a certain tradition, but it's not all that common. Diversity is the real beauty of PEI.

And there are other kinds of music as well, which is part of our sound. The rock/indie stuff comes more from Jesse: He was in a performing arts program in college, and he picked up a lot of ideas and influences. Everyone agrees that he's not the same musician he was a few years ago, because he's been incorporating elements of that other mu-

sic into his backing, like using effects pedals with the guitar. So that's taken our music in a different direction – different than what Caleb and I might have envisioned, but with lots of possibilities.

Your newest album, "Auprès du Poêle," reflects that direction. What went into making it?

Gallant: Well, it's natural to want to record – you're interested in flexing your musical muscles. I think with our first album we were playing it somewhat safe, but this last one is where the outcome was the closest to where we are as a band. I'd say it's more "adult." We try to be fun, not take ourselves too seriously, but you know there's a self-respect that comes with age – did I really just say that?

Fortunately, we were able to work with Leonard Podolak, a member of The Duhks, which is one of Canada's best roots bands. As producer, he had some really great advice and ideas, and they fit in very well with our mindset. And in fact, we got The Duhks to join us on the last track ("Duhk Duhk Goat").

We weren't looking to go 60 mph on this album, but to experiment with texture, pacing and motifs, explore our different capacities. Energy is definitely central to us, but you need to find bal-

ance – you need to push the creative side.

What's an example of that on the album?

Gallant: I think the title track is the most important one. The song is based on a little poem that Caleb wrote. It talks about home, about community, surviving the long winter, relying on neighbors – a lot of things close to the heart, mixed with some entertaining musical decisions. So even as we were recording in Quebec, we were able to tap into this connection to PEI. It's just a neat little package of what we're about.

Here you are, all in your early 20s, and you're already veterans as touring performers. What kind of perspective has this given you?

Gallant: There's definitely been a transition over time for us, musically and personally, and it's incremental. There are these pivotal moments that come along, and so what follows afterwards becomes the new average. We had one concert in Shrewsbury where Jesse broke a string in the middle of a set, and where, right before we were about to start a song, my bow just came right apart. Maybe a few years ago, that sort of thing really throws you for a loop. It wasn't the best performance we've ever done, but we just did everything we could to keep the energy going – Jesse put on another string while I kept playing along with Caleb; I picked up my other bow and we continued on. And later that same festival, we did another concert that was one of our best. So somewhere along the way we must've learned something.

It's been an interesting, interesting experience. We're kind of in a weird position, because we started very young, so this vocation has really colored who and what we are. And I think it's for the better. There are trade-offs – we lost out on some parts of our youth. But the experiences, and I'm not even just talking about the successes, have been world-forming. I think we're very pleased with the direction we're going.

Find out more about Ten Strings and a Goat Skin at tenstringsandagoatskin.com.

Singing and policing are a match, says Cambridge Lt. Pauline Wells

(Continued from page 1)
and dear to her heart. In observance of National Police Memorial Month, she'll play at The Burren in Somerville with her friends and frequent collaborators, local band Devri Boston, in a benefit for the New England Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), a nationwide non-profit that provides essential services to the families and survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

A Cambridge police officer for 20 years who has risen to the rank of lieutenant, Wells officially began her singing career in the wake of one of

America's darkest days, the 9/11 terrorist attacks – a date that was, and remains, especially painful for first responders and public safety professionals who lost many of their colleagues. In the weeks that followed 9/11, Wells notes, there was a great demand to have police and fire department representatives provide music at public events. This, she felt, was something she could do – not for herself so much as for her fellow officers and for her country.

Singing the national anthem in places like Fenway Park and Fanueil Hall was a dive into the deep end ("Nervous" doesn't begin to describe

how I felt," she says), but her singing lessons with Robert Honeysucker, a faculty member at the Longy School of Music, paid off: He had encouraged her to sing as if she were singing just for herself.

"Bob has been such a positive influence," says Wells. "He's pushed me in just the right ways."

She definitely needed some reassurance when, a little more than 10 years ago, she was stricken with a virus that resulted in complete and permanent hearing loss in her left ear. In addition to Honeysucker, Wells credits the renowned Irish tenor Ronan Tynan for his ad-

vice and support. And Richard, as always.

Being able to continue with her singing in spite of her hearing loss has been a blessing, Wells says – and being able to use this talent to support worthy causes is another. "Almost every event I do is for charity: That's the way it started, and I've kept with it," she says. "My feeling is, if paying a performer is one thing a charity doesn't have to worry about, so much the better."

Wells will be especially busy this month, appearing at several other police memorial events, including one in Washington, DC, in addition

to the COPS benefit on May 11. The dangers that go along with the job of being a police officer or other first responder are always there, but May is a time when the sacrifices of fallen comrades are keenly felt.

Wells thinks, for example, of Sean Collier, the MIT police officer who was killed in a confrontation with the Boston Marathon bombers four years ago. "I met Sean a few times, and he was one of those people you feel you just want to know: a good officer, but more importantly, a good person. I'm proud to sing in his memory."

There are many others to sing for, not just those

who are gone but also those who serve the public day in and day out. That's why Wells feels that her identities as police officer and singer are not separate, but inextricably linked.

"I started out singing in uniform," she says, "and I continue to do a tremendous amount of singing in uniform. I never feel as if I'm putting one part of me off to the side. This is who I am."

For tickets and other details on the May 11 COPS benefit concert, go to brownpapertickets.com/event/2916261. Pauline Wells's website is paulinewells.com.

Traveling People

Northern Ireland’s Antrim Coast offers delights and then some

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR
If you’ve been to Ireland but haven’t visited Northern Ireland, another trip should definitely be on your agenda.

We recently visited the glorious Antrim Coast and stayed at a charming hotel – Beech Hill Country House Hotel - near Londonderry. There is so much to see and experience in the North that two nights there was not nearly enough.

GIANT’S CAUSEWAY
Probably the best-known attraction on the north coast is The Giant’s Causeway, managed by the National Trust, which also maintains some 200 buildings and outdoor places and supports the economy by employing hundreds of local residents.

The Causeway - chosen as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO In 1986 – consists of about 40,000 interlocking basalt rock columns resulting from volcanic eruptions many centuries ago. Most of the columns are six-sided, although some have four, five, seven, and eight sides. The tallest columns are about 39 feet and solid lava in the cliffs can be as thick as 92 feet in some places. This area, like the Cliffs of Moher in Co. Clare, is a known haven for a wide variety of seabirds.

According to one of many fanciful legends, the rock columns are all that remain from a causeway built by the Irish giant Finn MacCool so he could meet and fight the Scottish giant Benandonner. The legend probably began because there are identical volcanic rock columns (assumed to be part of the same ancient lava flow) at Fingal’s Cave on the Scottish island of Staffa across the North Channel.

“Fairy and Folk Tales of the Irish Peasantry” from 1888 reported that, as time passed, “pagan gods of Ireland...grew smaller and smaller in the popular imagination, until they turned into the fairies; the pagan heroes grew bigger and bigger, until they turned into the giants.”

We parked in a spacious lot at the Causeway, entered the visitor center, paid the entry fee (Northern Ireland currency is in pounds sterling) and walked out to a waiting bus that takes you half a



A group of teenagers who arrived at Ballintoy Harbor in Northern Ireland by bus to engage in role playing from Game of Thrones.



Above: The Giant’s Causeway on the Antrim Coast in Northern Ireland.
Right: Carving on a bench at the Giant’s Causeway in Northern Ireland.
Judy Enright photos

mile down the hill. The energetic visitor is welcome to walk down and back up the steep incline but we chose to pay 4 pounds extra and get a lift.

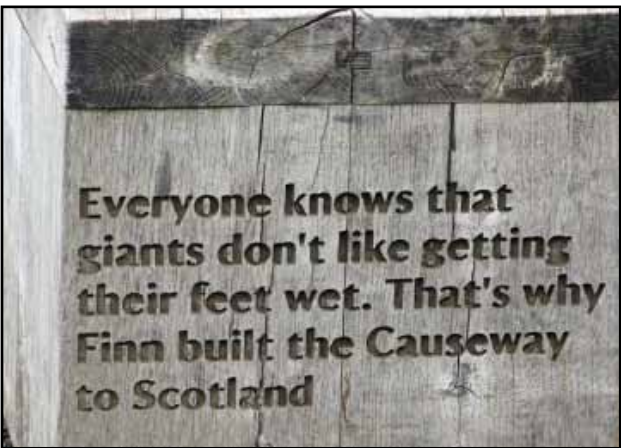
If you’re a fan of people watching, this is the place for you. We can’t imagine that there was any nationality not represented somewhere on the walkway or in the outstanding gift shop or café. This was April and not the busiest time in Ireland or Northern Ireland, but there were visitors aplenty.

The spacious and modern visitor center was opened in 2012 after the previous center burned in 1986. The variety and quality of offerings in the gift shop at this visitor center is extraordinary. It is, in fact, one of the best gift shops we visited this year.

The National Trust, according to its brochure,

“supports and showcases a wide range of creative talent and handcrafts in the visitor center...from jewelry, textiles, ceramics and confectionery to fine art and photographic prints.” And, what a boon to an artist to be invited to display at the Giant’s Causeway shop, which several million visitors pass through every year!

We especially enjoyed framed scenes that Anita Morrison of Co. Down made from beach pebbles and driftwood and depicting sheep and other subjects, textile art by sisters Stephanie Hazelton and Sheila Oldcroft from Co. Tyrone, who call their business Daslee, and small, ceramic sheep statues by Trevor Woods of Mt. Ida Pottery Studio in Co. Down. Those were just some of my personal favorites, but no doubt others who visit will love



other art works by other artists.

BALLINTOY HARBOR
Some years ago, while traveling with my husband and sons, we visited Ballintoy Harbor on this Northern Ireland coast. There’s a lovely white church on the approach and a winding road that passes cliff-side houses on the way down to the harbor.

This year, I decided to visit again, remembering that I had a nice lunch at a small café in the harbor. When a friend and I arrived at the harbor, we noticed a small bus parked against the edge of the parking lot and a group of teens in costumes role-playing various characters from Game of Thrones, some of which has been filmed in the area and has reportedly brought in tourists and millions of pounds sterling.

BUSHMILLS INN
There was quite a crowd at the harbor, so we moved on to the town of Bushmills and had a most delicious lunch at The Bushmills Inn there. I had stayed at the Inn some years ago and rec-

ommended to friends that they stay there this year on their way through the North. My friend said that her initial email to the Inn was received in a warm and gracious manner and then, after they arrived and had dinner, she wrote, “Wow! Just great!” She described their meals –filet steaks with mushrooms and champ - and added, “Just awesome.”

I was so glad to be able to recommend a place I enjoyed so much and to have such a positive response from friends who clearly had the same excellent experience. The Inn’s brochure says it is “the perfect retreat for those who crave the unconventional, yet still expect exceptional service. The welcome is warm and the fire always lit.” See bushmillsinn.com for more information.

While you’re in that region, be sure to also visit the Bushmill’s Whiskey Distillery and nearby Dunluce Castle.

DOOLEY CAR RENTALS
We have rented from and been a fan of Dooley Car Rentals for many years. Their cars (I always request a Skoda) are

top-notch and customer service has always been superb.

Recently, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Ireland announced the acquisition of the car rental division of the Dan Dooley Group.

George O’Connor, managing director of Enterprise Rent-A-Car Ireland, said, “I’ve always admired the Dooley brand, which, like Enterprise, has a culture that’s built upon excellent customer service. Both are family-owned, entrepreneurial and performance-driven, which makes this such an excellent fit. We are both proud of our history in Ireland. Dooley Car Rentals has been serving customers for more than 50 years, while Enterprise, which began in the United States 60 years ago, celebrates its 20th anniversary in Ireland this year.”

“Completion of the acquisition means Dooley Car Rentals is now part of the world’s largest car rental company, Enterprise Holdings, which operates Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental, and Alamo Rent-A-Car in more than 85 countries.” We will miss the Dooley brand but look forward to working with Enterprise.

NORWEGIAN AIR
Antarctic explorer Thomas “Tom” Crean (1877–1938) has been chosen as the first “Irish tail fin hero” for Norwegian Air’s new Boeing 737MAX aircraft that will fly from Ireland to the US this summer. Crean, from Annascaul, Co. Kerry, was an Irish seaman and member of three major expeditions to Antarctica during the Age of Antarctic Exploration, including Captain Scott’s 1911-13 Terra Nova Expedition.

When Norwegian’s first 737-300s took to the skies in 2002, the company challenged airline monopolies. The decision was made to adorn aircraft tails with personalities who also pushed boundaries, challenged the establishment, and inspired others.

Norwegian was founded in 1993 but began operating as a low-cost carrier with Boeing 737s in 2002 and is now the sixth-largest low-cost airline with about 6,000 employees.

The airline offers almost 450 routes to more than 150 destinations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, Thailand, the Caribbean and the US, including Boston, Orlando, Los Angeles and JFK. See Norwegian.com for more information.

TRAVEL
Enjoy your trip to Ireland whenever and wherever you go. There’s lots going on all over the country from walking festivals (the ninth annual Leenane Walking Festival is held over the May Bank Holiday weekend, April 28-May 1) to special foodie events (The Gourmet Greenway Showcase Dinner 2017, May 5 at 7 p.m. in the Mulranny Park Hotel, Mulranny, Co. Mayo, which features a seven-course tasting menu accompanied by fine wines.)



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‘The Peacemaker’ – Padraig O’Malley

(Continued from page 1)
ingly impossible and show us how one man can truly make a difference.”

A director, writer, and producer, Demo’s work includes “First Time Long Time,” a short comedy starring John Savage, Amanda Plummer, and Karen Black. Demo founded Central Square Films in Cambridge in 2009. “The Peacemaker” chronicles how O’Malley has made an impact from his native Dublin to the negotiating tables across the globe. Demo notes, “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 occurred 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 talks that many observers later viewed as essential to the Good Friday Agreement a year later.

O’Malley landed in war-ravaged Baghdad in 2007 with a plan that countless cynics deemed the equivalent of Don Quixote’s tilting at windmills. He intended to buy airline tickets for bitter enemies among Iraq’s splintered political and religious factions to travel to Helsinki, Finland, where he would



James Demo, Padraig O’Malley. Harry Brett photo

help lead proposed discussions to broker a peace agreement. With the support of Nobel Peace Prize winner Martti Ahtisaari, O’Malley persuaded Iraqi leaders to make the trip. What emerged from fractious rounds of meetings was the Helsinki Agreement, the first glimmer of an approach to peace.

“The Peacemaker” is often a spellbinding look at a man whose own personal demons have in many ways fueled his successes in moving warring parties to at least begin talking with each other.

For more information, see peacemakermovie.com.



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How Much Money Will You Need In Retirement?

Have you underestimated?

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

What is enough? If you’re considering retiring in the near future, you’ve probably heard or read that you need about 70% of your end salary to live comfortably in retirement. This estimate is frequently repeated ... but that doesn’t mean it is true for everyone. It may not be true for you. Consider the following factors:



Health. Most of us will face a major health problem at some point in our lives. Think, for a moment, about the costs of prescription medicines, and recurring treatment for chronic ailments.

These costs can really take a bite out of retirement income, even with a great health care plan.

Heredity. If you come from a family where people frequently live into their 80s and 90s, you may live as long or longer. Imagine retiring at 55 and living to 95 or 100. You would need 40-45 years of steady retirement income.

Portfolio. Many people retire with investment portfolios they haven’t reviewed in years, with asset allocations that may no longer be appropriate. New retirees sometimes carry too much risk in their portfolios, with the result being that the retirement income from their investments fluctuates wildly with the vagaries of the market. Other retirees are super-conservative investors: their portfolios are so risk-averse that they can’t earn enough to keep up with even moderate inflation, and over time, they find they have less and less purchasing power.

Spending habits. Do you only spend 70% of your salary? Probably not. If you’re like many Americans, you probably spend 90% or 95% of it. Will your spending habits change drastically once you retire? Again, probably not.

Will you have enough? When it comes to retirement income, a casual assumption may prove to be woefully inaccurate. You won’t learn how much retirement income you’ll need by reading this article. Consider meeting with a qualified financial professional who can help estimate your lifestyle needs and short-term and long-term expenses.

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

The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Last month we learned that Irish has two forms of **verbs** termed “Independent” and “Dependent”. The reality is “Without a preceding particle or word(s)” and “With a preceding particle or word(s)”. Exceptions are when a **coordinating conjunction** such as “and” **agus**, “or” **no**, and “but” **ach** join two parts of a sentence. Then each half of a sentence is equal so each verb is “Independent.” Then we reviewed the forms of the **Copula, Is**, a form which joins two **nouns** or **pronouns**.

Is mé Philip /iss mey Philip/ “I am Philip”
An é Mairtín dochtúr é? /ah MAR-tuhn dock-toor eh/ “Is Mairtín (a) doctor?”
Ní hé. / nee hey/ “He isn’t”

The several forms of Is as an “Independent” verb can be visualized:

Is	/iss/	“is”
Ní	/nee/	“isn’t”
An?	/ah/	“is?”
Nach?	/nahk/	“isn’t?”

But after another verb such as “He says”, **Deir sé** .../jeer shey/, it must change to the “Dependent Forms” **gur** or **nach**.

Deir sí gur é Mairtín dochtur é. “She says (that) Mairtín is a doctor.”

In the normal rate of speech Is is most often abbreviated to ‘**S**’ joined to pronouns that begin with **vowels** and written **Is sé** as ‘**Sé**, while **Is sí** will become ‘**Sí** and **Is iad** as ‘**Siad**. You must put the apostrophe there to indicate that it is a contraction. Often **Is mé** can be written ‘**S mé** and pronounced /smey/.

Three other things about **Is**. First, it is the only word in Irish that breaks the rule that an **-s-** next to a “slender vowel”, e or i, is not pronounced /sh/ but retains the sound /s/.other feature, illustrated above, is that when a **noun** or **pronoun** is the subject of the sentence, the pronoun “he, she” or “they” is inserted before the subject and must be repeated at the end of the sentence but in abbreviated form as **é, í** , and **iad**. This seems redundant to English speakers but is a firm rule for Irish.

Third, to keep the sounds from running together, **Ní** before **é, í**, or **iad** replaces the initial **s-** on **é, í** with **h-** and adds an **h-** to **iad** so that the negative (**Ní + é, Ní +í, Ní + iad**) become **Ní hé. Ní hí, Ní hiad**. The corresponding **emphatic forms** are **éisean, híse, and hiadsan**.

There is no **Future** tense of the **verb Is**. Irish speakers use the **Present** tense forms with the understanding that something is “on-going” or in the future, The context will usually indicate weather something is permanent or “in progress”.

‘**Sé Mairtín dochtúr é** can mean both “Mairtín is (a) doctor” or “Mairtín will be (a) doctor”. Most often the speaker or writer will put some element of time to indicate “Future”. ‘**Sé Mairtín dochtúr i Mí na Bealtaine é**. “Mairtín will be (a) doctor in May.”

Past “Independent” forms of Is are visualized as follows:

Positive:	Ba or B’
Negative:	Níor
Interrogative:	Ar?
Neg. Interrogative:	Nár?

But “Dependent” as **Deir sé gur** ... “He says (that) or **Dúirt sé gur** “He said (that) Note that English requires a “that” whereas Irish does not. Of course, we can delete the “that” if we quote directly, “He says, ‘She is not a teacher”’.

Some explanations here. You may hear or see **Níor** /neer/ written or spoken as **Níorbh** /NEER-uhv/ and **Nár?** /nahr/ as **Nárbh?** /NAHR-uhv/. The same for **Ar?** /ahr/ and **gur** /goor/ as **Arbh?** /AR-uhv/ and **gurbh** /GOOR-uhv/.

These are simply dialectal differences. However, **Ar?** in “Official Irish” is **An?** /ah/ in the **Past** as well as the **Present** tense but is not as common as **Ar?** to indicate **Past** state among native speakers of the language.

Notice also that **gur** is the same in both **Present** and **Past** tenses. The **Past** tense can also become a **Conditional** tense if followed by a noun that is **lenited** (“aspirated”):

B’ í Cáit mo bhean í. “Kate was my wife.” (until she died)
B’ í Cháit mo bhean í. “Kate would have been my wife” (if she hadn’t died)

That’s enough grammar for now. See if you can use these to translate these sentences from Irish to English.

1.) **Is é an muinteoir é.** 2.) **Nach é an sagairt é?** 3.) **Ní. Ní an fear sin an sagairt.** 4.) **B’í Nóra mo bhean.** 5.) **Ní híse banaltra í.** 6.) **Ba ésean muinteoir é.** 7.) **‘Sé sin mo dhuine.** 8.) **Is iad Liam agus Maire na gasuir.**

Answers” 1.) “He is a teacher.” 2.) “Isn’t he a priest?” 3.) “No. That man is not a priest.” 4.) “Nora was my wife.” 5.) “She isn’t a nurse.” 6.) “He was a teacher.” 7.) “There is my husband,” 8.) “Bill/Liam and Mary are the children.”



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GPA players get big Boston welcome at inaugural event

(Continued from page 1) development, education, leadership, health, and well-being programs. The Boston Friends of the GPA was established last year to support these athletes and to increase the profile of the Gaelic Games in the United States.

Offaly football star Niall McNamee and former Cavan goalkeeper Alan O'Mara spoke passionately about the huge impact that the GPA has had in their own lives and careers. Dermot Earley, a former GAA star who now leads the GPA, was on hand for the dinner gala, as was his predecessor Dessie Farrell, who founded the organization. A committee of more than 40 Boston Irish leaders organized the event.

The dinner doubled as a celebration of news that broke the day before: Fenway Sports Management confirmed that the AIG Fenway Hurling Classic and Irish Festival will return to Boston's

hallowed ballpark for a double-header on Sun., Nov. 19. The classic will build on the huge success of the 2015 match between Galway and Dublin, which ended in a 50-47 victory for the Galway men in front of nearly 30,000 fans.

No word yet on which teams will travel across the pond for the 2017 Classic, but Dublin — the main team supported by event sponsor AIG — is a lock.

"We are fortunate to have great partners in AIG, the GPA, the GAA, Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the city of Boston to help bring this exhilarating sport back to Fenway," said Mark Lev, managing director of Fenway Sports Management in a statement. "FSM is proud to play host to one of Ireland's most traditional sports and further our commitment to bringing unique events to Boston."

More on the Boston Friends of the GPA can be found on Facebook and online at BostonIrish.com.



Event chairman Aidan Browne of Sullivan & Worcester, former Cavan goalkeeper Alan O'Mara, State Senator Linda Dorcea Forry and Offaly football star Niall McNamee.



Cavan goalkeeper Alan O'Mara (center) makes a point during a presentation on the GPA's pivotal services for players alongside Marty Morrissey, right, and Offaly football star Niall McNamee.



Boston Friends of the GPA committee member Brian O'Donovan, host of WGBH Radio's "A Celtic Sojourn."

Bill Brett photos

Former US Ambassador Dan Rooney dead at 84

BY WILL GRAVES
AP SPORTS WRITER
PITTSBURGH — Dan Rooney's priorities were always clear. Family. Football. Faith. Ireland.

It's the order they came in for the longtime Pittsburgh Steelers president and chairman, however, that occasionally became blurry. Often in the best way possible.

The evidence could be found in the pews at St. Paul's Cathedral on April 18, a cross section of a singular life that stretched far beyond his native city, yet never seemed to stray from its roots.

The 90-minute funeral celebrating Rooney, who died at 84 on April 13, offered a glimpse into a man who turned a moribund franchise into a dynasty; helped refine the vision of the modern NFL; and attempted to ease regional tensions as U.S. ambassador to Ireland. All the while remaining the guy from Pittsburgh's North Side neighborhood simply known as "Dan."

"He was a Pittsburgher," Cardinal Donald Wuerl said. "He was the best of us."

To the right in the massive sanctuary sat hundreds of current and ex-players — from Hall of Famers Joe Greene and

Franco Harris to current stars Ben Roethlisberger and Antonio Brown to alums whose careers were far more modest — that Rooney treated as surrogate sons and grandsons. In the middle sat NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and his predecessor, Paul Tagliabue, men who relied heavily on Rooney's counsel. Down in front sat good friend and former President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry, there to pay tribute to Rooney's legacy and offer comfort to his wife Patricia, son Art II and the rest of what is considered the city's first family.

Scattered throughout were friends, well-wishers and strangers just off the street who filled the crowded sanctuary to say goodbye.

"He never lost the common man touch," Wuerl said.

Maybe because Rooney never considered himself anything else, not even as he oversaw the Steelers' transformation from also-rans to champions. Not even as he joined so many of his players in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2000. Not even as he became the first U.S. ambassador to visit all 32 counties in Ireland, intent

on creating unity out of division. Not even as his phone buzzed with calls from power brokers who relied on his guidance in trying times.

When Rooney, who made sure morning mass was part of his daily schedule, would check in with Wuerl during his time in Ireland, Wuerl would answer the phone and say "Hello Mr. Ambassador." To which Rooney would reply "It's Dan."

No formalities. That simply wasn't Rooney's style. Grandstanding wasn't his thing. When there was a project to be done, be it a new television contract between the NFL and its broadcast partners, building Heinz Field to replace Three Rivers Stadium, hashing out a player contract or starting a scholarship foundation, Rooney preferred to work quietly and behind the scenes.

"You can get anything done if you don't care who gets the credit," Wuerl said, repeating one of Rooney's favorite maxims.

When there was difficult work to be done, Rooney made sure he was the first to get his hands dirty, even if the timing was unfortunate. When Patricia went into labor with their daughter

Joan in the winter of 1968, Rooney dropped off his wife at the hospital, then headed to the Steelers' offices to fire coach Bill Austin.

"Thankfully, that was the last time he had to fire a coach," Art Rooney II, now the team's president, said with a laugh.

Rooney hand-picked Austin's successor, Chuck Noll. And over the next decade the team that couldn't win anything won everything. The Steelers captured four Super Bowls during a six-season stretch from 1974-1979, with Rooney working in the background. Meanwhile, the men who played for him became legends,

men Rooney made it a point to get to know on a personal level regardless of profile, talent, stature or background.

The proof came in one member of the organization who served as a pallbearer.

Ike Taylor grew up in Louisiana, the black son of a single mother. Taylor never stepped foot in Pittsburgh until the team selected him in the fourth round of the 2003 draft. That didn't stop Taylor from developing a deep relationship with the man he called "Pops."

Their friendship stood as a symbol for Rooney's uncanny ability to see across boundaries and



Dan Rooney
Lifelong Steeler

generations. And it's what made Art II's choice of the final thought in honor of a man who meant so many different things to so many different people so fitting.

"Blessed are the peacemakers," Art II said while reading the seventh beatitude, "for they shall be called the children of God."

Primark expanding to South Shore Plaza

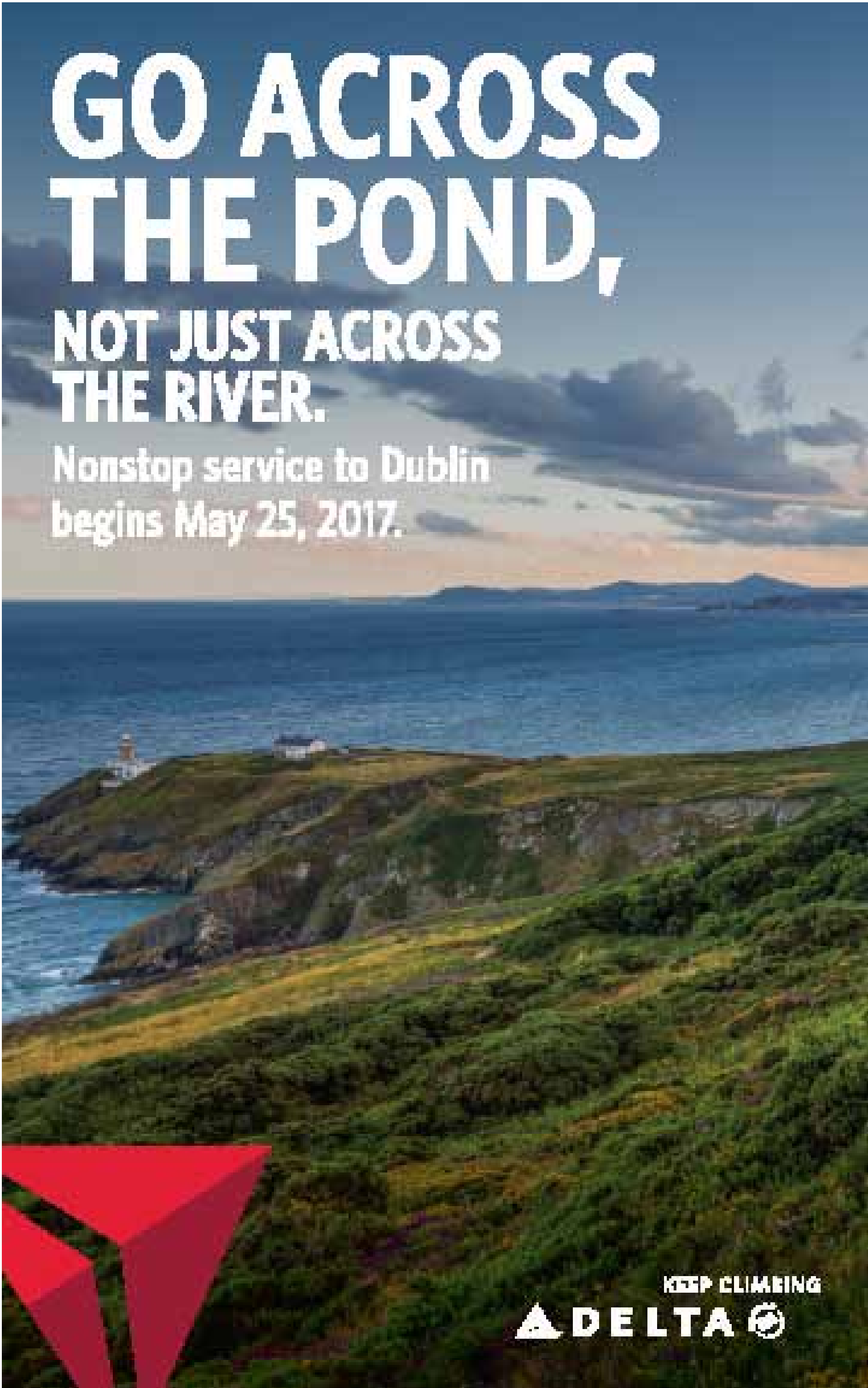
Primark, founded in Ireland and now a fixture in the old Filene's Building in Downtown Crossing, has announced that its third US store will open at the South Shore Plaza, in Braintree, on June 15. In a statement to the media, Jose Luis Martinez de Larramendi, President of Primark US, said, "Following our flagship opening at Downtown Crossing in Boston and our second Massachusetts location in Burlington Mall, we are excited to expand our foot-

print with our new store at South Shore Plaza."

He added: "We planted our roots in the Boston area when we first made the decision to open in the US, and customer feedback has been very positive so far. This opening will mark another important milestone in raising awareness of Primark's unique formula of Amazing Fashion at Amazing Prices in the Northeastern US."

The Braintree store will feature 41,200 square feet of retail space, offer-

ing shoppers everything, according to the chain's publicity firm, "from a vast variety of constantly refreshed women's, men's and children's wear items along with home goods, beauty products and gifts, meeting all the needs of local shoppers. Modeled with Primark's latest contemporary shop concept, the store's design will feature 37 fitting rooms and 27 registers, access to free Wi-Fi, and two customer "recharge" seating areas..."



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