A remembrance of hunger, sickness, and burial

After 170 years, a memorial on Deer Island to the ‘An Gorta Mor’ refugees who perished in quarantine at the edge of Boston to be dedicated May 25

BY PETER F. STEVENS

This month will offer a fitting commemoration of a tragic chapter in the annals of the Boston Irish. A blessing and dedication for the Great Hunger Memorial will be held on Deer Island on the 25th in “memory of the Irish souls who, in hope of avoiding the sad saga of the quarantine station on Deer Island, some 800 Irish died there from 1847-1850 and perhaps up to 1,200 by 1852.”

In 1847, a crisis unfolded nearly daily along Boston’s docks. Leaking, lurching vessels, aptly dubbed “coffin ships,” unloaded hordes of ragged Irish passengers who had fled “An Gorta Mor,” the Great Famine. Some 25,000 arrived in “Black ’47,” and with thousands wrecked by “ship fever,” likely a form of typhus, Boston officials so feared a citywide epidemic that they ordered a medical receiving room erected on Long Island.

Seán Patrick O’Malley, OFM, ten burial sites will be Cardinal Sean Patrick O’Malley, OFM Cap Archbishop of Boston. Mayor Martin J. Walsh will also speak at the convocation.

The event will mark the success of the effort to erect a memorial to those immigrants that will be visible from virtually every point of the harbor’s edge. The brainchild of the late Dr. William O’Connell and his wife, the late Rita O’Connell, the memorial is slated to stand as a poignant and dignified marker of what happened on the island some 170 years ago.

Rita O’Connell put it this way: “It’s important we don’t forget the stories of people such as Patrick J. McCarthy, who lost his mother, father, and six siblings on Deer Island but went on to graduate from Harvard and become mayor of Providence.”

According to City of Boston Archivist John McColgan, whose prodigious research of old records has laid bare so much of the sad saga of the quarantine station on Deer Island, some 800 Irish died there from 1847-1850 and perhaps up to 1,200 by 1852. In 1846, a crisis unfolded nearly daily along Boston’s docks. Leaking, lurching vessels, aptly dubbed “coffin ships,” unloaded hordes of ragged Irish passengers who had fled “An Gorta Mor,” the Great Famine. Some 25,000 arrived in “Black ’47,” and with thousands wrecked by “ship fever,” likely a form of typhus, Boston officials so feared a citywide epidemic that they ordered a medical receiving room erected on Long Island.

Pelosi group visit to Ireland highly significant

BY FRANCIS COSTELLO

Belfast – The arrival of a high-powered US congressional delegation led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Ireland North and South last month marked the most significant American official visit here in years.

That the speaker was joined by Massachusetts Congressman Richard Neal, the chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee and a man with deep roots in County Down, made it all the more important in the midst of the ongoing current uncertainties over Brexit.

Neal’s committee will oversee any future, post-Brexit, trade deal between the US and UK. Last month, in a letter to Prime Minister Theresa May, he made it all the more important in the midst of the ongoing current uncertainties over Brexit.

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The logo for the Great Hunger Memorial is derived from a sketch drawn by the late Dr. William and Rita O’Connell. The site on Deer Island will display a Celtic Cross in the space between the rock walls.

Faces of Boston’s shore, The Great Hunger Memorial site on Deer Island will display a Celtic Cross in the space between the rock walls. Photo courtesy Mike Carney

Nancy Pelosi and US Congressman Richard Neal met up with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, third from left, during their visit to Ireland North and South last month.

AP photo
HAPPENINGS THIS MONTH
AT THE ICCNE

The Irish Cultural Centre Pub
Great Menu • Great Music
Come for the food, stay for the music

FRIDAYS AT THE PUB
Music: open music session led by John Kearney 7-11 p.m.
Food & Drink: Pub service starts at 6 p.m.

SATURDAYS AT THE PUB
Music: open music session led by Billy O’Neill 5-8 p.m.
Food & Drink: Pub service starts at 5 p.m.
Irish beers on tap
Peaty Single malts and other old favorites

ICC Spring Author Series
Featuring
Jack Cashman
Friday, May 17th at 8pm
Jack’s new book, “An Irish Immigrant Story” is a riveting tale of the struggles faced by the Irish that were forced to immigrate due to starvation, wars and oppression.

The inspiration for the book is born from personal circumstances and as a result, a better understanding of the lives of those that left their homelands to a better life in America lands.

Don’t miss this reading and discussion touching on the Great Hunger, the events of 1916 and how Immigration has shaped his own life and times.

Jack Cashman will be hosting us here at the ICC on May 17, 2019 at 8:30pm.

His book, “An Irish Immigrant Story” will be available for sale and signing by the author.

SUGGESTED DONATION $10
RSVP TO: dbrowett@irishculture.org

ICC 200 New Boston Drive, Canton, MA 02021  www.irishculture.org  781-821-8291

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Join the Kennedy Institute for breakfast and conversation with Ambassador Mulhall and will discuss the Brexit deal, opportunities for ongoing cultural exchanges through global trade, innovation, and education, and the strength of the Irish-American community in Boston.

The ambassador began as Ireland’s 15th Ambassador to the United States in August 2017. He maintains an active Twitter presence at @DanMulhall, engaging with followers around the globe, and is known for his keen interest in Irish history, literature, and advocating for public diplomacy.

A light breakfast will be available at 7:30 a.m.; the conversation will begin at 8:15 a.m.

Another key post for Katherine Craven

Katherine Craven Kryszanski, chief administrative and student affairs officer at Babson College, has been appointed as chair of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education by Gov. Charlie Baker. Craven Kryszanski, who was recognized in 2014 at the Hill’s Boston Irish Honors luncheon, “is an experienced educational leader who cares deeply about expanding opportunity for every community and every child in the Commonwealth. Her deep knowledge of state government and her comprehensive approach to policymaking and problem solving will be a tremendous asset to the Board and the Department in her new role,” said Secretary Education Secretary James Pysner in a press release.

“I am honored and grateful for the support of the Baker-Polito administration. I look forward to continuing the great work of Chairman Sagman and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to promote forward-thinking policies providing educational opportunity for nearly 5 million children of all different learning styles and socio-economic backgrounds across the Commonwealth to succeed in an ever-changing world,” Craven said.

Benefit set to help Irish children with disabilities

A benefit for Irish children with disabilities will take place at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury on May 11 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. All proceeds from the event, which is being sponsored by the Knights and Ladies of St. Finbarr (Cork Club), will go toward funding for a new 26,000-square foot Children’s Center currently being built outside Cork City by Enable Ireland, a non-profit organization that provides free vocational therapy and rehabilitation services to children with physical disabilities and their families.

The Cork club will also honor West Roxbury’s Brighten Center, which has been the longtime scene of the annual student art show. In an online posting, the company said: “This was a difficult and sad decision to make. We want to recognize and express sincere appreciation for our staff.”

The Green Briar is shutting its doors

The Green Briar Group 50th anniversary event was held on May 6. The restaurant/pub has its last pint on Mon., May 20

In an online posting, the company said: “This was a difficult and sad decision to make. We want to recognize and express sincere appreciation for our staff.”

Our annual Boston Irish Honors luncheon celebrates the contributions of families and individuals who have no doubt that this campaign will help to build on the very strong engagement we have enjoyed from the United States in recent years... Tourism Ireland looks forward to continuing to work with our travel partners to ensure that US travelers enjoy a unique and memorable vacation and receive the very best of Irish welcomes. Among the Ireland industry partners represented were: Adams and Butler-Hallmark of Luxury Travel, Ashford Castle and the Lodge at Ashford, Castle Leslie Estate, Hatses-Hotels Collection, House of Waterford Crystal, Knockranny House Hotel and Spa, Monart Hotel and Spa (Griffin Group, National Trust-Giant’s Causeway), Parnasilla Resort and Spa, RaiiluroirrsulrI First Class, Shaped by Sea and Stone-Mid and East Antrim, Teeling Whiskey Distillery, The Mount Stewart Estate, and Vizit Armagh.

The American whiskey and Irish pubs have been Authentically Vacations, CIE tours international, Globus Family of Brands, Specialized Travel Services, and Specter.

Tourism Ireland puts its message this way: ‘Fill your heart with Ireland’

Join us and ‘Fill your heart with Ireland’ that was the message of a new campaign to work with travel to Ireland by Tour operators in an event at Boston on April 18. The presentations were made to a gathering of some 70 travel agents and media persons at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. The Boston program was the last of three US cities visited by the group, which included 14 tourism partners from the island of Ireland, and five US-based industry partners.

In launching the new campaign, Brendan Grifin, Ireland’s Minister for Tourism and Sport said: “2018 was the sixth consecutive record year for visitor numbers to the island of Ireland from North America. In 2018 we welcomed over 2 million American and Canadian Visitors, delivering revenue of 1.85 billion euro for the economy. I have no doubt that this new marketing campaign will help to build on the very strong engagement we have enjoyed from the United States in recent years... Tourism Ireland looks forward to continuing to work with our travel partners to ensure that US travelers enjoy a unique and memorable vacation and receive the very best of Irish welcomes.”

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Save the Date: The Boston Irish Reporter will host the 11th “Boston Irish Honors 2019” celebratory luncheon on Friday, October 18, 2019 at the Boston World Trade Center Seaport Hotel. At this inspiring event, we recognize and celebrate Irish-Americans who have drawn our culture and traditions into the stories of their special achievements in public service, business, philanthropy and community leadership. Our annual Irish honors luncheon is the region’s premier celebration of Irish-American achievement in Massachusetts.

Telling the stories: Our honorees represent the best qualities of the Irish—devotion to our fellow Bostonians; a sense of compassion for all people no matter their place of birth or color of skin; and a deep connection to our common ancestral home, the island of Ireland. We honor all people for their professional lives. Irish honors inspires us and our fellow citizens with their dedication to our country to our Commonwealth and to the neediest among us.

Call for nominations: Our annual Boston Irish Honors luncheon celebrates the contributions of families and individuals who have no doubt that this campaign will help to build on the very strong engagement we have enjoyed from the United States in recent years... Tourism Ireland looks forward to continuing to work with our travel partners to ensure that US travelers enjoy a unique and memorable vacation and receive the very best of Irish welcomes. Among the Ireland industry partners represented were: Adams and Butler-Hallmark of Luxury Travel, Ashford Castle and the Lodge at Ashford, Castle Leslie Estate, Hatses-Hotels Collection, House of Waterford Crystal, Knockranny House Hotel and Spa, Monart Hotel and Spa (Griffin Group, National Trust-Giant’s Causeway), Parnasilla Resort and Spa, RaiiluroirrsulrI First Class, Shaped by Sea and Stone-Mid and East Antrim, Teeling Whiskey Distillery, The Mount Stewart Estate, and Vizit Armagh.

The American whiskey and Irish pubs have been Authentically Vacations, CIE tours international, Globus Family of Brands, Specialized Travel Services, and Specter.

You are invited to send nominations and suggestions to us by email to: honors@bostonirish.com or by US Postal mail to: Boston Irish Honors, 150 Mt Vernon St, Ste 560, Dorchester MA 02125

Boston Irish Honors 2019 – Call for Nominations

The Boston Irish Reporter - The region’s leading chronicle of all things Irish-American, is a family-owned and operated media publication, a unique and independent source for news and information. Each month we report on the Irish people and events here in Boston as well as stories focused on the Irish diaspora. At the end of this year the BIR will compile three full decades of monthly telling of “The stones of Boston’s Irish”

New hands take helm at Pastoral Centre

By Ed Forry

The Irish Pastoral Centre was founded in 1987 to help Irish citizens abroad to vote, to follow the elections and to negotiate. The IPC is housed in part of the former convent in St. Brendan’s School in West Broadway. The Irish government cares enough and is committed to making sure that when people come here, they’re considered on the ground, like the work that Audrey does, our project prison outreach, like the work that Veronica and program administrator Audrey Larkin work is very quiet and I’m just getting my feet wet. Father Dan going into prisons and talking to young people. Joe Leary

Yes, the IPC provides services for non-immigrants? Does the IPC provide services for non-immigrants? The seniors that come here, the sky’s the limit as far asAUAArea

Joe Leary

Leary is interviewed here at the pastoral centre for a new permanent home, and last month hired as its director of counseling case work in the Boston School Committee and the Boston Irish reporter.

The Irish Pastoral Centre deserves to have a home. There’s no place for persons in our society. There is a need for families, for children, for mothers, and toddlers. Dan Finn and the Irish Pastoral Centre were not immigrants, they just were young men who refused to agree to all that the various British factions have done. To him, winning is the validation he so desperately needs. 

How has it come to be that we live in the Disunited States of America?

How has it come to be that we live in the Disunited States of America? How did we get to this point? Is it just the beginning of the inevitable decline that all great powers experience and the fealty of lesser beings. More pathetic than evil, he cannot help himself. One can only speculate as to the forces that shaped this unfortunate man. Yes, one can only speculate as to the forces that shaped this unfortunate man. For they are not enough to satisfy him. However, that doesn’t mean that Britain itself is compromised. That Britain’s reputation has been damaged. 

Anger and distrust fracture the social compact so easily. The British public, of which 51 percent voted to leave, can form the core of the Florence process. The British public, of which 51 percent voted to leave, can form the core of the Florence process. The British public, of which 51 percent voted to leave, can form the core of the Florence process. The most serious impediment to successful negotiations with Europe is how the border with the Republic of Ireland, which is staying in the EU, will be treated. This is yet another example of the horrendous decision taken by the people in Ireland in 1918 to placate one group of people.

Where separation from Europe will be remembered for is no longer anchored to reality. Decisions are thus made within a fantasy, a concoction of fictions blended into myth with just enough intoxicant to have mass appeal. Once we stray into this illusion, it is difficult to find a way out. It is the lies that bind. 

How does it end? For we get to this point? Is it just the beginning of the inevitable decline that all great powers experience and the fealty of lesser beings. More pathetic than evil, he cannot help himself. One can only speculate as to the forces that shaped this unfortunate man. Yes, one can only speculate as to the forces that shaped this unfortunate man. For they are not enough to satisfy him. However, that doesn’t mean that Britain itself is compromised. That Britain’s reputation has been damaged. 

Peggy Davis-Mullen at her new office.

Here’s a hope that massive egos find a way to come together on Brexit deal

By Joe Leary

Britain’s long, boring, argumentative journey towards separation from Europe is now remembered for. It will not be a proud moment in its history. So far the process has been a mess. Massively, with their own hands. The IPC provides services for non-immigrants? The IPC provides services for non-immigrants? The IPC provides services for non-immigrants? But what is frequently left unmentioned is how did we get to this point? Is it just the beginning of the inevitable decline that all great powers experience and the fealty of lesser beings. More pathetic than evil, he cannot help himself. One can only speculate as to the forces that shaped this unfortunate man. Yes, one can only speculate as to the forces that shaped this unfortunate man. For they are not enough to satisfy him. However, that doesn’t mean that Britain itself is compromised. That Britain’s reputation has been damaged. 

Off the Bench

James W. Dolan

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James W. Dolan is a retired Dorchester District Court judge who now practices law.
Several years ago, I used the epithet on the syllable of my recent Irish Writing conference with this wonderful observation by Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes: “The English language has always been alive and kicking, and if it ever becomes dying, there will always be an Irishman.” I thought of that quotation recently as I worked my way through Carlos Fuentes’s Mexican writer, Juan Rulfo (1918-1986). My interest in the novel, first published in Spanish in 1955, was piqued by my previous knowledge of the profound influences that have been influenced by Rulfo’s reading of James Joyce. Reading of the novel was an opportunity to explore the parallels and differences between “Pedro Páramo” and Joyce’s “dreaded monster novel” (as he described it)—“Ulysses.”

In her Foreword to “Pedro Páramo,” Susan Sontag’s Foreword to the translation by Margaret Sayers Peden, suggests that “Pedro Páramo” is “struck by how closely her description of the novel’s central concern resonated with the Joycean affinities that I had scrupulously in my note-taking: “The novel’s premise—a dead mother sending her son out into the world, a mother that is father—mutates into a multivoiced sejourn in hell.” As readers of Joyce know, this is a recurring theme in the Irish writer’s work. Rulfo reintroduces Stephen Dedalus, the protagonist of Joyce’s earlier novel, “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.” Returning to Dublin for an extended visit, Stephen seeks to recover his estranged father by tracing his own roots in Paris to keep vigil at his dying mother’s bedside. Stephen remains conflicted almost a year later by the memory of his mother: “Silently, in a dream she had come to him after her death, her wasted body within its brown and fragile, yellow Colorado of wax and rosewood, her breath, that had been upon him, must still be upon him; I can’t stop thinking of it.”

As Rulfo’s novel progresses, the reader recognizes that some of the action channels La Cristiada, the Cristero Rebellion of 1926-29, as well as the earlier Mexican Revolution of 1910-20. But much of the novel focuses not on those events but on Juan’s “personal” history relative to his mother, father, and grandparent. Every time the president, Mulvaney inadvertently slippage into a phrase that rings true about him and his acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney: Plying his trade

RECENTLY, THE ABC JOURNALIST AND “This is the absolute worst that has ever happened to the more-than-60 million Americans with pre-existing conditions who are guaranteed Obamacare and the millions of adults under 26 who are able to stay on their parents’ plans (the heart care law is declared unconstitutional).” As USA Today’s William Cummings noted, Carlos Fuentes asked another question of the interministerial chief of staff: “Can you guarantee you will not cover even in court all of those tens of millions of people who have health coverage guaranteed because of Obamacare will not lose their coverage?”

“Yes, Mulvaney answered. With one word, he uttered the bald-faced lie of the Trump administration to date. The truthful answer was: “No, Jonathan. My party has no vested interest in losing those tens of millions of people who have health care for themselves and their families.”

The theme of “the nightmare of history” permeates Joyce’s work, but Joyce’s “Ulysses” is a rich and varied specific and sensibly. The clock’s novel does not represent just not a sampling from “the catalogue of human history.” The novel is a story about “The Odyssey,” the text that provides Joyce with the elaborate scaffolding for his narrative. Tracing the route of the characters’ journey across Dublin, Joyce “invites the reader alert to recognize that the various statues and figures that line the city’s thoroughfares—Sir Philip Crampton, William Smith O’Brien, Daniel O’Connell, Sir John Gray, Lord Nelson, Charles Stewart Parnell—represent you for political gain. Pre-existing conditions are going to be covered. The debate becomes: How do you best do it?”

Mulaney inadvertently slip in a phrase that rings true about him and his acting chief of staff: “No, Jonathan. My party has no vested interest in losing those tens of millions of people who have health care for themselves and their families.”

And that brings me to the other episode of “Ulysses” that is a nightmare story: the 19th-century Irish American’s “Technie” as vision animated to burst point or, more simply, “Hallucination.” Many Joyce scholars agree that the idea that emerges from this episode, which is a nightmare story, is that needs to be awakened from. No less than the vast cast of characters encountered by Stephen Dedalus in “Ulysses” and “Pedro Páramo,” the reader recognizes that some of the action channels La Cristiada, the Cristero Rebellion of 1926-29, as well as the earlier Mexican Revolution of 1910-20. But much of the novel focuses not on those events but on Juan’s “personal” history relative to his mother, father, and grandparent.

What’s stunning about the episode of “Ulysses” that is a nightmare story is that it has led him into the collective unconscious of a companion. For Bloom, the awakening from the nightmare is dramatic and emphatic, taking place when he “awakes” in his bed. For Juan Preciado, the “nightmare” does not burst point or, more simply, “Hallucination.” Many Joyce scholars agree that the idea that emerges from this episode, which is a nightmare story, is that needs to be awakened from. No less than the vast cast of characters encountered by Stephen Dedalus in “Ulysses” and “Pedro Páramo,” the reader recognizes that some of the action channels La Cristiada, the Cristero Rebellion of 1926-29, as well as the earlier Mexican Revolution of 1910-20. But much of the novel focuses not on those events but on Juan’s “personal” history relative to his mother, father, and grandparent.

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An adieu to his BIR readers (2017)

Bill O'Donnell, the longtime columnist for the Boston Irish Reporter whose bons mots were a fixture and a chronicle of all things Irish in the greater Boston area, had a few comparisons. He was put down by his Reporter's Notebook and called it a day, citing a need to take it easier. His final column appeared in the November 2017 edition of the BIR.

In a poignant note to BIR editors announcing his retirement, Bill thanked them for providing the space each month to a “serenity, aging, half-assed wannabe to use the freedom (not absolutely, thank God) to say the truth aloud in ink-driven form, truth without shame or reticence.”

He added: “I am moving along in time, having served in a wonderful enterprise with imaginative colleagues beside me as we stood in service to that one great imperative – truth.”

O'Donnell stepped into the political arena. During the 1980 presidential campaign he was a senior press aide to the Independent presidential candidate, Congressman John B. Anderson. He was a proud citizen of the United States and Ireland. As the editor of the Irish Echo weekly newspaper in Boston, he reported on the historic tumultuous decade of the 1980s, covered local protests, hunger strikes in Ireland, and, later, the making of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. In the late 80’s, he joined the Boston Redevelopment Authority as Community Relations Manager. In 1996 he retired from the BRA and later spent three years as an ADR case manager and arbitration analyst for John Hancock Financial Services.

For many years Mr. O’Donnell was involved in organizing Boston-based job training programs benefiting young people from both traditions in Ireland, north and south. He served from 1995 to 1998 as president and CEO of Boston Ireland Ventures, a nonprofit corporation working to stimulate inward investment, development, and job creation in Ireland. Over the past two and half decades, he wrote a regular newspaper column for the Boston Irish community, and for the 20 years he contributed a monthly column “Here & There” to New England’s largest circulating newspaper serving an Irish American readership, the Boston Irish Reporter of Dorchester.

The son of the late William Sr. and Anne (Flaherty) O’Donnell, Mr. O’Donnell attended St. Clement schools in Medford and graduated from Somerville High School. He also attended Suffolk University and Boston State College. He was a US Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War.

In addition to his wife, he leaves a daughter, Erin Catherine, a son-in-law, Aaron Hoban, and a grandson, Aidan Araujo. He also leaves two brothers, Philip, of Mashpee, MA, and James, of Boston, the was predeceased by his brother Steven), sisters-in-law Marilyn Gove O’Donnell and Carol Webster Blair, and nieces and nephews representing two generations.

Mr. O’Donnell’s funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, April 23, in St. Charles Borromeo Church in Woonsocket. In his homily during the service, the Rev. Gerald Finnegan, SJ, alluded to the Irishness that permeated Mr. O’Donnell’s life.

“When I visited Bill about a week or two before his death, I was struck by the Catholic tone of the conversation. Of course, Catholicism was never far from our conversations when I dined with Jean and Bill at their home here in Woonsocket. After all, I was their pastor, and, after all, Bill and I shared an upbringing in Boston when things were very different in Ireland. But even then, it seemed to be more prevalent at this, my final, time with Bill. Maybe we all turn to our roots when we feel that our time here is limited, and, I suspect, Bill felt that that was his situation. …

“On Holy Thursday, when Bill entered into a new existence, we can imagine him turning around and seeing someone standing there. Like Mary Magdalene, he may at first have imagined that it was a stranger. But then, the stranger spoke his name and Bill recognized him. It was, and is, Jesus. I just hope that Jesus’s voice and accent sounded just a bit Irish, or, at least, Boston Irish. If not, Bill may not have had a positive reaction.”

William T. “Bill” O’Donnell, whose words of wit and wisdom and praise and admonishment were featured monthly in the Boston Irish Reporter for 20 years, died in hospice care in Woonsocket, RI, on April 18.

The loving husband for 50 years of the former Jean McKenna, Mr. O’Donnell was born in Boston, and over the full measure of his long life he was an active member of the Irish community, traveling often for business and pleasure to Ireland and joining numerous Irish-American charitable and cultural organizations. He was a past president and life member of the Eire Society of Boston, a member of the Irish Cultural Centre and the Charitable Irish Society. He also served as the treasurer and a board member of the Belfast (NI) – based nonprofit corporation, Intercomm, USA.

Occasionally, Mr. O’Donnell stepped into the political arena. During the 1980 presidential campaign he was a senior press aide to the Independent presidential candidate, Congressman John B. Anderson. He was a proud citizen of the United States and Ireland. As the editor of the Irish Echo weekly newspaper in Boston, he reported on the historic tumultuous decade of the 1980s, covered local protests, hunger strikes in Ireland, and, later, the making of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. In the late 80’s, he joined the Boston Redevelopment Authority as Community Relations Manager. In 1996 he retired from the BRA and later spent three years as an ADR case manager and arbitration analyst for John Hancock Financial Services.

For many years Mr. O’Donnell was involved in organizing Boston-based job training programs benefiting young people from both traditions in Ireland, north and south. He served from 1995 to 1998 as president and CEO of Boston Ireland Ventures, a nonprofit corporation working to stimulate inward investment, development, and job creation in Ireland. Over the past two and half decades, he wrote a regular newspaper column for the Boston Irish community, and for the 20 years he contributed a monthly column “Here & There” to New England’s largest circulating newspaper serving an Irish American readership, the Boston Irish Reporter of Dorchester.

The son of the late William Sr. and Anne (Flaherty) O’Donnell, Mr. O’Donnell attended St. Clement schools in Medford and graduated from Somerville High School. He also attended Suffolk University and Boston State College. He was a US Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War.

In addition to his wife, he leaves a daughter, Erin Catherine, a son-in-law, Aaron Hoban, and a grandson, Aidan Araujo. He also leaves two brothers, Philip, of Mashpee, MA, and James, of Boston, the was predeceased by his brother Steven), sisters-in-law Marilyn Gove O’Donnell and Carol Webster Blair, and nieces and nephews representing two generations.

Mr. O’Donnell’s funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, April 23, in St. Charles Borromeo Church in Woonsocket. In his homily during the service, the Rev. Gerald Finnegan, SJ, alluded to the Irishness that permeated Mr. O’Donnell’s life.

“When I visited Bill about a week or two before his death, I was struck by the Catholic tone of the conversation. Of course, Catholicism was never far from our conversations when I dined with Jean and Bill at their home here in Woonsocket. After all, I was their pastor, and, after all, Bill and I shared an upbringing in Boston when things were very different in Ireland. But even then, it seemed to be more prevalent at this, my final, time with Bill. Maybe we all turn to our roots when we feel that our time here is limited, and, I suspect, Bill felt that that was his situation. …

“On Holy Thursday, when Bill entered into a new existence, we can imagine him turning around and seeing someone standing there. Like Mary Magdalene, he may at first have imagined that it was a stranger. But then, the stranger spoke his name and Bill recognized him. It was, and is, Jesus. I just hope that Jesus’s voice and accent sounded just a bit Irish, or, at least, Boston Irish. If not, Bill may not have had a positive reaction.”

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Dorchester
Medford Square
Norwood
Everett

You just don’t know it yet!
The news that Amy Jarret, the former days is a fresh and recurring memory. the Irish people in those wary, uncertain yes, the tears from strangers once they our trips there. The Kindness of the Irish, of Irish visits over the years, the most like Waterford, Cork, Mayo, Galway, Center 17 minutes earlier, which we Daylight Time; American Airlines Flight United Airline Flight 175, on live televi- "The five-hour time difference meant we early in the Irish morning of the 11th. "We spent the next two weeks traveling "a source of embarrassment for Ireland." "That important "good news" aftermath "Not only did the story essentially and "The next portion of the link was St. "Yet despite all that and a personal, "I wrote in a previous column about a "I recall writing in a previous column about "I could vividly recall the difficulty I had "I couldn't keep my eyes off a large, ornate "All told the entire process, exclusive "A man of many talents. But most of all, Bill O'Donnell loved his wife of 50 years, the former Jean McKenna. He never stopped gunging about "Jeanie" and her talent as a jazz singer. A man of many talents, Bill was also mod est, a marine who served during the Korean War, he departed for Ireland for his funeral, telling his friends and family, "I never go at!"

A man of many talents.
Getting a passport when time is short

Q. I recently became a US citizen but have not yet obtained a US passport. I have a family situation that will require me to travel abroad as soon as possible. What do I do?

A. Normal processing time for a US passport application is 4-6 weeks, according to the State Department. There is an expedited processing option available, which is currently estimated to take 2-3 weeks. For first time applicants, it is required that you submit your application in person at a passport acceptance facility, which includes many local post offices. However, for individuals who need a passport for foreign travel taking place within 2 weeks for an application for a foreign visa within 4 weeks, it is possible to make an appointment to handle the process in person at a local Passport Agency. The mechanics for scheduling an appointment for expedited processing under these circumstances are covered on the State Department website travel.state.gov., go to the Passport ports link and select “Where to Apply.”

The forms, required evidence, and all other details concerning passport applications are found on the US State Department website as well. In addition to the usual fees totaling $145 for a new adult passport, expedited processing requires a fee of $80 plus the costs of an overnight delivery service.

Foreign citizens without valid passports who urgently need to travel in the US or to leave the US and return should consult the website of their country’s department of foreign affairs or its embassy or consulate in the US. There, they will find the information they need on emergency passport issuance. For Irish citizens, the local Irish Consulate can be contacted at 617-267-9330 or consulate@irelandinhodonors.org.

For a fee, confidential consultation on any aspect of immigration law, visit one of our legal clinics advertised monthly in the Boston Irish Reporter.

Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in specific cases. Immigration law is always subject to change, and US Citizenship and Immigration Services and the US Department of State’s Bureau of Consular Affairs are the official sources of the most up-to-date information. For a free, confidential consultation on any aspect of immigration law, visit one of our legal clinics advertised monthly in the Boston Irish Reporter.

On April 7, the IIIC and the Montserrat Aspirers hosted their annual Black and Green gathering, which celebrated 100 years of women’s leadership in social work. The event included a lively discussion of the role of women in society, with panelists Rachel Rolls, Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins, historian Bridget W. Down, and IIIC immigration attorney Megan Parker-Johnson. Discussion focused on the importance of women, including immigrant women, to be active in our government and society, and to make them feel welcome.

The IIIC is deeply grateful to all who attended to our wonderful and inspiring panelists, to facilitator Ryan McCollum, to the Montserrat Aspirers for their many years of tremendous partnership, and to Hibernian Hall for hosting us. We look forward to seeing you all next year at Black and Green 2020!

Black and Green 2019: Thank you to all who joined this year’s celebration!

Ulster University student settles right into Boston life

Connie Fitzsimmons has been taking the most of all her placement year in Boston has to offer! A program that supports the female leaders of tomorrow, if you’re interested in hosting a J-1 intern this year, please contact Paul Pelan (papel@iicenter.org).

“Although it is a culture shock, it isn’t long before you settle in” shares Connie Fitzsimmons, who moved to Boston from Co. Down, Ireland, in July 2018. While it can be daunting to move to an entirely new country, the city of Boston and the people who make it up, have welcomed Connie and made the transition more enjoyable. “I’ve found Boston to be extremely welcoming,” says Connie, who has been blown away by the opportunity to “make connections and meet people I never would have met otherwise and to experience a whole new culture.”

Connie has taken to the culture of Boston and attended many sporting events, such as a Boston University basketball and ice hockey games. In fact, of course, attended the St. Patrick’s Day parade, “she said, “The effort people put in is crazy!”

Connie is a graduate in Business and Management at Ulster University and studies within Business Controls at State Street. Her J-1 year has equipped her with a life-long work experience: “The skills from my role are invaluable and will serve me well throughout my career.”

Living in the US for a year provides her with the freedom to travel to many hotspots on cheap direct flights. The most memorable part has been all the trips we have taken.

Congratulations to Connie on her fantastic year in the US. We hope you make the most of all you have left! We also extend our thanks to State Street, a tremendous host for many talented J-1 interns this year through the Montserrat Aspirers.

A message from Rachel Reisman, Director of Wellness Services

Social work is the art of listening and the science of hope. Happy J-1 Year!”

“Whether it is for support with a health decision, substance use, depression, or to solve a family or medical crisis, we listen, problem-solve, and offer hope when it can be hard to find. We hold dear the core social work principles of empathy, respect and empowering others, and acknowledge the privilege it is to work with all of our clients as they navigate change and healing. As a fellow clinician puts it, “When you do it right, social work is a feeling larger than your own life” (Ogden Rogers).

We wholeheartedly agree! It is hard to believe that we are already accepting applications for Fall placement this year!

Save the Date: Irish for Pride

The IIIC will participate in Boston Pride Parade again this year, under the banner “Irish for Pride.” Pending City of Boston approval, the parade and festival will be held on Sat., June 8, at noon. We welcome everyone to march alongside us and stay tuned for more details! Please email Francesca Paranzino at fparanzino@iicenter.org with any questions and to get involved. You can learn more about the parade at bostonpride.org/parade.

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

Immigration Q&A

The Irish International Immigrant Center is an agency accredited by US Department of Justice. For legal advice seek Immigration Q&A at St. Mark’s Parish, 1725 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester 02124

Wednesday, May 29th at 6:30pm

IMMIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The Irish International Immigrant Center’s Immigration Legal Assistance Program is dedicated to providing high-quality, low-cost immigration legal services to individuals in the greater Boston area. Our immigration attorneys and social workers are available for all immigrants during this time of uncertainty and concern in our community. We are closely following the changes in immigration policies, and are available for confidential, legal consultations and case representation. At weekly legal clinics, you can receive a free and confidential consultation with staff and volunteer attorneys. For information, or if you or anyone you know would like to speak to an immigration attorney, please call us at 617-542-7645.

Upcoming Clinic Schedule

Clinics are in the evening — please plan to arrive at least 30 minutes before the clinic begins for registration.

Downtown Boston

IIIC, One State Street, 8th Floor, Boston MA 02109
Tuesday, May 7th and 21st at 4-6pm

Brighton

The Green Brier Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton, MA 02135
Monday, May 13th at 6:30pm

Dorchester

St. Mark’s Parish, 1725 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester 02124
Wednesday, May 29th at 6:30pm

AICenter

IIIC, One State Street, 8th Floor, Boston MA 02109
Wednesdays from 10am-1pm
Walk-ins are welcome!

Our Downtown Boston location is fully accessible by public transportation.
Phone: 617.542.7644 | Fax: 617.542.7655 | www.iicenter.org

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An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

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Boston Irish Reporter expands online with bostonirish.com, Facebook

The BIR’s social media coverage has expanded, both on its website, bostonirish.com and the popular Boston Irish Reporter page on Facebook. “There is a wealth of great information about Ireland and the Boston Irish online,” said BIR publisher Ed Forry. “We continue to publish a print edition each month, add frequent updates on bostonirish.com, and put out daily and weekly highlights and links on our Facebook page. Our readers now have more ways to remain up to date about Irish news both at home and in Ireland.” The Reporter’s growth continues in the wake of the demise of the New York-based Irish Emigrant last month. The Boston-based, family-owned BIR will soon observe its 30th anniversary while remaining Boston/New England’s only independent source for news and information about our Irish communities.

Mary Smith was a Knocker-up who earned six pence a week shooting dried peas at sleeping workers’ windows to rouse them so they could get to work on time. The profession started in England and Ireland during the Industrial Revolution, before alarm clocks were affordable or reliable. Photo from Stair nachÉireann/History of Ireland Group.

The Old Head peninsula of Kinsale reaches out over two miles into the Atlantic. It’s home to Old Head Golf Course, one of the world’s most spectacular layouts. Photo from Ireland & Peg’s Cottage.

On this page this month, we offer an array of Irish images that have appeared recently online. We invite you to join us at facebook.com/bostonirishreporter.

Above, Boston Irish Catholics of a certain age (the 1950s and early 1960s) will share memories of Cardinal/Archbishop Richard J. Cushing’s 6:45 p.m. Rosary radio broadcast on seeing this rosary-time scene in an Irish home of the long ago. irishpost.com

At right, huge waves serve as an impressive background to a photo of an old cottage on the Doolin to Moher clifftop trail. Patrickgalvinphotography

Celtic Crosses (below) in the stillness of an Irish cemetery. Photo from Stair nachÉireann/History of Ireland Group.


The dead are only dead when we stop talking about them.
A memorial to hunger, sickness, and burial

Irish immigrants, c. 1840s, streaming through the “Door of America.”

Two plaques will tell visitors the history behind the memorial

By JOHN MCCOLGAN, BOSTON CITY ARCHIVIST

The Deer Island Great Hunger Memorial will feature two plaques that will give visitors some history to appreciate what those who were buried there 170 years ago experienced as their lives ebbed away.

1. “A Gort Mór,” Ireland’s “Great Hunger,” was a period of mass starvation, disease, and emigration between 1845 and 1850. In dark year of 1847 an unprecedented exodus of emigrants fled Ireland for North America, many afflicted with dire illnesses spawned in famine. Tens of thousands arrived in Boston, hundreds suffering from disease easily spread amidst deplorable, crowded conditions aboard the coffin ships that brought them. “Ship Fever” – the highly contagious, often fatal, lice-born epidemic in the city. The extraordinary emigrant influx alarmed Bostonians, and a burgeoning anti-immigrant nativism intensified. Faced with citizen disquiet and a financial and public health crisis, City Council decided to establish a quarantine station to contain the health hazard posed by Famine ships. The hospital opened on Sat. May 29, 1847, with some of its quickly built quarantine wards admitted Irish men, women, and children from the harbor. As overwhelmed physicians dishonored the dead, unclaimed – they had died alone – were buried now.”

For many Irish, the burial place proved its worth. The assemblage of coffins on the island during the Irish Famine was far from the O’Connells’ endeavor to create a “Golden Door” of America.

Select Committee to Investigate the Health Hazards of the Irish Famine Ships, 1849-1850

The “Deer Island Quarantine Station” was the Deer Island Quarantine Station and that that is the suitable and proper name for the establishment. It was the first of several institutions subsequently established on the island during King Philip’s War in 1676 and that the site has since been used for housing and other purposes.

A memorial to hunger, sickness, and burial

Grants set foot in Boston. From 1847 to 1849, approximately 4,186 people were quarantined as “a precautionary measure to ward off a pestilence that would have been ruinous to the public health and business of the city.” Not all were healthy enough to make it off the island.

As overwhelmed physicians dis- patched the gravity ill to hospitals, the city determined that the swelling influx of Irish aboard Boston-bound famine ships posed such a health risk that it was deemed “a settled matter that the City must provide a Hospital and Almhouse to receive and care for Ireland’s sick and suffering.” In memory of the Irish ships that arrived, “in hope of arresting attention, lest it be forgotten that for two years in America, only to perish or be interned in unmarked graves.”

A worker prepares the Deer Island Memorial site for the May 5 dedication.

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Pelosi group visit to Ireland seen as highly significant

(Continued from page 1)
clear the negative consequences of a hard border in Ireland and, likewise if there is any threat to the Good Friday Agreement caused by Brexit.

Before arriving in Ireland, Pelosi, joined by several other House colleagues both Democrat and Republican, delivered that message in person to London to the British government.

To know Richie Neal as I have since his days as a popular mayor of Springfield, Massachusetts, is to know that he doesn’t pull any punches. Mild and engaging by nature, he also is direct in his approach to issues he cares about. Jobs and educational funding for his district remain paramount. But true to his heritage as an Irish American with a proven interest in building peace for all in Northern Ireland, so is making sure the gains achieved under the Good Friday Agreement are not derailed by Brexit.

Before the Brexit vote in 2016, Neal, as leader of the Irish caucus in the US Congress, stressed that progress made since both the Good Friday Agreement and the 1998 Belfast Agreement were not idle words and that Neal “has made repeated visits to the border.” With Neal “now in charge” of the Ways and Means Committee, O’Dwyer emphasizes that this is where any post-Brexit trade deal with the U.S. “gets its first hearing.”

Another respected local voice has weighed in on the risks posed by Brexit. Tim Murray, chairman of the Greater Worcester Chamber of Commerce, described Massachusetts stresses that “Many Massachusetts companies looking to expand business into Europe will naturally look to the UK and Ireland. Everything must be done to ensure that a UK exit from the EU will not put the North at a competitive disadvantage, especially as it continues to benefit from the relative peace of the last two decades thanks to the Good Friday Accords.”

“Richie Neal is 100 percent right to emphasize the prospect of the reinforcement of the border crossing between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland would be a major step backwards for any Brexit deal that threatens the Good Friday Agreement that the US backed fully in the effort to achieve peace and stability.”

The strong wind that has blown across the Atlantic to Downing Street, and also, hopefully, to enough members of the House of Commons with any sense, shows that US congressional leaders on a bipartisan basis are intent upon protecting the economic, human rights, and political gains enshrined in the Good Friday Agreement. This means that, if and when Brexit proposed British trade deal may be significantly affected, in ways that, if not prevented, it would drive job creating investment in the North, and also among the most effective in leveraging influence on vital issues, stresses that Neal’s “stated position” on the inherent obligation of the US to protect against the undermining of the Good Friday Agreement “are not idle words” and that Neal has blown a strong wind that otherwise dealt with the U.S. “gets its first hearing.”

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When Anne O’Sullivan becomes Dr. Ruth

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR
Karola Ruth Siegel was born in Wiesenfeld, Germany in 1928. Not too many years later, she watched as her father was dragged off by the Nazis. With hundreds of other children, she was shipped off, alone, to an orphanage in Switzerland. She never saw her parents again.

As a young woman, she trained as a sniper in the Jewish underground. She was seriously wounded and lost her ability to walk. Devastated, she trained as a sniper in the Jewish underground. She was seriously wounded and lost the ability to walk. Decades later, after time spent at the University of Paris, The New School, and Columbia University, she emerged into the world spotlight as Dr. Ruth Westheimer, a four-foot-seven pioneer in the psychology of human sexuality who was fluent in four languages.

People know the twining eyes and infectious laugh. However, few may be aware of the challenging and complex journey that brought her to international prominence.

Dr. Ruth’s life is chronicled in the inspirational and very personal one-woman drama, “Becoming Dr. Ruth.” Written by Mark St. Germain, the play is being presented by New Repertory Theater in Watertown thorough May 19. It is set in Dr. Ruth’s New York apartment. It’s 1987 and her third husband, Fred Westheimer, has died. As she’s packing her belongings to move, she shares personal stories, life lessons, and advice.

Anne O’Sullivan stars in the title role at New Rep. Born in Limerick, Anne came to America at the age of five, settling in Brooklyn. With more than 140 plays to her credit, her career has taken her from the Williamstown Theatre Festival to the The Old Globe, Yale Rep, and beyond. She has also appeared in film and on television.

When “Becoming Dr. Ruth” was first staged off-Broadway in 2013, Anne was hired to understudy the lead role. She never had the opportunity to go on. But in a remarkable twist of fate, she has since been made the role her own, performing “Dr. Ruth” at The Herberger Theatre, Penguin Rep, B Street Theatre, Gable Stage and now at New Rep.

Broadway World has praised her performance, saying, “Anne O’Sullivan’s command of the material is remarkable . . . in the poignant moments, her sensitivity is exquisite.

Anne spoke about her experiences in New York City. Here’s a condensed look at our chat:

Q: Dr. Ruth faced one obstacle after another. What made her such a success?
A: Knowing her background, it feels so much like that I always leapt at opportunities that came her way. She didn’t always know how to solve things, except in the moment. “I do this and then figure it out.” . . . And the honor of playing this great woman who’s achieved so much—“I never do take it for granted—I always come to this with a sense of it being very much a sacred work.”

Q: Is it daunting to play both a real person and someone who’s so beloved?
A: I’d be a fool if I wasn’t. Every day there’s something that happens to me that I find challenging. I remember reading a Grace O’Keeffe quote—“I’m tired of everything every day, but it never stops me” and I wake up like that. I’m going to say thank you and embrace the day.

Q: Isn’t Dr. Ruth’s story particularly valid in today’s political climate?
A: Considering what is going on in this country, the suffering of so many people, refugees. Here I am telling the story of a refugee who tripped against daunting odds. Her greatest sustenance was that she was so deeply loved, she was an adored child, by her mother and father and grandmother. Adored and nurtured, oxygenated. She experienced really nurtured her heart through all of it. I feel a deep obligation to give myself deeply and fully to telling her story as best I can.

BIR: You have also developed a very personal connection to the content of this play.
A: I have been an honorary Jew for a long time. When I was in my 20s I fell in love with Judaism. I read all of The Wiesel and many other diaries by unknown Holocaust survivors—the way in which I connect to the Jewish community in the world so much. I value the Irish contributions to the world, too, delving into Celtic culture, which is very rewarding to me. And I see similarities between the culture, the Irish and Jewish.

BIR: There’s a responsibility in conveying such a personal story to audi-
A: Story telling is sacred. I do think we are at our noblest when we give our hearts to telling stories to people that you, know, we love and believe in. I’ve been a spiritual seeker all my life . . . acting has been part of my spiritual questing, I guess.

R. J. Donovan is edi-
er at www.on-
stageboston.com.

“Becoming Dr. Ruth,” through May 19, New Repertory Theatre, 521 Arsenal Street, Watertown. Info: 617-923-8487 or neaterp.org.

Register for programs in the popular Getting to the Point series

Getting to the Point with Daniel Mulhall, Ireland’s Ambassador to the United States

Tuesday, May 7 • 8:15 a.m.

An Irish conversation with Ireland’s Ambassador to the United States who will discuss the Brexit deal, opportunities for ongoing cultural exchanges, and the strength of Boston’s Irish-American community.

Getting to the Point: The Path to Affordable Housing in Massachusetts

Tuesday, May 7 • 6:30 p.m.

Adrian Walker, columnist at The Boston Globe, moderates a discussion on how government leaders and other stakeholders are working to address the need for affordable housing in the Commonwealth.

Getting to the Point with the authors of “The Hill to Die On”

Tuesday, May 14 • 6:30 p.m.

Jake Sherman and Anna Palmer will join C-SPAN’s Steve Scully to discuss their inside account of President Trump’s first two years in the White House as viewed from Capitol Hill.

Programs take place in a full-scale replica of the United States Senate Chamber Free parking adjacent to the Institute

210 Morrissey Boulevard in Boston • On the UMass Boston campus enkinstitute.org/programs

bostonirish.com

Page 12 May 2019 BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER
Subtlety, nuance, contemplation put Rakish duo in a nice, comfortable place

BY SEAN SMITH

Special to the BIR

There are, of course, many reasons why the Irish music scene is firing on all cylinders right now. What brought the Boston-based duo Rakish – fiddler Maura Shawn Scanlin and guitarist Conor Hearn – to the fore at this moment? There’s less of an afflatus for hot fiddle tunes than a shared ambition for something new, something different.

Not that Scanlin and Hearn aren’t finding of their own tune in order to create a really open lyrical line or super driving rhythm,” says Scanlin. “We’ve also had this strong interactivity to our playing.”

Hearn. “It’s a great way to get into the music because you can really just jam and think it’s a big reason why we have something really different.

The Scanlin-Hearn partnership hasn’t taken long to gel. They met in 2011, and as Scanlin points out, there are members of the innovative quintet Pumpkin Bread, formed with fellow New England fiddler, her co-drummer Scanlin, has been pursuing a master’s degree at the New England Conservatory over the past two years, and Hearn has been involved in a number of informal, formal, and temporary collaborations since moving from Silver Springs, Md., to the Boston area to attend both institutions.

These experiences have been complementary while also serving as a point of departure for the Scanlin-Hearn partnership. “It’s a lot of fun grabbing the essence of something that really feels right to us.”

Hearn and Scanlin share some commonalities in their musical development. Both came from musical households, in which parents and siblings played instruments, with a fondness for folk and traditional styles; both started out on violin very young – Hearn added the guitar when he was 12 1/2. “I was the only one among my friends who could play guitar, so people wanted me to play with them,” both also regularly attended festivals and music camps, where they got their introduction to different styles, whether Appalachian, old-timey, Irish, Scottish, or Cajun.

Scanlin had a classical component to her music, and chose New England Conservatory for its strong repertoire and chamber music offerings. Although she leaned more toward Scottish music early on, during her time in Boston she has dived deep into the Irish repertory as well. She’s familiarized herself with English literature, knew he wanted to attend college in a place with a strong music community, and realized he was acquainted with a lot of fiddlers in the Boston area, and opted for Tufts/NEC; for all his Celtic music activity, he has spent a lot of time in Boston’s bluegrass community.

Even as they and their three NEC classmates began putting their talents together to form Pumpkin Bread, Hearn and Scanlin found themselves going together on the side, and liking what they heard. So during 2018 they began to break out on their own when time and energy permitted.

It took the four-track Rakish CD/EP is a wonderful construction of build-up and some improvisational passages while Hearn’s chording and strumming serve to ratchet up tension; to close out, they head back to the tranquil tone from the outset of the track.

Another track features Hearn leading “Waterbound,” by Kentucky-born singer-songwriter-musician Dirk Powell, Scanlin’s playing and Hearn’s fiddle reflecting the Appalachian ambience – until, suddenly, Scanlin kicks in a break with a loser, Americanized version of “Lucy Farr’s,” a sprightly Irish barn fiddler. It seems like an old counterpart to the apocalyptic imagery in Powell’s lyrics, but it works.

Hearn’s singing, along with Scanlin’s fine vocals, are in the spotlight again on “The Stolen Child,” his setting of the William Butler Yeats poem, based on Irish mythology. “If you mean the most fundamental adaptation: Loreena McKennitt, “She’s so attached to the music, and the goal is to write songs,” Scanlin says. "It’s a celebration of the American music tradition and the art form." Scannlain," which they had planned to strike – both collaborations fire their imagination, in different ways.

"Pumpkin Bread is about playing music in all its forms. It’s really about the idea of it is rooted in folk and traditional music," scanlin, "we’ve found our way back to these sources, both Scanlin and Hearn. "And, obviously, it’s an amazing poem, and very much connected to Irish legend and lore, more in line with what were doing."

As it turned out, they wound up doing a different piece – a gigs, with an audience and other events.

"When you get into a recording mode," Scanlin says. "You’re saying, ‘okay, what do we want to sound like?’ After all, a recording is about making the music with all your tools, so we really wanted people to hear us.

We really like are the slow tunes,” says Scanlin. “We’re constantly playing off of what our friends and colleagues are producing and experimenting with all their ideas."

Maura Shawn Scanlin and Conor Hearn formed their duo, Rakish, while they were both still students at NEC, and they have been on their own ever since.

Carter champions ‘country’ in Irish music

BY SCOTT SMITH

Special to the BIR

There’s not just cool stuff going on at the Wilton Theatre on May 28 – it’s a line-up you won’t want to miss for a number of reasons. First of all, you have the wonderful Irish song-writer-singer-songwriter Nathan Carter – and he’s coming to Boston.

Born in Liverpool of Irish parents, Carter was active in Irish music as a child, and by the age of 16 he was playing for Ireland honors for singing and guitar. He then started touring with later joined the Liverpool Celtic band as accordionist and guitarist. He has gone on to become one of Irelands leading male Irish country music performers.

In 2013, he was the first country act since the eighties, and six years before, to reach number one in the Irish charts. His first solo album “Wagon Wheel” made it to the top of the charts, and his single of the same name earned him the RTÉ Irish Country Music Award for Best Single of the Year. He has won several ratings and sold over 200,000 copies of his self-titled five-disc TV show “I saw him perform in person during the Johnny Hates Jazz of R.T. Tennstall, Finbar Byrne, Henry Hoyle, Black, and Milky Ocean to an audience of over 25 million viewers.

Last month, Carter took a break from recording to talk about his career and his upcoming American tour, which will be his first ever tour here.

Q. Nathan, you’re turning 29 the day you perform at The Wilbur, did you ever imagine you’d be as successful as you are at stage hundreds of people?

Carter: [Laughing] Well, it’s getting to be a reality! Last few years, I’ve had a lot of fun, I’ve celebrated my 29th birthday, I was fortunate to perform at the London Pal-

Q. Was there a turning point for you, where just knew music would be your career?

Carter: I was about 17 when I left school, and I was playing concerts from the age of 17 in and around London. I got to the stage where I was doing several gigs a week, it looked like I was making more money than my mum made working in the cafe. My parents had been hesitant about me making music, but they said, “Well, if you’re making good money, we should really make a go of it.”

I took playing music very seriously. I didn’t have any money invested in a lot of what I was doing. I just had a little bit of good equipment that worked well, I still take it seriously: I work about two days on the music even when I’m recording a song, and recording a recording.

 Resolution, a little audacious and, above all, great fun to listen to.

We had a great time putting the album together, though it was a kind of speedy process” says Scanlin. “People keep asking us if we had time, we thought, ‘Maybe we better make one.’”

“When you get into a recording mode,” says Scanlin, “you’re saying, ‘okay, what do we want to sound like?’ After all, a recording is about making the music with all your tools, seemingly in a break or a less – anyway – so ideally you want to hear it as representative as possible of all your music. So we tried out some new ideas and worked on them to be ready for a live performance.

Hearn credits Scanlin for coming up with the idea of “Ni Scanllain,” which they had planned to present at a special concert organized by local promoters and Niall O’Donovan, who asked the duo to see if they could put together an event to support concerts by classical musicians. Scanlin notes that baroque and Irish music aren’t as distinctively different, but rather are related to dance traditions (“Music serves the dance.”), as if you were reading it naturally. BALR SCULPERS.
Nathan Carter champions ‘the country’ in Irish music

(Continued from page 13)

I just found it kind of a natural transition. It’s all about the connection I see in country music with my generation and the younger generations. So it’s easy to find other people who are interested in playing country, and I just thought it was a natural transition.

Q: What’s your favorite country music band?

Carter: Garth Brooks, Taylor Swift. There are so many different eras, so many styles. What country music has to offer.

Q: When I think of country, especially modern-day country, I think of Garth Brooks and those story-songs of his, which tell a story from beginning to end. It’s all about the lyrics, and the emotions. But I also try to take the incredible energy that Garth Brooks puts into those songs and bring that into making “big sound.”

Q: You mentioned, country music has been popular in Ireland for a long time. Why?

Carter: Irish music and country music have a lot of influence in country, as we know. There’s a lot of cross-pollination between them, and I think the Irish connection to country is strong in both Irish and country we know. So there’s not a lot of pressure to make sure story-telling is there, because in America, country music is huge in the rural areas in Ireland. And there are lots of similarities and other common elements: working on the land, love of the land, moonshine (or poten), and so on.

Q: Speaking of your great-grandmother, what songs you wrote concerns your great-grandmother.

Carter: The song is called “The Song of the Irishman.” It’s about making the best of things when life takes an unexpected turn. But it also talks about the story of my great-grandmother, Winnie O’Neill, and how when they were young they tried to leave Ireland, but didn’t have the means to leave Newry, in County Down, to make it to America. But first they had to travel to Liverpool so they could get the ship to New York. Unfortunately, once they left Newry, they were robbed — all the money that was going to get them to America was stolen. So they had no choice but to stay in Liverpool.

Q: So, if my Winnie and Jimmy hadn’t stayed in Liverpool — if they had no choice but to stay in Liverpool? But they wound up falling in love with the city, and it was there that they raised their family, including my grand- ance, including my great-grand-ance, including my great-grand-ance, including my great-grand-ance.

Q: It’s often said you’re the Irish version of Garth Brooks, Taylor Swift. There are so many different eras, so many styles. What country music has to offer.

Carter: I think of Irish music and country music to be very close. There’s a lot of cross-pollination between them. So I think it’s kind of a natural transition for me to bring that into making “big sound.”

Q: What’s your favorite country music band?

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The Burren Backroom series has another full calendar of events this May. Up first, at May 5 at 7 p.m. matinee performance featuring a spool of duos, quartets and five-part harmonies, will be Tim O’Brien and Bruce Victor, a quiet but steady presence in Irish traditional music also known for their acoustically eloquent sound. Performers will include Ryan McKasson of Stornyson, Neruda, and St. Vincent Millay with mandolin, mandolin, mandolin and mandolin. Chris Elrick, a composer and multi-instrumentalist in Flishin has in particular drawn accolades for her mandolin playing. Locals Lindsay Straw and Jordan Sanderwood will take the stage the following evening, May 6 at 8 p.m. with their Irish/American trad band Childsplay, and appears on its 2018 album, “The Bloom of Youth.”

A pair of young musicians with intrinsically contrasting backgrounds, Haley Richardson and Quinn Bachand, from British Columbia in Canada, is a guitar and bodhrán duo. Richardson was inspired by her birth mother – and interpretations of traditional musical elements into the tradition; he has performed with Andrew Kamm, Benji Swinn and Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas. Guitarist, mandolinist/vocalist Eric McDonald became interested in a young age in the Greater Boston folk music scene, and has gone on to many fruitful collaborations. The result of an unexpected event. Keeping tabs on company value regularly (every three years) and update your succession plan to account for changes.

Timing matters
Regardless of what form your succession plan takes, its ultimate success often hinges on timing. The sooner you closely plan for the eventual transition, the more flexibility you’ll have in making future adjustments because – let’s face it – the only thing that’s guaranteed is change. Presented by Brian W. O’Sullivan, CPA, CFP, CHU

It may be hard to imagine right now, but odds are good your business will be owned by someone else in the future. Eventually, you will either give up the helm or sell your business voluntarily or as a result of an unexpected event.

Charting a path
For your small business succession planning to be successful, specifically, in writing, what will happen to the business when you retire, become disabled, die prematurely, or otherwise stop owning the company, but instead a continuous process that starts with your goals, and builds and improves over time. Your succession plan is also a roadmap for you, your family and your employees to help ensure that, in the event you are no longer able to run the company, any ill-advised decisions are kept to a minimum. By creating a written plan, you can make the decisions now about what will happen to your company in the future.

What goes into a succession plan?
Let’s look at some key factors that may already have in place, a succession plan follows the same steps, regardless of your business: what, where, why and how you would like to transition your business. Your professional advisor can provide you with detailed guidance on setting up a succession plan customized for you and your company. General estate planning, a succession plan should address the following:

Your goals: what do you want from the business going forward?
• Your successor(s) – who will take over and are they prepped?
• Ownership – what will future owner rules be, and what will the ownership percentages look like?
• Management – how will you keep key employees on board through the transition and beyond?
• Transfer plans – what are the steps involved in the transfer, and what will the timeline be?
• Transfer events – what events (death, disability, retirement, divorce, bankruptcy) will start the transfer process?
• Purchase price/financing – Where will the funds come from to make a buy-out and what are the tax implications going to happen?

Other considerations
Your succession plan will also have an impact on both your retirement plan and estate plan. It may be hard to imagine right now, but odds are good your business will be owned by someone else in the future. Eventually, you will either give up the helm or sell your business voluntarily or as a result of an unexpected event. Keeping tabs on company value regularly (every three years) and update your succession plan to account for changes.

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Errogie,” Brendan Ring’s “Cats of Camazen” or Gordon spin out diverse, complex rhythms, yet without over-effects, to Finnegan’s leads. Guitarist Ed Boyd (who mony and counterpoint, and even percussive-type matter of time. The anticipation was worth it. like domestic and family life. But when they resurfaced three marvelous albums between 1995 and 2005, music acts to come out of the 1990s, Flook released Flook, “Ancora”...
Connemara oysters? You can read all about them here

**Traveling People**

**BY JUDY ENRIGHT**

SPECIAL TO THE BIR

"Shucks," David Keane might have said to his wife and family back in 2014. "Maybe it's time we became an oyster farm." Five years later, he's happily shipping oysters for visitors touring DK Connemara Oysters Ltd. in Ballinakill Bay, Letterfrack. The farm, once owned by a French firm and run down when the Keanes bought it, but after five years of hard work and dedication, it is now rejuvenated, employs eight local workers, offers tours, and ships oysters across the world.

With an afternoon tour this spring and summer, visitors can learn about Connemara oysters. The farm grows oysters in Ballinakill Bay, and Keane led us down to the farm to learn about the unique flavor of oysters from one of their favorite farms.

"Shucks," David Keane, owner of DK Connemara Oysters Ltd., with some of the produce from his farm.

Workers at DK Connemara Oysters Ltd. in Ballinakill Bay.

In May, Marlène's Chocolate Heaven in Westport serves a complimentary Gourmet Greenway-dia- vored chocolate with every hot drink, the Grainne Uaile Bar in Newport offers "Seafood and Beer by the Bridge" from May 3 to May 6, and every Friday in May at 11 a.m. you can take a tour (by appointment) with Achill Island SeaSalt to learn modern and traditional techniques to make sea salt.

Aftemath of a most successful tour of DK Connemara Oysters Farm in Co. Galway.

It takes an oyster three years to grow from a tiny seed (in the cup at the top) to an edible delicacy.

David Keane, owner of DK Connemara Oysters Ltd., with some of the produce from his farm.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON—The killing of journalist Lyra McKee must be a turning point for Northern Ireland, a priest said on April 24 at a funeral service attended by British and Irish leaders alongside mourners in superhero T-shirts and colorful Harry Potter scarves.

UK Prime Minister Theresa May, Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, and Ireland's President, Michael D. Higgins, were among hundreds of people celebrating the life of Ms. McKee, who was shot dead by paramilitary gunfire last week.

British opposition leaders and the heads of Northern Ireland's Catholic and Protestant political parties also attended a service at St. Anne's Cathedral in Belfast led by Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy.

Ms. McKee, 29, was killed on April 18 as she covered anti-police rioting in the city of Londonderry, also known as Derry. A small Irish nationalist militant group, the New IRA, said it was responsible.

She was the first journalist killed on the job in the UK in almost 20 years, and her death caused wide shock in a region still shaken by tremors from decades of violence.

In his homily, Father Martin Magill said Ms. McKee's death should be "the doorway to a new beginning" for Northern Ireland. He praised the united response of politicians, but asked: "Why in God's name does it take the death of a 29-year-old woman with her whole life in front of her to get to this point?" — as mourners rose to their feet to applaud.

"To those who had any part in her murder, I encourage you to reflect on Lyra McKee, journalist and writer, as a powerful example of 'The pen is mightier than the sword,'" Rev. Magill said. "I plead with you to take the road of non-violence to achieve your political ends."

A friend of Ms. McKee, Stephen Lusty, said she "embodied the future of finding commonality, enjoying difference in others."
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They say you should always listen to your heart, and it wants to be in the right place.

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