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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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**‘People are like candles, the flame  
reflecting God’s presence in all of us.’**

**Rev. Daniel J. Finn**



Rev. Daniel J. Finn at his post in St. Mark's Church.

Alan Duffy photo

## **‘SO ABUNDANTLY BLESSED’ Pastor reflects on 35 years of tending to *all* of Dorchester**

**By PETER F. STEVENS  
REPORTER STAFF**

In multiple ways, Father Dan Finn embodies the parish priest who renders his spirit to the entire community, not merely to his own flock. This month, the County Cork native will embrace the next step of his pastoral and personal journey as he takes his leave of St. Mark's parish after 22 years as its pastor, and 35 years overall of serving the people of Dorchester.

Much has changed in the city's largest neighborhood, and in all of Boston, since Dan Finn arrived here more than three decades ago. But what has not changed in

that time is his tireless, compassionate, and firm commitment to communities that have grown increasingly diverse since his ministry's early years when the faces of his parishioners mainly revealed their Irish heritage.

His familiarity with that heritage was a home-grown experience, to which he gave expression in an interview with the *Boston Irish Reporter* in 2005 where he related that he was the oldest boy in a family of seven (two older sisters, four younger brothers) and was raised in the rural farming community of Kanturk, Co. Cork, before coming to Boston in his late teens with his parents and siblings.

(Continued on page 16)

## **Gay marriage vote means ‘new normal’ for many in Ireland**

**By SHAWN POGATCHNIK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS**

DUBLIN – The gay couples of Ireland woke up on Sun., May 24, in what felt like a nation reborn, and some of them had dreams of wedding plans dancing in their heads.

Many weren't rising too early, however, after celebrating the history-making outcome of Ireland's referendum enshrining gay marriage in the constitution. The festivities began when the final result – 62 percent approval – was announced the previous night, and ran until sunrise in some corners of Dublin, with tens of thousands of revelers of all sexual identities pouring onto the streets.

The unexpectedly strong willingness of Irish voters to change their conservative 1937 constitution is expected to lead to a wave of gay weddings in Ireland in the fall. The Justice Department has confirmed that it plans to publish a marriage bill soon, and with the support of all political parties, it should be passed by parliament and signed into law this month.

For Ireland's most prominent gay couple, Sen. Katherine Zappone and Ann Louise Gilligan, this victory is emotionally overwhelming. Since 2003 they have fought for legal recognition of their Canadian marriage. They took their case all the way to the Supreme Court,

(Continued on page 9)



**Irish Sen. Katherine Zappone, right, and partner Ann Louise Gilligan, central figures in the debate over same-sex marriage in Ireland, celebrate as the first results in the referendum started to filter through at Dublin Castle, Ireland, on Sat., May 23, 2015.**

AP Photo by Peter Morrison

## **Vatican reaction: ‘Defeat for humanity’**

**By NICOLE WINFIELD  
ASSOCIATED PRESS**

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican's secretary of state has called the Irish vote to legalize gay marriage a “defeat for humanity,” evidence of the soul-searching going on in Catholic circles after the predominantly Roman Catholic country overwhelmingly rejected traditional church teaching on marriage.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin said he was saddened by the landslide decision, in which more than 62 percent of Irish voters said “yes,” despite church teaching that marriage is only between a man and woman.

In comments to reporters after the vote, Parolin referred to remarks by the Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, that the results showed the church needed to do a “reality check” since it clearly wasn't reaching young people with its message.

“I don't think you can speak only about a defeat for Christian principles, but a defeat for humanity,” he said.

The Catholic Church in Ireland has lost much of its moral authority following widespread sex abuse scandals and a general secularization of society.

Martin himself called the vote part of a “social revolution” that required the church to look at whether it had “drifted completely away from young people.”

Pope Francis hasn't commented directly on the Irish results.

## **He's living his dream**

It wasn't all that long ago that Michael Ryan, left, was sitting in Boston's Opera House enjoying a performance of “Wicked.” The Braintree native returns to the scene later this month, but this time he'll be standing center stage, appearing in the national touring company of Disney's high-energy hit musical, “Newsies,” which will be playing from June 23 to July 5.

It has all happened very fast for Ryan and he's enjoying every moment of the experience. He attended school in Braintree, participated in two summer theater programs on the South Shore and studied musical theater at Pace University. Following graduation, he performed on a cruise ship for seven months. When that ended, he returned to New York. Story, Page 10

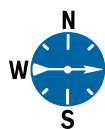


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# Irish education minister hails ‘vision, dedication’ of Boston’s Irish

Ireland’s Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O’Sullivan, TD, recently expressed her deep appreciation for the work of the Boston Irish community in sustaining and enhancing the deep and valued links between Ireland and America.

O’Sullivan was speaking at the conclusion of a week long visit to Boston where she met many Irish business and community organizations.

“This is my first official visit to Boston,” she said, “and I was truly impressed by the vision and dedication of the Boston Irish community and its determination to continue to enhance the relationship between Ireland and America.

“The main purpose of my visit was to promote educational exchanges and collaborations be-

tween our two countries and I was delighted to announce that more than 500 scholarships to assist American students study in Ireland will be available over the coming year. This is a very valuable initiative in educational and cultural terms and one I am passionate about.

“I also had the privilege while in Boston to meet with a wide range of Irish-American groups. A common theme through all our discussions was the importance of enhancing our close relationship through economic, cultural, and sporting initiatives. There is a very tangible determination within the Irish community in Boston to ensure that future generations, in America and in Ireland, value the unique links between our two countries and that



Ireland’s Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O’Sullivan TD is pictured with guests at a May 25 roundtable breakfast hosted by the Irish American Partnership. The minister met with leaders during her week-long visit to Boston at the end of May. *Photo courtesy IAP*

is a message that I will be delivering to my Cabinet colleagues following this trip.”

O’Sullivan met in late May with several groups, among them the Irish American Partnership, the Boston Irish Business Association, the Irish Network Boston, the Irish Cultural Centre, the American Conference of Irish Studies, the Irish Cultural Centre, and the Irish International Immigrant Center.

“I have long believed that cultural and artistic links are one of the most powerful ways to celebrate and enhance relationships between communities and countries,” she said. “The enthusiasm for Irish culture was evident in all my engagements in Boston.

“As Minister for Education I was very privileged to meet with the American Conference of Irish Studies and to hear of its innovative plans for the future. The next 12

months will be of immense cultural and historic significance in Ireland and among the Irish beyond our shores as we commemorate the centenary of 1916 Rising and the Battle of the Somme.

“I knew before my visit began that Boston was a city built by Irish hands. However, on leaving I now know that not just Irish hands, but Irish hearts and Irish minds, are the reason this is one of the greatest cities in

America. We have much in common, a shared history, shared families, shared joy and shared tears but perhaps most importantly we have a shared passion to make a better future for our children on both sides of the Atlantic ocean. That we can do, and we will do it together, knitting ever tighter the unique ties that bind us.”

*The Irish consulate in Boston contributed material to this report.*

## Notre Dame joins with Kylemore Abbey to build center for their shared missions

The University of Notre Dame and the Benedictine Community at Kylemore Abbey in Connemara, Co. Galway, Ireland, have formed a partnership to create a center to advance their shared spiritual, cultural, and educational missions.

The programs offered by the center will draw both upon the rich tradition of Benedictine spirituality and the academic rigor of Notre Dame. Program-

ming, which will include courses of varied length and span a variety of academic disciplines, is expected to begin in 2016.

Reflecting upon this new partnership, Mother Maire Hickey, the abbess of the Benedictine Community at Kylemore Abbey, stated, “I am delighted that the University of Notre Dame has responded favorably to our invitation to join our community in advancing our educational and

spiritual mission. I have high hopes that this partnership will yield rich fruits for generations to come.

Thomas G. Burish, Charles and Jill Fischer Provost, said, “The university of Notre Dame is honored and grateful for the invitation by the Benedictine Community at Kylemore Abbey to join this mission. We are hopeful that our mutual engagement will contribute to the tradition of

educational excellence to which both the Benedictine Community and the university aspire.”

The partnership enjoys the support of Notre Dame trustee and Irish businessman Martin Naughton as well as a number of Notre Dame benefactors in the United States.

This partnership expands the University of Notre Dame’s international engagement, a portion of which is mediated

through its network of Global Gateways, which are located in Dublin, Beijing, Chicago, Jerusalem, London, and Rome and provide academic and intellectual hubs where scholars, students and leaders from universities, government, business, and community gather to discuss, discover and debate issues of topical and enduring relevance.

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# Irish minister for diaspora gets good look at Quinnipiac collection on Great Hunger

Jimmy Deenihan, Ireland's minister for diaspora affairs, visited Quinnipiac University on May 7 to view the university's vast collection of visual art, artifacts, and printed materials relating to the Irish Famine.

Deenihan took in the exhibition "Saving the Famine Irish: The Grey Nuns and the Great Hunger" in the Arnold Bernhard Library on the Mount Carmel Campus. He also toured Ireland's Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University.

"Quinnipiac University is at the forefront of bringing awareness and knowledge of The Great Hunger to the wider community through the important work of the institute and the museum," Deenihan said. "Scholars and students can avail themselves of the unique collection of resources, both written and visual. Quinnipiac is bringing the story of Ireland's Great Famine to the diaspora in a fresh and meaningful way."

The exhibition tells the story of the religious orders in Montreal whose members gave selflessly to Irish immigrants during the summer of 1847 – their time of greatest need.

"The minister was very engaged," said Christine Kinealy, a professor of history and director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute. "He knew all about the Grey Nuns and thought the museum was beautiful."

Deenihan was accompanied by Christine Reen, private secretary for the Department of the Taoiseach, Emer Roche, director of Irish Abroad and the Global Irish Network Unit for Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs, and Fiona McCabe, Ireland's vice consul general in New York.

"It was a fine visit," Kinealy said. "They were very appreciative of what we do in terms of the wide impact Quinnipiac has on Irish students and forging better relationships with scholars in Ireland and with people interested in learning more about the Great Hunger."

"It was a pleasure having Minister Jimmy Deenihan visit Ireland's Great Hunger Museum," added Grace Brady, executive director of the museum. "As minister for diaspora affairs, it was quite fitting for him to see the museum in an area that is home to many generations of descendants of Irish immigrants. The minister thanked us for all the work



Ireland's minister for diaspora affairs Jimmy Deenihan met with Christine Kinealy, founding director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University, during a recent visit to the school's Irish famine museum.

we have been doing to educate people about the Great Hunger and for showing exceptional Irish visual art."

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational, nonsectarian institution located 90

minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 6,500 full-time undergraduates and 2,500 graduate students.

## '33 Touchdown' Jack Driscoll Award to O'Brien

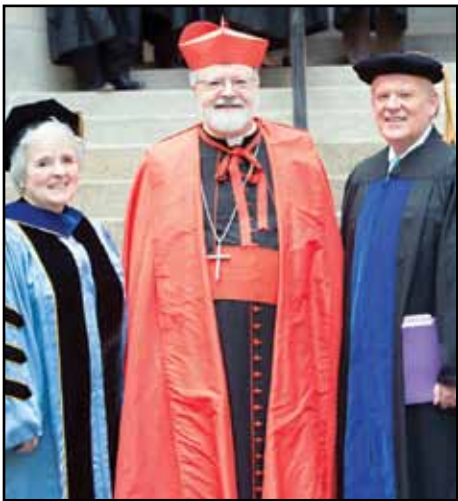
Jim O'Brien, a one-time Boston College football captain and a 1960 NFL draftee, will receive the 2015 Jack Driscoll Award from the "33" Touchdown Cub in ceremonies on Thurs., June 4, at a "huddle and scholarship awards" function at 7 pm at the Renaissance Boston Patriot Place Hotel in Foxborough.

O'Brien is the founder of the Emerald Isle Classic, the first American football match ever played in Dublin, and a longtime leader of many Irish American organizations in Boston and New England.

The 33 Touchdown Club is a 501 (C) (3) charity organization that provides for those with a passion for football. The club annually honors local football legends, provides financial aid to aspiring collegiate football players, and seeks to expand the football family through social and networking events.

Founded in 2005, membership includes former players, coaches, officials, and managers with backgrounds in the NFL, college and high school. Current membership represents more than 55 colleges. Previous honorees include Chet Stone, Darryl Williams, Jim Cotter, Matt Fanning, Roland James, Nick Nicolau, and Barry Gallup.

Admission for the June 4 reception is without charge, and donations are welcome and may be made to: The 46 Barnard Rd., Marlborough MA 01752. Inquiries may be directed to paulhartnett91@gmail.com. 617-501-8309



Emmanuel College President Sr. Janet Eisner, Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, James T. Brett, President and CEO of The New England Council, on Sat., May 9, at Emmanuel's 93rd commencement exercises. The cardinal delivered the Commencement address and received an honorary degree. Emmanuel also bestowed an honorary degree on Brett, citing his superb advocacy on behalf of people and causes in New England.



Greg and Brendan Feeney make a foray into Connecticut.

## Feeney Brothers opens a shop in Waterbury for Eversource work

WATERBURY, Conn. – The record shows that you don't get a job with Feeney Brothers Excavation, LLC: You get a career.

A few weeks ago, Waterbury Mayor Neil M. O'Leary announced that Feeney Brothers, which has been installing utility pipelines in New England for more than 25 years, has expanded its operation to Waterbury.

The company, which is headquartered in Dorchester, Mass., is seeking to hire several dozen employees at its new Waterbury location as it embarks on a long-term contract with Eversource, the former Northeast Utilities, to replace and install gas pipelines throughout central and western Connecticut.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Waterbury and for the Waterbury workforce," O'Leary said. "We are excited that the region's most qualified and diversified utility contractor for the gas, electric and telecommunications industries has chosen Waterbury. One

of the great things about this company is that they look to hire people who will stay with them for their entire careers."

Brothers Brendan and Greg Feeney, originally from County Sligo, Ireland, said they chose Waterbury for several reasons. First, its strategic location between Boston and New York at the junction of Interstate 84 and Route 8; second, the skilled workforce Waterbury offers; and third, the reception and assistance they received from Mayor O'Leary's administration.

Director of Economic Development Joseph McGrath, along with the Waterbury Development Corp., worked hard to find the right location for Feeney Brothers' Connecticut operation and make the company's transition into Waterbury seamless.

"This is another example of a family-operated business with a great reputation and a proven track record choosing our city," McGrath said.

Since its founding in 1988, Feeney Brothers

has expanded from Massachusetts into New York, New Hampshire, and Connecticut and employs over 400 people. The company is recognized as a leader in the utility construction industry for workforce training and safety.

As Feeney Brothers establishes its full Waterbury operation, it will look to hire at least 75 to 100 people. Among the many skilled positions Feeney Brothers needs are diesel mechanics, foremen with utility gas experience, heavy-equipment operators with utility experience and CDL A drivers.

Feeney Brothers works with utilities across the Northeast on projects in urban, suburban, and rural environments with a focus on the expansion of new networks, as well as maintenance, repair, and replacement of existing infrastructure. Feeney Brothers is equipped with a highly trained workforce and specialized tools to provide innovative solutions for all utility needs.

## Ireland OKs sale of stake in Aer Lingus to British parent

By Shawn Pogatchnik  
Associated Press

DUBLIN — Ireland intends to sell its 25 percent stake in the Aer Lingus airline to IAG after receiving guarantees that the parent company of British Airways will increase employment and air links with the United States, the government announced late last month.

IAG, which also operates Spain's Iberia airline, confirmed revised terms of its takeover offer in tandem with Ireland's Cabinet announcement. It confirmed promises to keep Aer Lingus as a separate brand, to reserve its valuable landing slots at London's Heathrow Airport for Aer Lingus use, and several other conditions demanded by the government in exchange for its acceptance.

IAG first launched its takeover bid in December and, as part of its latest offer of 2.50 euros (\$2.72) per share, values the Dublin-based carrier with the trademark shamrock logo at 1.4 billion euros (\$1.52 billion). The government, which floated the other three-quarters of Aer Lingus on the British and Irish stock markets in 2006, would receive 350 million euros (\$380 million).

But to succeed, the IAG offer still must clear many hurdles. The biggest could be to persuade the Irish airline's largest shareholder — rival Dublin-based carrier Ryanair — to accept the price.

Ryanair, which built up a 30 percent stake in Aer Lingus as part of three hostile takeover bids since 2006, said before the announcement that it had received no communications from IAG. The offer, if taken, would allow Ryanair to recoup most of its paper losses from its investment in Aer Lingus. But as Europe's most profitable and cash-rich airline, Ryanair can afford to stand firm and demand more.

The government decision also will require majority approval by parliament.

The government decision also will require majority approval by parliament. A vote is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday. The two-party government enjoys a strong majority, but support from the coalition's smaller left-wing party, union-linked Labour, is uncertain.

The proposed takeover also faces months of regulatory scrutiny from competition authorities in Ireland, Britain and the European Union. Those authorities previously opposed Ryanair's bid on the grounds Ireland required at least two strong brands in competition.



Publisher's Notebook

# Rebuilding St. Greg's – how you can help

By Ed Forry

The old school building on Dorchester Avenue in Lower Mills, once the home of St. Gregory's Grammar School, is undergoing a complete renovation. When completed in September, old timers (like me, Class of '58) who spent their primary school years at St. Greg's will have trouble recognizing our old schoolhouse.



I joined Cardinal Sean O'Malley, the legendary Boston philanthropist Jack Connors, and others last month for a hard-hat tour of the two school buildings, now called the Lower Mills campus of Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy. The visit revealed a major reconstruction project that is still a work in progress.

"At the front door, we have located a beautiful stained glass window that has been preserved and will mirror the archway so the natural light will come inside," a tour leader said. The entrance on Dot Ave will be handicap-accessible, with a new elevator and side door with ramps for access to the schoolyard. The elevator is the gift of a St. Greg's graduate in memory of her handicapped father.

The rehabbed buildings will feature an array of modern improvements including 16 renovated classrooms, an early childhood floor for three-year-olds, with individual bathrooms in each classroom; a new media room, a reconfigured cafeteria, nurses station, teachers' room, two resource rooms, and updated specialty rooms for science, music, and art.

The Lower Mills campus serves some 300 students in grades K-8. The project, which began in the winter, is projected to cost upwards of \$10 million.

It has been six years since five Dorchester Catholic parish schools – at St. Margaret's, St. Ann's, St. Mark's, St. Angela's in Mattapan, and St. Gregory's – were consolidated into a multi-campus school named for the late pontiff- now Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy. Although the St. Mark's campus closed after two years, the others reportedly are thriving.

Mary Myers, an official of the archdiocese's Campaign for Catholic Schools, said her office plans an event this month to help raise funds to help furnish the renovated buildings. Co-chairing the June 22 reception at Venezia restaurant (6-8 p.m.) in Port Norfolk is Bill Kennedy, a member of the school's board of trustees.

"The Lower Mills Campus is currently in the middle of a transformative \$10 million renovation project. Our fundraising goal to purchase the furniture is \$185,000," Kennedy says. "Like any construction or renovation project, unforeseen matters have been encountered costing more money than expected. Therefore we now seek funds specifically to furnish the school."

"Some of the alumni at St. Greg's and of Catholic schools in Dorchester have asked if they can be involved," Myers told me. "We will invite people who would like to adopt a chair, sponsor a table, sponsor a desk, that sort of thing. Donors will be asked to contribute \$250 to \$1000." Donor names or the names of a family or loved one will be listed on a Donor Wall in the school.

Connors will be a special guest at the Venezia event. "This is very exciting for us," he told me as he toured the work site. "There are four Catholic schools in Dorchester and we have rebuilt three of them and we're very grateful."

"There are a lot of donors who don't know these kids, but believe in Catholic education. Over the last 7 or 8 years we have raised just under \$80 million and we have rebuilt five schools, two in Brockton and three in Dorchester, at an average cost of between \$10 and \$13 million.

What inspires Connors? "The motivation was that I and a lot of my dear friends have become a generation of users, not builders. And so I wanted to go out and build something and make some things better for the next generation – just like our forefathers did when they built these places 100 years ago. So it's been a labor of love."

(To make a donation or reservation for the reception, email mary\_myers@rcab.org or call 781-779-3748.)



"There are no gardens, flowers, or trees that would make the park more welcoming. There are no picnic tables or grills where families could gather for cookouts on warm summer evenings."

# Pope John Paul II Park: It could use some fixing

By James W. Dolan  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Pope John Paul II Park, the southern gateway to the city, needs some attention. Thousands of people each day cross the Neponset and enter Dorchester. The first thing they see is the park. From a distance it looks nice but close up it's an underutilized mess. I expect its namesake would be embarrassed at the neglect. Unfortunately, the Southeast Expressway blocks the view and creates a barrier between the park and its neighbors.



James W. Dolan

Do we have to sell the naming rights to the park to a business in order to have it properly maintained? No self-respecting business would allow its namesake to fall into such disrepair. The condition of the park says something about the competence of those responsible for it and how much they value their citizens/customers.

I often walk the paths on the site, which has extraordinary natural beauty, and am distressed at the failure to fulfill its promise. I am reminded of the time as a teenager when I worked for the state in the Blue Hills for a summer and was told by the foreman: "Slow down kid, you don't want to kill the job." The message was do as little as you can but try to look busy.

The state Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) is responsible for the park and it is clearly not up to the job. The original plantings are either dead or overgrown, surrounded by weeds. Aside from cutting the grass from time to time, there is little effort to clean let alone beautify a marvelous space.

There are no gardens, flowers, or trees that would make the park more welcoming. There are no picnic tables or grills where families could gather for cookouts on warm summer evenings. Other states I have visited do a better job managing their public spaces.

I would like to see a ranger in the park; people working on their vegetable gardens; others planting and tending flower beds, adopting a long neglected overgrown plot; perhaps a spring daffodil festival. I would like to see people paddling canoes or rowing sculls on the river. Maybe even a grove of trees where folks could sit in the shade and admire the river. A "Sullivan's" like take-out eatery should be considered.

The state won't do it, so it's up to the residents of Dorchester, the historic and proud community that is home to the park, to take control. Organize the "Friends of PJPII" to raise money, identify volunteers willing to devote some time to improve the park and sponsor events. There are enough civic minded residents of Cedar Grove and Neponset alone to reclaim the area's front lawn. Perhaps the Community Corrections Department could assign workers periodically to pick up trash and spread mulch.

If the Cedar Grove Cemetery can be so well maintained, we should be able to do better for the living. Why wait until we're under the grass to occupy such a beautiful space? Sure, it's probably easier to maintain a cemetery than a public park but at least the park occupants can enjoy it. Does it have to become an Olympic site to get more attention?

Take a walk around PJPII. It seems the only thing the DCR does is cut some of the grass from time to time. One rarely sees a worker picking up trash and I have never seen one tending to the beds that looked so nice when the park opened and are now overgrown thickets.

The DCR is just not up to the task. I expect it would be more cost efficient to hire a landscaping company to maintain it. More realistically, the concerned residents of Dorchester need to enlist commercial sponsors and volunteers to preserve and protect their front lawn and the lovely river that runs through it.

The city is bordered to the north by the Charles and to the south by the Neponset. One is treated like a favored child and the other sadly ignored. We can do better.

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

# After Mother's Day: A message from Mom

By Martin McGovern  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

When my mother was alive, we marked Mother's Day twice every year, the American one in May and the Irish one a couple of months earlier on the fourth Sunday in Lent.

I took pride in remembering both dates and Eleanor got a kick out of the double dipping. It was a win-win, mother-in-Dublin, son-in-Boston indulgence.

With her death in 2013, I thought nothing about our little tradition being over. This year, however, the memory gnawed at me and knocked me off kilter.

At the end of the American Mother's Day early last month as I was preparing for the beginning of the work week the next morning, I was distracted, like a wasp buzzing around the house, when I stumbled on a compact disc I hadn't seen in years. In fact, I had never played it despite the fact that my mother had given it to me ages ago, probably slipping it into my bag as I headed back to Boston.

The CD cover looked goofy and I wasn't familiar with the artist, Jerry Fish & The Mudbug Club. The question ran through my head: "What was Eleanor thinking when she gave me this?" Dismissively, I put it in the car with the notion to give it a quick browse on my commute and then dump it because it must be rubbish.

But when I listened to the disc, the sounds shot through me. This was my kind of music, a genre best described as Leonard Cohen doing Dean Martin, Lounge Lizard Schmooze or Punk Latino. What a treat cranking that album in the car, a mini-tribute to mom and music that swept away my previous snit.

After her first stroke in 2004, my mother stopped driving and, when I was home in Dublin on visits, I'd play music when I was out driving – Pink Martini, Elvis, Burt Bacharach, Mary Black, Sam Cooke, Piaf. If Eleanor hummed along mouthing the words, her hands swaying back and forth, then my choices had hit the spot. Now, in May 2015, here she was, from beyond, picking out some cool tunes for me.

But it wasn't just the tunes because Jerry Fish's lyrics are clever and pointed. The disc is called "Be Yourself," something of a mantra with Eleanor. As the title song goes, "Be yourself mistakes and all, leave your baggage out in the hall, say you're sorry if you're wrong, be yourself mistakes and all."

No regrets in the future on Mother's Day. This delayed gift from Eleanor that I found after she'd gone is a keeper, a fond reminder not just of a mother's reach but also of how much she understood me.

A native of Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Martin McGovern works at Stonehill College in Easton and lives in Mashpee.



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**Peter F. Stevens, Contributing Editor**  
**News Room: (617) 436-1222**  
**Ads : (617) 436-1222**  
**Fax: (617) 825-5516 news@bostonirish.com**

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Point of View

# WHAT’S NEW IS OLD

## When Bigotry, Suspicion, and Mistrust Collide

By PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

During the recent rioting in Baltimore, the media cliché was heard over and over: “How could this have happened?” The answer is another question: “How could this *not* have happened?” And the answer to that comes with a reflection on the sad, frustrating reality that throughout our nation’s history, violence spawned by poverty and prejudice has happened again and again.

The violence is never acceptable, but to contend that it is inexplicable is myopic at best, biased at worst. Poverty and prejudice are present in the Baltimore of 2015 – just as they were all too present in Boston in June 1837. In Boston, it was the Irish streets that erupted in violence that summer. For any Irish Americans bloviating with outrage over the tragic events in Baltimore, a pause is in order. That same bile-infused outrage was leveled long ago against another group of people seething with the same anger – the Boston Irish. Their rage exploded not against the police at first, but at local firefighters, according to an account by Edward Harrington in Volume 2 of the History of the Archdiocese of Boston.

On the sultry afternoon of June 11, 1837, trouble simmered in Boston near and along Broad Street. Fire Engine Company 20 had just returned to its station on East Street, having quelled a blaze in Roxbury. A few firemen had trudged wearily to their homes, but most went to a nearby saloon for a few drinks, according to an account by Edward Harrington in Volume 2 of the History of the Archdiocese of Boston and information from period publications.

When they headed back toward the firehouse, they waded straight into a crowd of hundred or so Irishmen on their way to join a funeral procession around the corner on Sea Street. A collision was inevitable, according to one account: “The Boston firemen, the protagonists in this drama, were then almost entirely drawn from the native [Yankee] stock, and chiefly from those poorer streets of the population among whom hostility to the Catholics and the Irish was fiercest.” Several of the firemen moving toward the mourners had reputedly had a hand in the 1834 burning of Charlestown’s Ursuline convent.

The firemen and the Irish met each other that afternoon with little more than surly stares, and the engine company had nearly passed through the crowd, which “seemed peaceable enough,” without incident. One engineman, however, 19-year-old George Fay, “had lingered longer than his comrades over his cups.” A cigar dangling from his lips, he reportedly either shoved several of the Irishmen or insulted them.

Within seconds Fay and several of the Irish were flailing at each other. Fay’s comrades rushed to help him, but, “being badly outnumbered, got the worst of it, and two of them were severely beaten” by the Irish. The enginemen fled to their station at the order of Third Foreman W.W. Miller.

If Miller had merely barred the station’s doors, many witnesses would agree, the pursuing Irish would soon

have turned back to the funeral. Miller, though, “lost his head completely...carried away either with fear or with rage and thirst for revenge.” He issued an emergency alarm so that every fire company in Boston would come to East Street “to take vengeance on the Irish.”

The Irish had begun to disperse, but that did not stop the men of Engine Company 20 from rolling their wagon into the street and sounding its bell in a false fire alarm. Then, Miller dispatched men to ring the bells of the New South Church and a church on Purchase Street. One of the firefighters dashed to Engine Company Number 8, on Common Street, with a wild message: “The Irish have risen upon us and are going to kill us!”

The Irishmen who had fought with Company 20 were now following the funeral procession, a hearse and several carriages trailed by about 500 mourners. The cortege was working its way north onto Sea Street, winding toward the Bunker Hill Cemetery, in Charlestown.

Engine Company 20, with Miller leading, pursued the Irish. “Let the Paddies go ahead,” a fireman shouted, “and then we’ll start!”

The Irish mourners walked only a block before another band of firemen, Company Number 14, approached. At the sight of the Irish, the engineman cried: “Down with them!”

Nearly at the same moment, the procession turned onto New Broad Street (near today’s South Station) – and directly into oncoming Engine Company Number 9. A melee erupted as sticks, cudgels, and knives materialized, and stones, bricks, “and any other missiles that came to hand” slammed against heads and

hearse alike.

The brawl soon swelled into a full-scale riot. The hearse’s drivers inched their way up Broad Street and eventually reached Charlestown, but the procession was “quite broken up.”

As the engine companies and their workmen allies scattered Irishmen and surged into the narrow streets, they chased or dragged Irish families from their homes and plunged into an orgy of looting. For immigrants who had been rousted from their cottages in Ireland and had seen their homes tumbled by landlords and British troops, the scene was sickeningly familiar. The looters trashed scores of households.

Although continuing the fight, the Irish fell farther back from the overwhelming Boston gangs. By 6 p.m., crowds of terrified immigrants crowded the wharves, backs literally to the water’s edge.

Help came belatedly from a source on which few of the Irish would have counted. Mayor Samuel A. Eliot sent ten companies of infantry and the Boston Lancers, cavalry, on a sweep along Broad Street and the adjacent Irish neighborhoods. The fire companies and their cohorts scattered. After nearly three hours of fury, the Broad Street Riot came to an end.

In July 1837, fourteen Irishmen and four Protestant men arrested during the brawl stood trial in front of a jury entirely composed of Yankees. Three of the Irish were sentenced to several months in jail. All the Protestants were found “innocent.”

While the eras and specific circumstances of the Baltimore and Boston riots are different, the poverty, mutual mistrust, bias, and violence aspects of each have a familiar ring.

Letter to the Editor

## The Irish show leadership on vote

To the editor:

In 1916, the people of Ireland stood amazed at the blow struck for political freedom in the Easter Rising, an event singularly pivotal to the history of Ireland’s national independence. Today the world stands amazed at the blow the people of Ireland have just struck for human freedom.

In the past year, as planning for the Rising’s centennial commemorations got under way, the people of Ireland pondered the question of how the spirit of the Rising might manifest in the Ireland of today. The question has begun to be answered. On May 22, 2015, the people of Ireland made their country the first in the world to approve gender equality in marriage by popular vote.

The people of Ireland have demolished an age-old narrative, revealing it as indefensible and obsolete. They have branded as equal people until now, and still elsewhere, held to be less human or moral. Even the religious among them have progressed to an epiphany that since God created the biology of lesbian/homosexual conjugality, then it must be as legitimate, indeed as divine, as the conjugality of straights.

The people of Ireland are justly proud of their democratic imposition of gender equality. They ought now be acknowledged as a moral voice in the world, and assigned a position of leadership and inspiration in the struggle against inequity and injustice. It is leadership people everywhere yearn for in a world imperiled by the greed of a global elite threatening humanity and all life with war and climate disruption.

Let us hope the leadership of the Irish people, as they manifest the spirit of 1916, does not stop here.

John J. McColgan  
Dorchester, MA

## DORCHESTER YMCA COMMUNITY HONORS EVENT

Honorary Chair – James T. Brett

Thursday, June 11, 2015

6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Venezia Boston  
20 Ericsson St. Dorchester, MA

## HONORING COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor City of Boston

Edward W. Forry, Publisher Boston Irish Reporter

Chancellor J. Keith Motley, University of Massachusetts Boston

Sponsorship opportunities available. To learn more or purchase tickets visit: [ymcaboston.org/dorchester/honorevent](http://ymcaboston.org/dorchester/honorevent)  
Questions? Contact Executive Director, Andrea Baez  
617-436-7750 or [abaez@ymcaboston.org](mailto:abaez@ymcaboston.org)



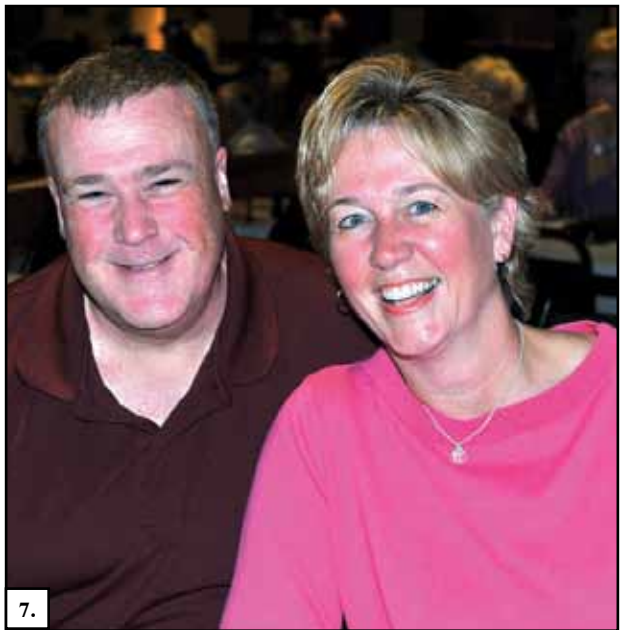


# BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett  
Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The Irish Social Club in West Roxbury was the venue on Fri., May 22, for a charity dance to benefit the St. Francis House. For more than 30 years, the facility, located at 40 Boylston Street in downtown Boston, has welcomed and provided support services or poor and homeless men and women.

1.) Karen LaFrazia; Peter and Sharon Lee, Canton; 2.) Seamus and Helen O'Doherty, Neil Doherty, Holbrook; 3.) Jack Watson, Braintree; Mary Mulvey Jacobson, Jamaica Plain; Ken Daly, W. Roxbury; 4.) Michelle Watson, W. Roxbury; Johnny Costello, WROL; 5.) Fr. Brendan Darcy, SMA Fathers, Dedham; Doc Walsh, Dorchester; 6.) Brigid Boyle and Mary Maloney, W. Roxbury; 7.) Fr. John Connolly, W. Roxbury; Pauline Wells, Milton; 8.) Joe Gaffney, Dorchester, Cornelius Cunned, W. Roxbury; 9.) Mary Honan and Eileen Geaney, Brighton; 10.) Noreen Casby, Dedham; Evelyn Fennessy, Brighton; 11.) Matt O'Donnell, WROL; Richard Wells, Milton, Mary Coppinger and Jim Rowley, W. Roxbury.





# Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

**Passing Thoughts on “Yes” Referendum Win –** The referendum was about the serious social business of choosing what side of history one wanted to be on. And the 24-point win by the “Yes” forces was led by the young people of Ireland who jumped onto planes, trains, and buses to get home to vote. The “Yes” side had a well of support also from Irish seniors who even in the conservative midlands voted roughly 50 percent for same-sex marriage. Add to that a modest, if rebellious, segment of the Catholic clergy, and you had all that was needed for a sweeping 62-38 landslide win.



Bill O'Donnell

Taoiseach **Enda Kenny**, a staunch “Yes” supporter along with the government, got it right when he thanked Ireland in the shortest victory speech ever made by an Irish leader. And the praise for the people of Ireland was well-deserved. Twelve other EU countries have passed legislation legalizing same-sex marriage, but Ireland is the first anywhere to do it by the direct vote of its citizens.

Once again, Ireland, with the no-smoking ban, the decriminalizing of homosexual life and divorce, and its leadership in charitable giving has led Europe, punching above its weight and providing an example in the life-affirming areas of equality and human decency that reflect so well the heart of the Irish people.

**Small Percent Control Irish Wealth –** In these post-recession days, Ireland is slowly but surely becoming a mirror image of the United States when it comes to wealth distribution and control. The newest research into who has the euros and where Ireland's fiscal clout rests and who manages and benefits from that wealth provides some stunning surprises.

The most head-turning finding in the CSO report is that more than half of Irish household wealth rests in the hands of just 10 percent of the population. The top 5 percent of Irish households, for instance, claims nearly 40 percent of Ireland's net wealth. However, these finding are not as high as US levels.

At the other end of the scale the findings represent a grim portrait of the haves and have-nots, with the poorest scrambling and failing to catch up or even marginally improve their financial situations. Low and middle-income families have been harshly treated by recent Irish government policies that favor the better-off, contends **Father Sean Healy** of the NGO Social Justice Ireland who charges the government with unfairly prioritizing the wealthier segments at the expense of the have-nots in successive Irish budgets.

Recent research by the Central Bank reflects a higher level of wealth inequality in Ireland than the Eurozone average. That same research indicates that countries with higher economic inequality traditionally have greater unemployment, social instability, and reduced investment.

**Ireland Launches Luxury Rail Travel –** It isn't scheduled to fully be up and running until the summer of 2016, but Orient Express-style rail service, with prices to match, are a coming reality for touring the island. The new service is aimed at the big-spending tourist, the overseas market. Prices are clearly not for the bed and breakfast crowd with per-person, two-night grand tours beginning at \$3,500 and including meals, drinks, entertainment, and excursions. Four-night trips on the specially outfitted rail cars with all the amenities are somewhat north of \$6,000 a person.

The Grand Hibernian's four-night tour with eleven carriages that can carry 40 passengers from Cork to Killarney, Galway, Westport, and Blarney Castle and on to Mayo's Ashford Castle.

Other tours on the luxury railcars carry its “guests” from Dublin to Belfast and Portrush, the Giant's Causeway, and Bushmills Distillery. The tour company, Belmond Ltd, is an old and respected firm and a player on the global luxury travel network with extensive rail and cruise experience.

**Now the Good News from the Bishops –** One of the more gruesome aspects of the Fed's draconian measures used to hold undocumented immigrants found in the US are the immigration detention centers. Long a target of human rights groups and other activists, they have been described as “places that undermine families and harm children.”

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops, working with the Center for Migration Studies, has recommended replacing the current detention centers with alternatives to restore illegal immigrants their dignity and due process protection. The bishops' recommendation is the defunding the present detention facilities and a diverting of the resources to immigration courts and community-based programs. The Bishops Conference report underlines the fact that nobody in immigration detention is serving a criminal sentence and that there are “more effective, humane, and cheaper ways to ensure court appearances.”

The family detention centers have been defended by US Immigration & Customs Enforcement as “one of many tools used to address the growth in apprehension of parents and children at our southern border.” Also, one of the more unfair aspects of detention is that lack of funds and wholesome facilities means an average court backlog is around 18 months in normal removal cases, far greater than the wait for most criminal hearings.

It is clear that the detention process as it exists

today is a flawed process that demands immediate reform. It is cruel, fractures families, and does not begin to provide equal justice to those it charges with illegal entry. The Bishops Conference is hoping that Pope Francis will address this issue when he visits the US in the fall.

**Anglo's Drumm Needs a New Place to Shop – David Drumm**, the former Anglo Irish Bank chief executive, had a legal strategy after he ran out on his massive debt in Ireland. He thought he would do some bankruptcy court “shopping” to get out from under and figured that Boston, the home of a bankruptcy court system reportedly less daunting than Irish courts, could serve his purpose.

Mr. Drumm soon found out that the Boston courts had an equal disdain for petitioners who (in the Boston court's words) “systematically transferred the assets to hinder, delay and defraud creditors.” First Boston court appearance: Strikeout; second court appearance: appeal denied, decision stands, Drumm owes the money. A lot of it.

Of course, he has never been a stand-up guy. He blamed his lawyers, he blamed a series of “innocent mistakes,” and he shifted blame to his advisors. If I were his wife, I'd be nervous.

At any rate, we here in Beantown will soon be shorn of Mr. Drumm. But the Irish courts are interested, to say the least, in his unpaid debts and his behavior when he was the bank's boss.

**Ellis Island Lengthens Its Legacy –** Ellis Island, the touchstone of so much history and so many hopes, just spent \$20 million to reinvigorate and carry forward the stories of America's immigrants. Along with the refurbishing, the center is sporting a new name: Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration. The “Peopling of Americas Galleries” are meant to bring up to the moment a broader mission of showcasing the country's entire migration history and the stories of those who came here. Ellis Island served as a center welcoming newcomers from 1892 to 1954.

The upgrade and new display construction were interrupted by storm Sandy, which flooded portions of the basement and closed the center for a while; it reopened in 2013. The new exhibits are interactive and personal, with video, and they take a fresh look at the issues related to immigration and the people who came to America in search of new beginnings.

**US Envoy, Taoiseach Jeered –** It was a somber US Civil War remembrance in Sligo to honor Irish heroes of America's tragic war, but to some of the Irish attendees in the audience it was a moment to express some deep-rooted sentiments about our militarism. Both Taoiseach **Enda Kenny** and US Ambassador to Ireland **Kevin O'Malley** were repeatedly jeered and some in the audience yelled “warmonger” and turned their backs when the men spoke.

It was a raucous tableau with a goodly amount of hostility for the Irish leader and the prosecutor from Missouri, who had been nominated by **President Obama** last June and has been resident in Ireland since last September. When O'Malley arrived, he was met by signs stating “US war machine out of Shannon,” and “Where's the monument for one million dead Iraqis?”

It was, observers noted, one of the ugliest encounters an American diplomat had faced in memory, and one that must remind us that we live with our country's foreign policy, triumphs and failings, even in friendly Ireland.

## NOTABLE QUOTES

“It's a question of fairness; it's as simple as that.”

A senior voter who supported a “Yes” vote in the same-sex marriage referendum

...

“Boston doesn't need to host the Olympics to be a world-class city.”

– **Michelle Wu**, Boston City Councillor

...

“I think really that the church needs to do a reality check, a reality check right across the board, to look at the things it's doing well, to look at the areas where we really have to start and say,

‘Look, have we drifted away completely from young people?’ ”

Dublin Archbishop **Diarmuid Martin** on RTE following the referendum vote

**Obama, Congress Clash Over Iran Nuclear Pact – John Kerry** has been either on a plane or negotiating face to face with Iranian officials over the details, many open-ended and complex, of an agreement to stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. The United States and six other nations are working across an obstacle course made up of Iranian negotiators and sadly, the United States Congress and its Republican rump.

The decision by the speaker of the US House to invite the Israeli prime minister here shortly before the Israeli election was an affront to President Obama and a prime example of inept politics by a GOP that is more interested in gaining points and attacking the Affordable Care Act than in legislating.

With all the sputtering by congressional doom-sayers and the very real threat of sidetracking a crucial agreement, it is instructive to read former Senate Majority Leader **George Mitchell** in the Boston Globe last month on the subject of Iran's nuclear capability. After spending several years of his life as midwife to the Irish peace agreement, Mitchell certainly knows his way around sophistry and deceit, and he had the answer for critics of the president: “Although dozens of countries are capable of developing nuclear weapons, only nine have so far chosen to do so. Iran must not be

the tenth. There are two ways to achieve that goal: by negotiation or through war.” Nuf said!

**Padraig O'Malley Had a Great May –** As many in the Boston area and in increasing international venues know, Padraig is the Distinguished Professor of Peace and Reconciliation at UMass Boston's John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies. I have been his friend for some 30 years. We were colleagues at Boston Ireland Ventures, and I am an unabashed admirer of Padraig's protean long distance peace efforts.

To cut to the chase, Padraig had quite the May 2015. His documentary film is near completion by its producer and creator, award-winning filmmaker **James Demo**, who films and produces documentaries out of his Central Square Film studio and has spent five years tracking and filming O'Malley in foreign cities on his peacemaking travels. Last month a kick-starter campaign for Demo's film on O'Malley raised \$65,000, which will be used to fund the final editing of the documentary, “The Peacemaker,” which is scheduled for release late this year or early next.

Also in the credit column for the tireless peace expert is the publication of his latest book, “The two-State Delusion, Israel and Palestine— A Tale of two Narratives,” which is available at amazon.com and bookstores this summer. This is a book that is destined to be controversial, with a fresh theme and possible solutions, and more than a dash of Mideast reality.

**In a Long Line Of Frontier Patriots –** The rookie governor of Texas, **Greg Abbot**, went public following a rampant sagebrush rumor that a joint Navy Seal/Green Beret training exercise was underway in Texas and some Walmarts were closing. The reason, rumor had it, is that the big box stores were closed because they were to be used as guerrilla warfare staging areas and FEMA processing camps for political prisoners. The rumor also had it that ISIS terrorists had crossed the border and were going to hit soft targets across the Southwest. OMG!

Apparently, some paranoid right-wing militia types had gotten the governor's ear and before you could lock and load your AK 47s, Gov. Abbott took to the airwaves and ordered the Texas State Guard to monitor the US Special Forces training in Texas, which was labeled Operation Jade Helm, while others were concerned that President Obama was about to put Texas under martial law. Reason ultimately prevailed ... but only in Texas. (Thanks to NPR for their chilling account of how Texas staved off an Obama takeover)

## RANDOM CLIPPINGS

If you think there are too many lobbyists on Capitol Hill in DC, check out the lobbying army that operates in the European Parliament in Brussels. At last count the estimate was between 15,000 and 30,000, or 40 for each member of parliament. ... Druid, the theatre company out of Galway that represents Ireland's finest stage pedigree, celebrates its 40th birthday this year. ... Speaking of theatre, the first of **Sean O'Casey's** Dublin plays, “Shadow of a Gunman” will be staged in Belfast and Dublin from June into August. ... **Sen. Elizabeth Warren** is easily the most savvy financial whiz in Congress, but I think she is likely wrong this time in her opposition to President Obama's Trans-Pacific Partnership. ... Bewley's on Grafton St., closed since February, is still being revamped but is expected to reopen in September.

There were few real surprises in the recent British elections, but the return to life by the Official Unionist party and the Sinn Fein seat loss in the North might qualify. ... The roller coaster ride by the pub industry seems to have straightened out with a revival of fortune and a 10 percent rise in tourism. More than 90,000 jobs are dependent on the national pub trade. ... The family of assassinated solicitor **Pat Finucane** showed their anger at British PM **David Cameron's** decision against holding a public inquiry by calling the murder “morally and legally indefensible.” ... **Tony O'Reilly's** home, Castlemartin, was sold for \$8.5 million, but he still owes over \$15 million to Allied Irish Bank.

Some 36 percent of tourists in Ireland found the Irish weather “better than expected.” ... The actor and comedian **Niall Toibin**, one of Ireland's top talents and a national treasure, has received the Freedom of his home town, Cork. ... It would be fair if Mayor **Martin Walsh** cut some slack for International Place developer **Don Chiofaro's** Harbor Garage. ... Is it my imagination or is Globe columnist **Kevin Cullen** on another talent universe with his on-target columns on the Marathon bombing trial --- rich, deep, and thoughtful. ... The writer and director **Jim Sheridan**, who has had a major hand in scores of top films, including “My Left Foot,” was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award on May 24 from the Irish Film & Television Academy.

Express train service from Cork to Dublin on weekdays began last month with trains departing at 6:15 a.m and arriving in Dublin at 8:30 for the business day there. ... A new exhibit in Dublin and a new museum in Co. Louth look interesting. The Little Museum of Dublin features an expanded display of **Christy Brown's** artifacts and letters that were purchased by Ireland's National Library; the recently opened Military War Museum, located in Collon, Louth, has a collection of vehicles and weapons. ... Irishmen numbering 210,000 from both traditions served in France and Flanders in World War I. ... Sanity has prevailed in the Quincy Market area with the decision to abandon the idea that buskers entertaining Boston homebodies and tourists alike should pay fees to work free. It was a terrible idea.



Immigration Q&A

# Why wait on US citizenship?

**Q.** *My husband has a green card and has been eligible to apply for US citizenship for quite some time, but he keeps putting it off. Can you give me some good reasons why he should become a citizen?*

**A.** Yes. IIIC recommends that all eligible legal permanent residents apply to become naturalized US citizens. Here are some of the major reasons for doing so:

**Voting:** If you are making this country your permanent home and want to participate fully in the American democratic process, becoming a citizen is a necessary step because only US citizens can vote. A US citizen is eligible to vote in every local, state, and federal primary and general election. (Note on **unlawful voting:** a non-citizen, even a lawful permanent resident, who has voted in violation of any federal, state, or local constitutional provision, statute, ordinance or regulation may be barred from obtaining US citizenship and may be considered inadmissible. If voting involves a false claim to US citizenship, it could be a deportable offense.)

**Deportation:** Green card holders run the risk of being deported if they are convicted of certain types of crimes. Following the passage of federal immigration legislation in 1996, this can be the case even for a number of seemingly minor offenses. Once you become a US citizen, you are no longer deportable, assuming you received your citizenship lawfully in the first place. Consider also that if you have foreign-born children under 18 who are lawful permanent residents, and if you or your spouse should naturalize before the children turn 18, then the children also are US citizens. (If they were born in the US, they are US citizens automatically, regardless of their parents' citizenship). We know of a number of situations involving young lawful permanent resident children who were convicted of criminal offenses and then deemed deportable. The parents' naturalization before the children turned 18 could have prevented the deportation of these individuals.

**Extended Travel Abroad:** Permanent residents (green card holders) are at risk of losing their status if they spend long continuous periods outside the US without obtaining permission from the immigration authorities beforehand. Immigrants who inadvertently abandoned their legal permanent residence status, and who later wanted to return to live in the US frequently have contacted us. Generally, they had to go through the complete arduous processing of applying for permanent residence all over again.


**Government Benefits:** Some federal and state benefits programs have been scaled back and in some cases are available only to US citizens. As of July 1, 2006, for example, a new Medicaid regulation went into effect, requiring states to obtain evidence of US citizenship from any individual applying for or seeking to renew eligibility for full Medicaid coverage.

**Immigration for Family Members:** US citizens receive priority treatment when it comes to petitioning for legal permanent residence for immediate family members. Green card holders, for example, cannot sponsor parents, siblings, or married children, and the length of time it takes for their children and spouses to receive permanent residence is much longer than for US citizens.

**Taxes:** US citizens and permanent residents are not always treated alike for tax purposes. This is particularly true with regard to estate taxes, where a non-citizen surviving spouse cannot take advantage of the unlimited marital deduction. Readers are advised to consult an accountant for more information on this topic.

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

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110

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

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

## What's Happening at the IIIC

**June Legal Clinic Schedule:** Tues., June 2 and June 16 – IIIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston. Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street; Mon., June 8 – The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton Center; Tues., June 30 – South Boston Laboure Center, 275 West Broadway.

**IIIC welcomes J-1 Summer Students:** The Cyber Café at the IIIC is gearing up for the arrival of the J-1 summer students. Interns and staff have been assisting J-1 summer students for the past 17 years, providing a comprehensive range of information for the students, many of whom are visiting the US for the first time.

Through the program Irish students live and

work in the US during their summer break from university to experience the people and culture of the United States.

The IIIC offers the students support, including internet access in our Cyber Café, housing and job search tips as well as information about transportation (the “T”) and the city of Boston. The aim of the IIIC program is to ensure a safe, successful, and enjoyable summer for all of the students.

Welcome sessions are scheduled for June 3 and June 10 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information or to register for one of the free Welcome Sessions, contact Blair at 617-542-7654, Ext. 18 or via email [ajlsummer@iiicenter.org](mailto:ajlsummer@iiicenter.org).

**Earned Sick Time Law Moves Forward:** The Earned Sick Time

ballot question approved by Massachusetts voters last fall affects all Massachusetts employers. Effective July 1, 2015, the new law entitles employees in Massachusetts to earn and use sick time in accordance with certain conditions. An employee may miss work (1) to care for a physical or mental illness, injury or medical condition affecting the employee or their child, spouse, parent, or parent of a spouse; (2) to attend routine medical appointments or those of their child, spouse, parent, or parent of a spouse; or (3) to address the effects of domestic violence on themselves or their dependent child.

At a hearing in May, the IIIC, along with many other advocates, opposed calls for the delay of the

law's implementation on July 1. The legislation will take effect as scheduled and will provide nearly one million employees the right to earn sick time without the risk of losing their jobs.

**The Irish Cultural Centre's 25th Anniversary:** The Irish International Immigrant Center congratulates and salutes the Irish Cultural Centre of New England (ICC) on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of its founding. For the past two and a half decades, the ICC has provided thousands of Irish residents of Massachusetts with a multitude of cultural, sports, and community events and programs. The IIIC extends its best wishes to the ICC for a continued bright future.

## A Corkman comes to Boston

Hugh Kennedy is from Ballinora, Co. Cork. Earlier this year he acquired a J-1 Irish Work and Travel visa for a twelve-month internship in the US. Hugh arrived in April and, under the requirements of the visa, he must secure a paid work placement within 90 days. He has a master's degree in health economics and his main interest is in economic evaluation, which involves the understand-

ing of economic appraisal techniques, and the methodological issues encountered in healthcare. His background qualifies him to engage in cost analysis techniques such as cost minimization, cost effectiveness, cost utility, and cost benefit.

Hugh is interested in working for a pharmaceutical company, a health insurance company, a hospital, or a healthcare center. He knows that

working for a US-based employer would be an invaluable experience to add to his resume as his career advances.

Hugh thanks the Irish International Immigrant Center for their assistance in his efforts to secure employment and hopes to find work in Boston, as he has already grown accustomed to the city in the short time he has been here!



Hugh Kennedy

## Matters Of Substance

# Common Myths about Grief

Losing someone we love is devastating. Whether this person died suddenly or expectedly, it hurts. There is no one way to grieve. Grief is as different and unique as the individual left behind

In our work with families and friends who are dealing with grief we often refer to the work of Dr. John Jordan, a clinician and author with years of experience supporting families living with grief. He speaks about how helpful it is when we challenge

the “myths” our society traditionally holds about the process of grieving, allowing those left behind to go through their own process of grief in their own way, without the shame and guilt of unrealistic “myths” about how we “should” grieve. No matter how we lose someone we love (through illness, accident or suicide), our world is never the same.

Dr. Jordan shares a helpful image about how living with grief is like carrying a boulder. We cannot ever really “put it down,” but we do what we can to make our backs stronger and manage carrying it better. We use support, self-care, counseling, and other tools to find our way to a “new normal.”

Dr. Jordan highlights some of the following common myths people have about grief including:

**Grief Happens in Stages**—Actually, grief is experienced in “waves” or in a cyclical way - having “good days” or “not-so-good” days.

**Grief Is the Same for Everyone (Men, Women, Adults, Children)**—In fact, grief is different for each individual and should not be compared with others' experiences.

**Time Will Heal All Wounds**—The truth is, different aspects of grief take different amounts of time. Grief involves active self-care, efforts to adapt, and learn new skills—all of which takes a lot of time. Waiting until it “passes” is not helpful. Get help when you need it.

**Grief Involves Saying Goodbye and Achieving “Resolution” of Your Grief**—The reality for us all is, when we lose someone, we keep that

relationship bond even though the person is no longer with us. We may go to their grave, “chat” to them, or imagine the loved one's response to an event or situation.

For many, leaning on family members and friends can be enough. For others, especially for immigrants away from home, the grieving process can become a much more complicated journey. If the person they lost died suddenly (heart attack, accident, suicide), there is a chance that “traumatic grief” could occur, especially if the death is viewed as random and/or preventable. “Traumatic” deaths like these can leave those who are grieving to be at a much greater risk of “complicated mourning,” a condition that leaves the mourner with a delayed or incomplete adaptation to the loss.

These kinds of losses are the ones that often require counseling and professional help. If you are having difficulty finding a suitable resource for yourself or a friend/loved one, please do not hesitate to call Deirdre McCann, in confidence, at 617-542-7654, Ext. 32 or via email – [dmccann@iiicenter.org](mailto:dmccann@iiicenter.org) – for further information on support or referrals.

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## EATING AND EMOTION

### Dr. Bernadette Rock

# Unexpected truths about managing weight

I have yet to meet a client who doesn't feel daunted by the challenge of losing weight. Negative stereotypes of overweight people as ill-disciplined, lazy, and greedy compound that challenge. Traditionally Irish people have been generally lean and wiry, perhaps a genetic outcome of the Famine. Only over the last 10-15 years has obesity started to creep up at an alarming rate, and it has been predicted that over the next 15 years Irish waistlines will continue to expand.



Bernadette Rock and child.

It is often assumed that managing weight is black-and-white, that simply by eating less and moving more, you lose weight. But if it were that simple, it would not be such a huge struggle for so many, myself included. Here are 3 common traits that I've identified among my online clients and from my own personal experiences that challenge these negative stereotypes:

**Never Say 'No'** – For me, Catholic guilt and being told as a child to “always be nice to others, pet” meant that saying “no” was just too much. So instead I binged on

crisps and biscuits to quell the anger and helplessness I felt at having to so often say “yes” when it wasn't what I really wanted. How often do you say “yes” when you really want to say “no”? to spending time with people you do not want to be with, to doing something for someone that you really don't want to do.

The more I started saying “no” to what I did not want, I also began to say “yes” to what I wanted and needed. Practice saying “no” even once today. So often we can be concerned about saying “no” when offered food, appearing rude or feeling awkward being the only one not eating. In rejecting food, saying “I don't want it” puts you in charge, instead of food being in charge of you.

**Elevated Expectations** – Many people who struggle with weight have unrealistically high expectations of themselves and tend to be perfectionists. If their eating is not perfect, it's not good enough, hence “I've eaten a few biscuits. I've messed up. I might as well keep eating.” A problem with black-and-white thinking is that it skews your perspective. Imagine if you spilt a few drops of orange juice on your white shirt, and thought, “It's a complete mess, it's destroyed.” The reality is that it can be salvaged. It's only a few drops.

Asking for help can be a no-no, “*I don't want to inconvenience other people with my problems. This is my problem and I need to sort it myself*”. You might feel bad when you want or need things for yourself, and the main way you take care of yourself is by eating. Instead of focusing on weight loss, can you start thinking about caring for yourself and looking after your needs?

**“I'm not good enough”** – It's what most of my Heyday clients honestly believe. Imagine what it would be like to have a friend who criticized you the way you criticize yourself? We somehow expect that if we despise and criticize ourselves enough, we will lose weight. If this constant stream of negative self-criticism was effective, we would all have very different bodies by now.

Do you notice that every situation that needs fixing is your job and everyone with a problem is your pet project? People who struggle with weight invariably feel guilty about looking after their own needs, and spend most of their energy look after the needs of others.

**Have a Heyday** – Let's start a dialogue that empowers you to develop a healthy relationship with food and weight. Send your comments or questions to [hello@heydayworld.com](mailto:hello@heydayworld.com). See [www.heydayworld.com](http://www.heydayworld.com) for details of the online program, and [facebook.com/heydayworld](http://facebook.com/heydayworld) for tips and advice.

Wishing you good health,  
Dr. Bernadette Rock (PhD),  
Heyday Program.  
Weight Management Clinic  
Loughlinstown Hospital, Dublin



Yes supporters react at Dublin castle, Ireland, Saturday, May 23, 2015. Ireland has voted resoundingly to legalize gay marriage in the world's first national vote on the issue, leaders on both sides of the Irish referendum declared Saturday even as official ballot counting continued. AP Photo/Peter Morrison

# Gay marriage vote means ‘new normal’ in Ireland

(Continued from page 1)

but suffered only setbacks and delays. Now, their day has come.

“For so long, I've been having to dig in my heels and say ... Well, we *are* married. I'm a married woman!” said Zappone, a Seattle native who resettled with her Irish spouse in Dublin three decades ago. “Now that it has happened, at a personal level, it's just going to take a long time to let that acceptance sink in.”

Zappone and Gilligan thrilled a crowd of thousands packed into the results center at Dublin Castle with a playful promise to renew their vows. Zappone dramatically broke off from a live TV interview, stared directly into the camera, and asked Gilligan to marry her all over again. Gilligan declared to the rainbow flag-waving revelers: “I said ‘yes’ to Katherine 12 years ago at our marriage in Canada. And now we are bringing the ‘yes’ back home to Ireland, our country of Ireland! Yes, yes, yes!”

In a more sober mood on the day after, the couple reflected on their long road to social acceptance, the unprecedented joy of the “yes” victory – and the legal work that remains to be done before they can get officially hitched in Ireland later this year.

“It took us hours to get a taxi (Saturday night) because so many people came up to us in tears, wanting to talk to us. They now felt so much freer, and proud,” said Zappone, who became Ireland's first openly lesbian lawmaker when Prime Minister Enda Kenny appointed her to the Senate in 2011.

“There aren't that many moments in life where you are surrounded with



Irish Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Tanaiste Joan Burton celebrate at Dublin castle, Ireland, Saturday, May 23, 2015, on news that Ireland had voted resoundingly to legalize gay marriage in the world's first national vote on the issue. AP Photo/Peter Morrison

an exuberance of joy. These are rare moments. ... We are now entering a new Ireland,” said Gilligan, a former Loreto nun who left the order in her mid-20s to pursue social justice projects as a lay Catholic. She wasn't sure about her sexuality until Zappone walked into their first doctoral theology class together at Boston College in 1981.

“The door opened, and this gorgeous woman came in. I didn't know I was lesbian. I'm a late learner,” Gilligan recalled with a laugh. “I fell in love with Katherine, and I went for it. I simply adored her, and I wanted to be with her forever and ever, and here we are!”

They married in Vancouver and sued Ireland in hopes of winning legal recognition, but in 2006 the High Court ruled that Irish law – while never explicit in defining marriage as solely between a man and woman – universally understood this to be the case. The Supreme Court sidestepped their appeal in 2012.

Months later Gilligan,

who is in her late 60s, suffered a brain hemorrhage and was hospitalized. Zappone, yet again, faced bureaucratic presumptions when trying to see her wife, since hospital admissions didn't recognize her as a spouse or family member. She could have lied and said they had an Irish-recognized civil partnership, a weaker form of marriage-style contract enacted into Irish law in 2010, but Zappone insisted on stating uncomfortable reality: “In those moments, I am married to her, and you have to recognize that,” she recalled.

The medical staff understood and, after Zappone had spent five weeks at Gilligan's bedside, one of their Chinese doctors wrote them a long note of appreciation, wishing he had what they had.

What they won't have, for many months to come, is an Irish-recognized marriage.

Article 41 of the family section of Ireland's constitution now reads, “Marriage may be contracted in accordance with law by two persons without

distinction as to their sex.”

But Zappone and her parliamentary colleagues must pass a same-sex marriage bill. Unlike in many other countries, the change faces no significant parliamentary opposition. Potentially thorny issues such as divorce – narrowly legalized in a 1995 referendum – and adoption shouldn't pose roadblocks. Parliament recently passed another bill permitting couples and single people to adopt regardless of gender, reflecting the reality that more than a third of Irish children are being raised out of wedlock.

“Technically and legally we'll probably have to wait until toward the end of the year,” Zappone said. “Then we'll head toward the big day.”

By then, several commentators have noted, a new generation of Irish people should already be accepting the sight of a gay couple holding hands in the street, or exchanging their vows and kissing in front of their families.

“We've made it clear to the world that there is a new normal – that ‘ordinary’ is a big, capacious word that embraces and rejoices in the natural diversity of humanity. LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) people are now a fully acknowledged part of the wonderful ordinariness of Irish life,” wrote the *Irish Times* columnist Fintan O'Toole.

“LGBT people are us: our sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, neighbors, and friends. We were given the chance to say that. We were asked to replace tolerance with the equality of citizenship,” O'Toole wrote. “And we took it in both arms and hugged it close.”



# Braintree’s Michael Ryan seizes the day in ‘Newsies’

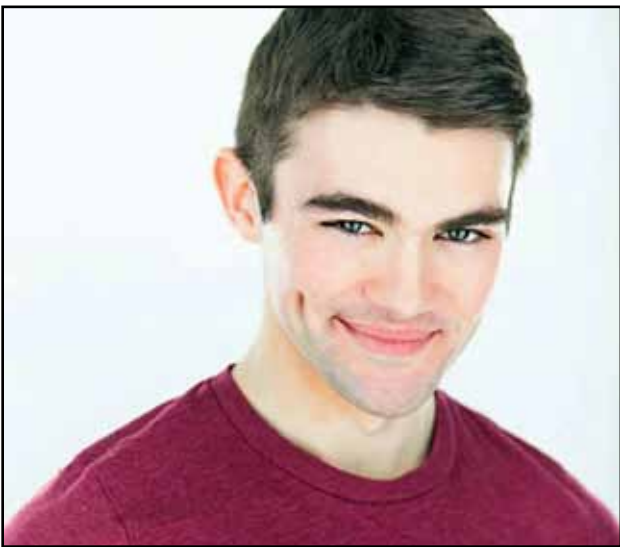
**BY R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**  
Michael Ryan is living the dream. It wasn’t all that long ago that the young actor was sitting in Boston’s Opera House enjoying a performance of “Wicked.” The Braintree native returns to the scene later this month, but this time he’ll be standing center stage, appearing in the national touring company of Disney’s high-energy hit musical, “Newsies,” playing from June 23 to July 5.

It has all happened very fast for Ryan and he’s enjoying every moment of the experience. He attended school in Brain-

tree, participated in two summer theater programs on the South Shore and studied musical theater at Pace University. Following graduation, he performed on a cruise ship for seven months. When that ended, he returned to New York. Two weeks later he auditioned for the national tour of the Tony Award-winning “Newsies” and got the job.

“It was unbelievable,” he said by phone during the show’s run in Dallas. “I was shocked and so lucky.”

“Newsies” first came to life as a 1992 Disney film inspired by New York’s real-life newsboys strike of 1889. The story tells of



**Braintree native Michael Ryan appears in Disney’s high-energy Tony Award-winning hit musical, “Newsies,” at Boston’s Opera House June 23 - July 5.**

**“I was a big fan of the movie growing up . . . The music was great. I think that’s what really turned people on to the movie...[Alan Menken] said that whenever he would go out and play concerts, he’d play a song from “Newsies,” the movie, and it would always get a huge reaction. That’s kind of what sparked the idea that maybe this should be a stage show.”**

hadn’t counted on was a diehard fan base (known as Fansies), plus overwhelming critical acclaim.

Riding on that success, the show transferred to Broadway where, again, a limited engagement was planned. The show ultimately ran for two years, playing to sold out houses and picking up Tony Awards for its musical score as well as its phenomenal choreography.

Ryan plays Morris Delancey in addition to understudying the lead role of Jack Kelly.

**Q.** So were you a fan of the movie version of “Newsies?”

**A.** I was a big fan of the movie growing up . . . The music was great. I think that’s what really turned people on to the movie... [Alan Menken] said that whenever he would go out and play concerts, he’d

play a song from “Newsies,” the movie, and it would always get a huge reaction. That’s kind of what sparked the idea that maybe this should be a stage show.

**Q.** How were the wheels set in motion?

**A.** He got back together with Jack Feldman, the lyricist, and they wrote some new songs and tweaked some lyrics. And Harvey Fierstein came in and wrote a brand new book. So it’s the same story but it has some new characters. It has new plot lines. It has new twists and turns... You’re seeing the movie you love, but it has new aspects to it that only make the story and show better.

**Q.** Anything special we should look for in the touring production?

**A.** One thing that’s cool is that in our version of the show, they’ve added



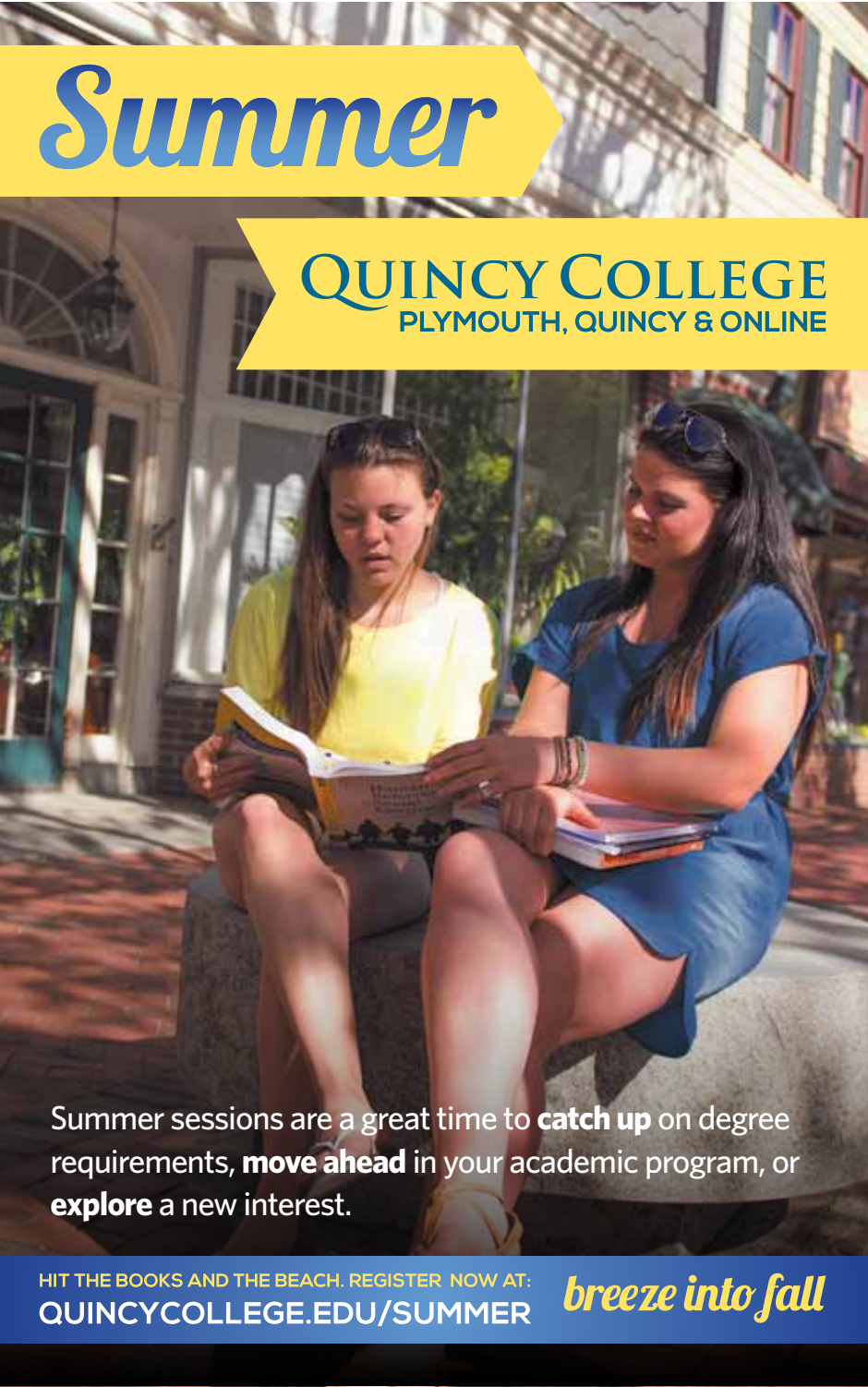
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Inspired by New York’s Newsboys Strike of 1889, Disney’s high-energy hit musical “Newsies” comes to Boston’s Opera House from June 23 - July 5. ©Disney. Deen van Meer photo

a new song. It was not in the Broadway production, and wasn’t in the movie. It’s called “Letter from The Refuge” – it’s Crutchie’s song. In the Broadway version, Crutchie was pretty much not [seen in] the entire second act of the show. They wanted to show where he was after he got taken to the refuge – the juvenile jail. So they added this song, and Alan Menken came to rehearsals to work on the song and see how it worked. It was just so cool to see him there.

**Q.** It must have been impressive to work with him on your first big show.

**A.** This is the guy who wrote all the childhood music that I grew up with. From “Beauty and The Beast” to “Aladdin” to “Newsies.” I’m a huge Alan Menken fan.

**Q.** Is there a moment in the show that’s special to you personally?

**A.** Absolutely. There’s a moment in the movie when they’re coming to the end of the strike and the newsies have invited all the kids in New York to come and strike with them. They’re waiting and no one’s coming. All of a sudden thousands of kids come running down the street and they’re singing the song, “The World Will Know.” So when I saw the [Broadway] show I was like, “What are they going to do on stage that’s going to be comparable to that?”

**Q.** And ... ?

**A.** Sure enough, close to the end of the show there’s a moment where all the

dancing stops, all the newsies freeze and hold a poise and they’re just singing this power song, “Once And For All.” The towers the newsies are standing on start moving toward the audience and, oh my God, it’s amazing! ... The first time I saw it I was like, “This is something I’m never going to forget.”

**Q.** Your director Jeff Calhoun has some incredible stage credits as well. Did he share anything special with the cast?

**A.** One thing Jeff Calhoun said that I definitely have taken in is that he wants to keep the show honest ... He reminded us that these were real kids and this was a real strike ... That kinds of brings you down to earth and reminds you that, yeah, we’re doing a musical where towers move around the stage and where the dancing is mind-blowing. But at the end of the day, the story is very real ... He didn’t want any of us to copy exactly what the cast before us had done. He really wanted us to find our own way of playing these roles and telling the story. That’s so refreshing ... You want something that’s new and fresh and honest, and I think that’s what we have because of his support and direction.

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

...

Disney’s “Newsies,” June 23 - July 5, at the Boston Opera House, 539 Washington Street. Info:

866-870-2717 or BroadwayInBoston.com.

# Young Bostonians are big winners at Comhaltas May Fleadh

The annual Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann Mid-Atlantic Fleadh, held the weekend of May 8-10 in Parsippany, NJ, saw a number of Greater Boston musicians – especially younger ones – enjoy success.

The CCE Boston music school’s Realta Geala youth ensemble earned first place in the U15 (under age 15) ceili group competition. Sean Clohessy and Kathleen Conneely were the ensemble directors this past year.

Other Boston/Eastern Massachusetts-area first-place finishers included: Rory Coyne, melodeon (U12); Molly Quinn, tin whistle – slow airs (U12); Seamus Noonan, both solo flute and whistling (U12); Torrin Ryan, uilleann pipes (Over 18); Kyle Forsthoft, bodhran (O18); and Rory Coyne, Seamus Noonan and Bram Pomplas, trios (U12).

Second-place finishers included Rory Coyne in the newly composed tunes category, and Seamus Noonan in tin whistle (U12); the pair also placed second in duets (U12); Cormac Gaj, uilleann pipes (U15); Torrin Ryan, tin whistle (O18); Josie and Lisa Coyne, duets (O18); and Josie Coyne, Lisa Coyne and Mariel Wamsley, trios (O18).

Oisin Coyne, concertina (U12), and the trio of Cormac Gaj, Mary Kozachek and Elizabeth Kozachek, trios (U15), had third-place finishes.

In addition, students of

local dancer and teacher Jaclyn O’Riley had a part in a history-making event: the first known sean-nós dance competition ever staged at a regional American fleadh. Overall, some 20 children and a handful of adults competed in four age categories.

In the under-12 category, O’Riley’s students Mary Kozachek and Rhys Boyd finished first and second, respectively, while the top three places in the under-15 were all O’Riley protégés: Ida Mihok, Elizabeth Kozachek and Alex Marston. The O’Riley Dancers also took first in the half-set competition.

O’Riley was proud of her students’ accomplishments, as well as “the spirit and generosity” they showed during the weekend, and equally happy that sean-nós dance was added to the program. In fact, it was O’Riley, along with Washington, DC-based dance teacher Shannon Dunne, who had approached the fleadh committee on the matter in the first place.

“Sean-nós dancing has been a part of the fleadhs in Ireland for a while now,” says O’Riley. “In the US, the sean-nós dance competitions were ‘on the books,’ so to speak, but there had not been enough of an interest prior to this year to hold them. So when Shannon and I told the fleadh committee we had students who would love to take

part in the weekend, they were happy to work together with us and introduce sean-nós dance in the fleadh.”

The importance of adding sean-nós dance to the program went beyond competition, she explains: “For young musicians, the fleadh is a chance to meet and connect with other young people playing Irish music, as well as to have a goal to practice towards. This has been missing for young sean-nós dancers, so for our students, it’s an important development that the fleadh now has a place for them.

“The best part of the weekend for me was watching my young sean-nós dance students meeting and hanging out with other dancers and musicians, trading steps, and sharing what they love with each other.”

O’Riley says the change is a reflection of the dramatic growth of sean-nós dance in the US over the past decade, particularly among younger dancers, many of whom also play Irish music: “With sean-nós dancing, the dancer is part of the music, and this really appeals to people of all ages.”

Given this trend, she says, “I expect that sean-nós dance will be even more popular next year, as the competition had quite a buzz around it, and was such a pleasure to watch.”

– SEAN SMITH



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The Viking Irish will recreate the culture and history of Vikings at this year's Boston Irish Festival. *Kimberly Kinnecom Photography*

# Watch out for Vikings at ICCNE's Irish Festival

**BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**

The annual Boston Irish Festival (June 13-14) at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton will feature many of its familiar, and popular, attractions: musical performers, among them The Joshua Tree, Screaming Orphans, Devri, and Cat & The Moon; Irish dance, including the Boston Irish Festival Feis; family activities; and the festival's 5K road race.

But there's also something new at this year's festival – or perhaps “ancient” is a more appropriate description.

Vikings.

The Viking Irish, a group of area history enthusiasts, will set up camp on the festival grounds and recreate the world of the legendary northern seafaring people, some of whom settled thousands of years ago in parts of Ireland including Dublin, Wexford, and Cork. Although known as bold, fierce warriors, these Vikings – known in Irish as the “Lochlannach” – were also traders, merchants, farmers, and artisans. All those elements of Viking

**Two-day run (June 13-14)  
at Centre's Canton campus**

life will be on display during both days of the Festival.

“Vikings are ‘in’ these days,” says festival co-organizer Nicola Murphy, director of programming and membership for the ICCNE, pointing to the popular History Channel series “Vikings” as an example. “So it's a good opportunity to appreciate the presence of Vikings in Irish history. We think people at the festival will really enjoy the Viking Irish – they're quite serious about what they do, and work hard at it.”

Highlighting the musical aspect of the festival will be appearances by The Joshua Tree, which has gained a national following as a U2 tribute band; Cat & The Moon, a Boston-based quintet of young musicians who met at the Berklee College of Music and play an exciting Celtic/bluegrass fusion; local Celtic punk band The Gobshites; and Irish singer-songwriter and musician Tom Lanigan

and his band.

Also performing will be acts with diverse, wide-ranging sounds: The Screaming Orphans, four Irish-born sisters whose influences span The Beatles to Abba to Irish traditional music; Devri, a Boston-area Irish-rooted quartet with a repertoire covering not only Irish but rock, country and folk; and another local ensemble, Yoke Shire, which incorporates elements of blues, Celtic, Middle Eastern and classical music styles around their rock and roll foundation.

The coming generation of Irish musicians will be represented at the festival as well, as young students from the Denis Galvin School of Music will perform a concert.

The festival also will have informal traditional music sessions for all ages.

Irish dance will again play a major role in the festival, with performances by the Kieran Jordan Dancers, and the Boston

Irish Festival Feis hosted by the Harney Academy of Irish Dance. The feis, which will take place June 13 from 7 a.m.-4 p.m., is open to participants of all ages and levels of experience; spectators are welcome.

The third Boston Irish Festival 5K roadrace will be held on Sun., June 14 at 11 a.m. It is open to athletes of all abilities; wheelchairs are welcome, and walkers are also encouraged to attend. The course is flat, and begins and ends on the grounds of the Irish Cultural Centre. Early bird entry fee is \$30 until registration closes on June 11 at midnight; race day registration is available for \$35, 9 to 10:45 a.m. Participants receive admission to the festival with their bib number.

Vendors of clothing, arts, crafts, jewelry, food and other items, and tea houses will be on hand at the festival, as will another popular attraction: Iris setters and wolfhounds.

All information, including updates on performers and links to online ticket purchases, is available at [irishculture.org](http://irishculture.org).



Boston's U2 tribute band The Joshua Tree is among the musical highlights of the 2015 Boston Irish Festival.



Local group Yoke Shire incorporates several music styles, including traditional Irish, around their rock and roll foundation.

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# Kirwan goes wide and deep and personal as he engages in the history of Irish music

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

That “A” in the title of the recently published book “A History of Irish Music” is both important and revealing. As its author states in the foreword, this is by no means intended as a definitive or comprehensive chronicle of the development of Irish music over the centuries.

But when the author in question is Larry Kirwan – co-founder of the groundbreaking (now defunct) Celtic rock band Black 47, singer, musician, songwriter, playwright, journalist, and radio host – there is no question that the book has value and heft to it, and is a great read to boot.

This history is largely amassed through the eyes, ears, and experiences of Kirwan, and this is a very good thing. Kirwan’s life (which began in 1948) corresponds with arguably one of the most transformative periods of Irish music, and indeed of Ireland itself: social and economic dormancy in the 1950s; near-revolutionary change in the 1960s; The Troubles; the giddiness and high ambitions accompanying the Celtic Tiger era – and the retrenchment and disillusionment that followed.

And Kirwan has been a well-placed, keen-eyed observer or participant – even, on occasion, a provocateur – for many of the epochs in Irish music from mid-20th century onward, from showbands to folk revivalists to rock-n-rollers to sociopolitical rabble-rousers to pop giants. In the book are many familiar names and personalities one would expect – Tommy Makem and the Clancy Brothers; The Chieftains; U2; The Bothy Band; Van Morrison; Shane MacGowan and The Pogues; and yes, Boston’s own Dropkick Murphys – as well as those perhaps less-known (at least in the US), under-appreciated or forgotten: Rory Gallagher; the Clipper Carlton Showband; Emmet-Spiceland; Phil Lynott and Thin Lizzy; Horslips.

While Kirwan will often write from a journalistic standpoint, or with the technical insight of a musician, this is above all a personal history. Kirwan places himself, along with family, friends, collaborators and other acquaintances – including the family’s indefatigable housekeeper, Miss Codd, whom he regards as his “first audience” for his nascent musical activities – squarely in the mix, illustrating the impact of events and trends at the micro level. He introduces us, for example, to his childhood home of medieval Wexford (with its urban-rural schism that he happily ignored), perched unknowingly on the cusp of substantial cultural change, thanks in no small part to advancing technology – radio, and later TV: Kirwan recounts his surprise at hearing a traditional singer say she much preferred the

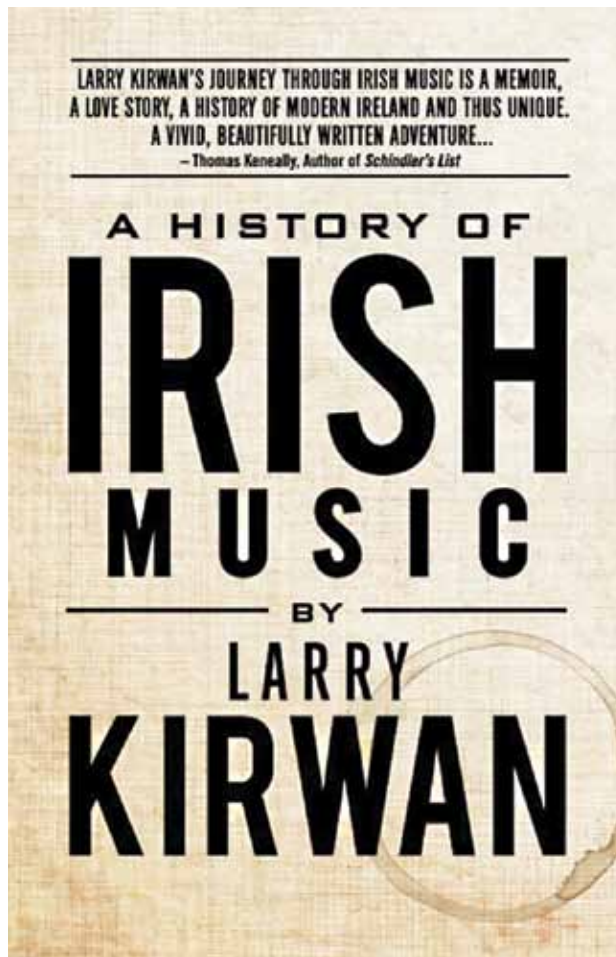


Larry Kirwan (shown performing in 2007) has put together a chronicle of Irish music from his unique perspective as musician, singer-songwriter and journalist. *Sean Smith photo*

Rolling Stones’ “Little Red Rooster” to the venerable “Rocks of Bawn.”

Most of all, far from an academic exercise, “A History of Irish Music” is very much in Kirwan’s voice: There’s humor, regret, brashness, bitterness, adoration, and most of all, passion. He describes listening to Van Morrison’s “Astral Weeks”: “I never think of this album in terms of songs – it’s more like a symphony to me; it begins, I’m swept along in some emotional current and am still in motion minutes after the echo fades on the last words.” He explains how the Bothy Band’s presence during a particularly anxious period in The Troubles went well beyond its musical contributions: “The knowledge that the world may be falling apart outside, but with the Bothies playing, there’s a center holding that you can almost touch and grasp onto.”

Similarly, one of the most poignant chapters is devoted to Rory Gallagher, the fiery blues guitarist whose emergence in the 1970s was a salve for troubled times in Ireland: “Rory was one of us, and we took enormous pride in him. We didn’t have a whole lot else; our national soccer team was a joke and the rest of the world didn’t play hurling, but now we had a guitarist/vocalist who could take on the best.” The death of Gallagher – once nearly recruited by the Rolling Stones – at age 47 was thus a tragedy of many dimensions, and here as elsewhere in the book Kirwan excerpts lyrics



(some from traditional songs, some from his own work and that of other songwriters) to underscore and amplify the subjects he covers in each chapter – in this case, from his song “Rory”: “What the hell happened, head? Where did the lightning go? Did it burn through your fingers to the cockles of your soul?”

Although Kirwan’s household was not particularly musical, there was certainly compelling music in abundance around Wexford, sometimes where one might least expect. Kirwan viv-

idly recalls hearing a tinker sing “Molly Ban” outside a pub: “He began to sing and the mournful tale changed my life. I had never heard its like,” he writes. “The song seared me, for it revealed the love was much more than the facile smiley-teary thing I witnessed in countless movies at the Abbey Cinema or read about in books from the County Library. Love, I discovered, had much more in common with tragedy and heart-break than happiness and contentment. Great love always has a cost, and unless one stumbles upon

it at the exact right time and place, that price will be exacted to the fullest.”

Kirwan frequently takes a step back to offer a wider context and provide useful glimpses at Irish history – such as Wexford’s role as a flashpoint in the 1798 rebellion, and how that period is memorialized in songs like “The Croppy Boy” and “Boolavogue” – to illustrate that, despite the effects of modernism and globalism, in Ireland music, place and memory remain closely linked. Discussing John Keegan Casey’s famous “The Rising of the Moon,” Kirwan says the songwriter – although he never visited the county – “summed up the exhilaration and majesty of the tragic times that unified both Wexford town and surrounding countryside.”

Kirwan also writes from the perspective of one of untold millions of Irish who opted to find a new life in the USA, particularly New York City, where he has lived since 1975. Like many an ex-pat, he has often found himself struggling to retain, and define, a relationship with his native land – encouraged by some of the directions he’s seen Ireland take, yet also cognizant of now being more a foreign visitor than inhabitant – even as he continues to put down roots in his adopted home. But there are benefits, too, he notes: “It’s often the case that those with roots outside their adopted country can view their new environment and society with greater clarity and more minute detail than their peers.”

However foundational

his years as a young adult in Dublin – then in the throes of social (and sexual) revolution, and a musical fermentation that would give rise to the Bothy Band, Planxty and other celebrated Irish folk revival acts – it is in New York where Kirwan, his interests long firmly rooted in politics and rock-and-roll, truly begins to fashion a musical identity that finds expression in Black 47. The elements are pulled together from various musical genres Kirwan encountered over the years, like folk rock (from bands like Horslips, Fairport Convention and Steeleye Span), the socially and political conscious songwriting from the 1960s and especially The Troubles, even seemingly unlikely sources like showbands and ceili bands.

He also takes inspiration from what he finds in New York, like the energy and rawness of punk/new wave (Kirwan cites Television’s Tom Verlaine and Talking Heads’ David Byrne as influences for his “yelping” vocal style), and perhaps more critically, non-white ethnic sounds of hip-hop, rap, African and Latin music. In fact, Kirwan says there is precedent for the blending of seemingly disparate cultures’ music, pointing to research from the 19th century, including by no less than Charles Dickens, that Irish immigrants and African-Americans performed together in the dance halls around New York’s Five Points.

Recollections and insights like these more than justify the attention Kirwan devotes to Black 47 (and his ancillary activities) in this book: The band represented the convergence of numerous historical and cultural threads explored here, after all, and probably for that reason had a unique populist appeal across the ideological spectrum. Besides, it’s also a chance for him to share Black 47-related stories and anecdotes, many of which are uproarious.

Kirwan finishes with some musings on the present and immediate future of Irish music, disappointed in what he sees as a dearth of sociopolitical-oriented songwriting (something at which U2, for all its virtues, has fallen short, he observes earlier), even after the fall-out from the 2008 recession and the Iraq War. But he applauds the creativity and vision of bands like The Strypes, Beoga, The Gloaming and Lynched, and Waterboys founder Mike Scott’s “Appointment with Mr. Yeats” album. And, of course, he has some thoughts and ideas for his own post-Black 47 existence: “There’s forever something new to learn, some new challenge, a different drummer to march to.”

For information on ordering “A History of Irish Music,” see [black47.com](http://black47.com).



CD Reviews

By Sean Smith

**Norah Rendell, “Spinning Yarns”** • A winning solo debut from Rendell, former member of acclaimed Canadian traditional band The Outside Track. Rendell plays flute and whistle, but the instrument of interest here is her voice: a light and expressive tenor, yet possessed of a sinew that directs your attention to the character and composition of the song. Small wonder she has a Best Traditional Singer of the Year



Canadian Folk Music Award to her credit. Rendell is an avid scholar as well as interpreter of traditional songs from her native Canada, and “Spinning Yarns” draws on foundational collections by the likes of Helen Creighton and Edith Fowke as well as archival recordings. American folk music also derives much from traditions of the British Isles and Ireland, of course, but these songs seem to have retained a closer connection to their antecedents – and yet for all the familiarity

evoked in melody, rhythm or narrative, they sound fresh and different.

And as sung by Rendell, they are gorgeous: the winsome and pastoral “Letty Lee” and “Pretty Susan”; full-hearted laments such as “The Sailor’s Bride,” “The Pinery Boy” and “Lost Jimmie Whalen”; “Sir Neil and Glengyle,” from the classic literary ballad canon; the verbally gymnastic “The Carrion Crow,” perhaps the remnant of a long-ago political allegory; and arguably the album’s highlight, the intimately romantic yet sorrowful night-visiting song, “Here’s a Health Unto All True Lovers,” with an exquisite melody that Rendell explores to its fullest effect.

Rendell is aided here in no small way by a talented backing trio of her husband Brian Miller (guitar, bouzouki, mandola), Randy Gosa (guitar, mandola) and her former Outside Track colleague Ailie Robertson on harp; there are also guest appearances by Daithi Sproule (guitar) and Adam Kiesling (bass). The arrangements are sensitively crafted and the preponderance of fretted and plucked-string instruments enhance the delicacy and elegance in Rendell’s vocals.

“Spinning Yarns” earns equally high marks for concept as well as execution, and demonstrates a fully realized love and respect for traditional music and its roots – wherever they lie.

**Kate Rusby, “Ghost”** • Now (officially) into her third decade as one of the most well-loved and accomplished singers to emerge from the late 20th-century British Isles folk scene, Rusby – once part of the all-

female Celtic quartet The Poozies before her solo career – has added another fine showing to her collection of recordings, which now numbers 13 (including two Christmas albums and two semi-retrospectives).

There have been some transitions for Rusby in recent years. She split from her first husband, John McCusker – also her musical collaborator and producer – and later married Northern Irish singer-musician Damien O’Kane, with whom she has two daughters. Even as she developed her musical rapport with O’Kane, she also began to work with a new group of backing musicians. And she’s gradually incorporated her own compositions into her repertoire of traditional and contemporary folk/acoustic songs. Through it all, however, the essential Rusby sound has remained: a honeyed, breathy voice with a quality of mournfulness never quite absent, even when singing the most joyous of songs.

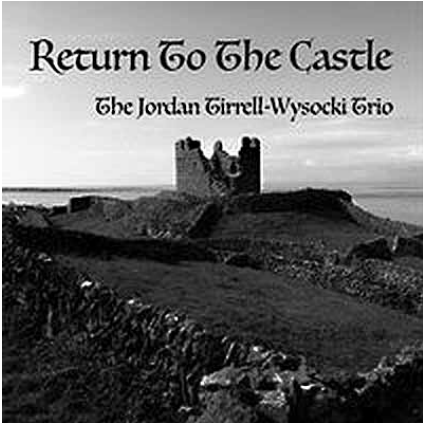
A ghost is often depicted as shifting between being and nothingness, capable of taking a definitive, almost corporal form, or becoming ethereal and distant. Listening to “Ghost” as a whole, Rusby appears to evince that changeling quality: On “The Outlandish Knight” – a chilling traditional ballad about a girl’s worst nightmare, the boyfriend who turns out to be a murderous creep – “After This,” and the title track (a Rusby original inspired by a departed spirit who, apparently, resides in her home) Rusby’s vocals seem to emanate from an echoing remove, evoking menace, perhaps, or regret. On other occasions, she sounds more immediate, more in the moment, such as the infectious traditional song “Three Jolly Fisherman,” full of a youthful exuberance, and her own “We Will Sing” and “The Magic Penny,” the latter marked by a graceful pas de deux with the electric guitar of John Doyle.

But it’s not as if Rusby hasn’t gone in for experimentation before – like using brass bands for accompaniment or covering the old Patti Page hit “You Belong to Me” – and there’s certainly plenty here: a string quartet on three tracks, and far more electric guitar than in the past, among other things. She and O’Kane, in their role as co-producers, display some overall good judgment in the arrangements, as evidenced by Michael McGoldrick’s sumptuous flute part on “The Bonnie Bairns,” Duncan Lyall’s ebullient mandolin on “Three Jolly Fishermen,” and the aforementioned Doyle guitar on “Magic Penny.”

In the end, none of the creative license detracts from the overall result, and in fact it adds some texture, even sophistication, that seems entirely appropriate. With “Ghost,” Rusby shows she’s able to build upon her past success, not be haunted by it.

**Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki Trio, “Return to the Castle”** • Wysocki is a New Hampshire-based fiddler who has traversed the New England contra dance and Celtic music scenes and in recent years broadened the scope of his activities to include collaborations in rock, pop and country. This CD is a return-to-roots deal, with Tirrell-Wysocki, guitarist Matthew Jensen and double-bassist Chris Noyes playing sets of traditional and contemporary tunes, including a few penned by Tirrell-Wysocki and Jensen.

Much of the traditional material here is pretty standard – “Morrison’s Jig,” “Mist Covered Mountain,” “Star of the County Down,” “Star of Munster,” “Mason’s Apron,” “Silver Spear” – but the playing is bright, crisp and energetic; Tirrell-Wysocki is well-versed in the free-range, improvisatory fiddling that has become popular in the contra dance milieu and other less folk-oriented contexts, drawing on Irish, Scottish, Appalachian and other styles, and he and Jensen (who shows off some dandy flatpicking on his composition “Georgie’s”) have a particularly good rapport. And just to change things up a bit, they even do a charming take on “Here Comes the Sun,” that old Beatles favorite – if next winter is anything like this year’s was, you might find the track especially inspiring to listen to around about March or so.



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Traveling People

# For many in Ireland, the trade in quality fish is what counts

By JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It's an island country, so it should be no surprise that in Ireland there is a great focus on fish and its many excellent restaurants.

According to the Irish Sea Fisheries Board (Bord Iascaigh Mhara or BIM) there were 11,000 people involved in the Irish seafood industry in 2014, including 4,984 fishermen and 1,716 fish farmers. There were also 2,860 involved in processing and 1,140 in support jobs. The fishing industry contributes about 700 million euro annually to the Irish economy with the home market at 330 million euro and 520 million euro in exports.

Fish farming has been so successful on Clare Island for the past 25 years that there are now plans afoot by the Fisheries Board for two licenses to farm Atlantic salmon off the west coast of Ireland. The board's aim is "to facilitate development of two deep sea organic salmon farms that can accommodate safe, efficient, and sustainable farming to meet market demand and create sustainable jobs in an area where they are much needed."

SMOKED SALMON

Smoked salmon is one of my favorite foods in Ireland. Thankfully, you can find delicious smoked salmon across the country, produced by many different companies. Back in the 1970s when we visited, meals in Ireland often came with a complimentary side serving of salmon and brown bread, but that sure isn't the case anymore. Smoked salmon is now highly prized and can be expensive.

There are many producers of smoked fish in Ireland, as you might expect. The Fisheries Board lists 50 producers that specialize in smoking all kinds of fish. You can generally find products from these companies near where they're produced. For instance, Burren Smokehouse salmon is sold in and around Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare (and at nearby Shannon Duty Free), and Keem Bay Fish Products are sold primarily in Co. Mayo. We've bought smoked salmon from both and both were excellent.

See bim.ie for other producers of smoked fish in Ireland.

BROWN BREAD

I just call it brown bread and can't imagine smoked salmon without it. I'm referring to McCambridge's Irish Stoneground Wholewheat brown bread, which is probably the best known of the many McCambridge products.

The company's history stretches back to 1945 when Malcolm McCambridge moved from Shop Street, Galway, (where the family still has a store) to open a shop in Ranelagh in Dublin. Malcolm's son, John, joined the business in the 1960s and Michael McCambridge joined in 1994.

This spring, we discovered several McCambridge's products in the

market that we hadn't in before - Spelt Bread and Low-G.I. bread (with linseed jumbo oats, sunflower seeds and pumpkin seeds.) We haven't tried Spelt but Low-G.I. is delicious, plain or toasted.

In March, I flew Aer Lingus to Ireland and two slices of pre-packaged McCambridge's brown bread were served with the salmon dinner that I ordered when booking the flight. I later emailed McCambridge's to say how happy I was to be served their brown bread on the flight and how much I miss it when I go home. Michael McCambridge replied saying, "Our bread is available in the U.S. through foodireland.com. In addition, we will be launching our easy-to-use bake-at-home kit over the summer and we hope to have it available in the US."

So, for me - and for all those who pine for McCambridge's when they're not in Ireland - that's very good news. By the way, McCambridge's also makes a variety of specialty breads (available in Ireland) including walnut and raisin, apricot and raisin fruit bread, tomato and fennel and other artisan breads as well as a number of gluten-free breads and scones.

When you're visiting, don't forget to try products from the many small artisanal shops and larger bakeries around the country too. We recently read about a bakery that opened in Castlebar, Co. Mayo, called Breadski Brothers (Magic, Mark and Martin Chlebicki are actually brothers who are originally from Poland.)

The brothers have created a brand called "That Bread." Three flavors are currently available: "The White One with the Sunny Sesame Seeds," "The Brown One with the Toasted Pumpkin Seeds" and "The Rye One with Fresh Cranberries." Each flavor is available in a sliced loaf or two-slice package - perfect for a taste test or snack.

So far, the bakery employs 43 and supplies a range of bread, cake and pastry products to some 240 stores across Ireland.

OYSTERS

There are those who wrinkle up their noses at the mere mention of raw oysters but there are others - me included - who can't get enough of them.

I've had oysters in Ireland accompanied by a small glass of Guinness, served with sauces of one sort or another or simply with lemon. When they're served fresh and you can still taste the salty sea, there's just nothing better.

Of course we have fabulous oysters in the States, too (especially on the East Coast) but, well, somehow they just taste extra delicious in Ireland - maybe it's the surroundings?

DAN DOOLEY CAR RENTALS

Well then to Dan Dooley Car Rentals, recently named "Best in Class" in 17 out of 19 classifications in the 2014 Red C independent car rental



Plate of raw oysters, fresh from Clew Bay in Co. Mayo, are ready to eat.

poll undertaken by Dublin Airport Authority on behalf of airport customers.

Among the categories Dooley topped were "Overall Value for Money" and "Overall Satisfaction."

I've rented Dooley cars (and always request a Skoda) for at least a decade and have always had top-notch cars and excellent service. Congratulations to all at the company.

WALK OFF STRESS

Okay, well it isn't exactly Ireland but it could be. I love the recent story about a farm in Wales that offers "sheep-walking holidays" to help you relax from the stress of daily life.

At Aberhyddnant Farm in the Brecon Beacons, specially-trained Jacob sheep can be taken for long walks (on leashes, of course) through the countryside. The farm owners say the Jacob's gentle nature is perfect for helping people unwind.

Maybe sometime in the future you will read about some Irish sheep farmers giving this idea a try? Sounds good to me.

INTERESTING IDEA

Several groups in Drogheda, Co. Louth, have launched a program called "My Streets Drogheda" that employs homeless - or recently resettled - residents as tour guides. Similar projects have also been run in Prague, London, Barcelona, and Berlin where social agencies have worked to reintegrate the homeless back into society and also create employment.

The Drogheda guides have received special training for the past eight months in how to communicate what's best about the town during their one-hour tour. Chosen participants not only designed their uniforms but also the tour, based on their experience, personal interests and what they want to share about Drogheda.

The program gives the homeless a voice, organizers say, to educate the public about their lives and foster empathy - all the while shining the light on Drogheda, a town not often on tourist routes.

Check out mystreetsdrogheda.com for infor-



Achill Island smoked salmon is delicious on brown bread sprinkled with lemon.

McCambridge's brown bread is available at home as well as in Ireland.

Judy Enright photos



mation. Might be interesting to try something similar in Boston.

HAPPENINGS

There's lots going on in Ireland in June and this is just a brief summary. Be sure to check out Ireland.com for activities, festivals and lots of other happenings while you're visiting.

- Get off your feet - and off the ground - at the Irish Aerial Dance Festival, June 6-20, in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre runs the festival in conjunction with An Grianán Theatre and Letterkenny County Council. Fidget Feet is Ireland's foremost aerial dance theatre company and has toured the world. See [irishaerialdancefest.com](http://irishaerialdancefest.com)
- Bloomsday in Dublin (June 16) brings out Edwardian costumes, straw boaters and striped jackets for readings, performances and reenactments as the city celebrates Leopold Bloom,

its favorite fictional son and the antihero of James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

- Killarney Festival of Music and Food ([killarneyfestival.ie](http://killarneyfestival.ie)) is June 27 and 28 and brings together eclectic music, comedy and gourmet food in Killarney town. Assorted acts will perform on seven stages and include more than 60 Irish and international musicians and bands. There will also be comedy acts and much more for the whole family to enjoy.
- Body and Soul is an arts/music festival, June 19-21, designed to "explore and discover new music, interact with visual and performance art outside a traditional setting, and celebrate life in all its shapes and colors." Features include music-filled yurts, poetry by candlelight, starlit sessions and more at Ballinlough Castle in Clonmelon, Co. Westmeath. The festival has sold out for

the past four years, so be sure to visit bodyandsoul.ie and book tickets if you'd like to attend.

- The inaugural Irish Famine Summer School, June 17-21 at the Irish National Famine Museum, Strokestown Park, Co. Roscommon, includes speakers, tours, exhibits and more. Scheduled speakers are from The Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut, as well as University of Toronto, Mellon Centre for Migration in Omagh, Northern Ireland, University of New South Wales, Maynooth University, University College Cork, University College Dublin and NUI, Galway. For details or to book, visit [irishfamine-summer-school.com](http://irishfamine-summer-school.com)

Enjoy Ireland whenever you visit and be sure to take advantage of the many opportunities there, including theatre, arts, music, festivals, sports and much more.



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# 'SO ABUNDANTLY BLESSED'

(Continued from page 1)

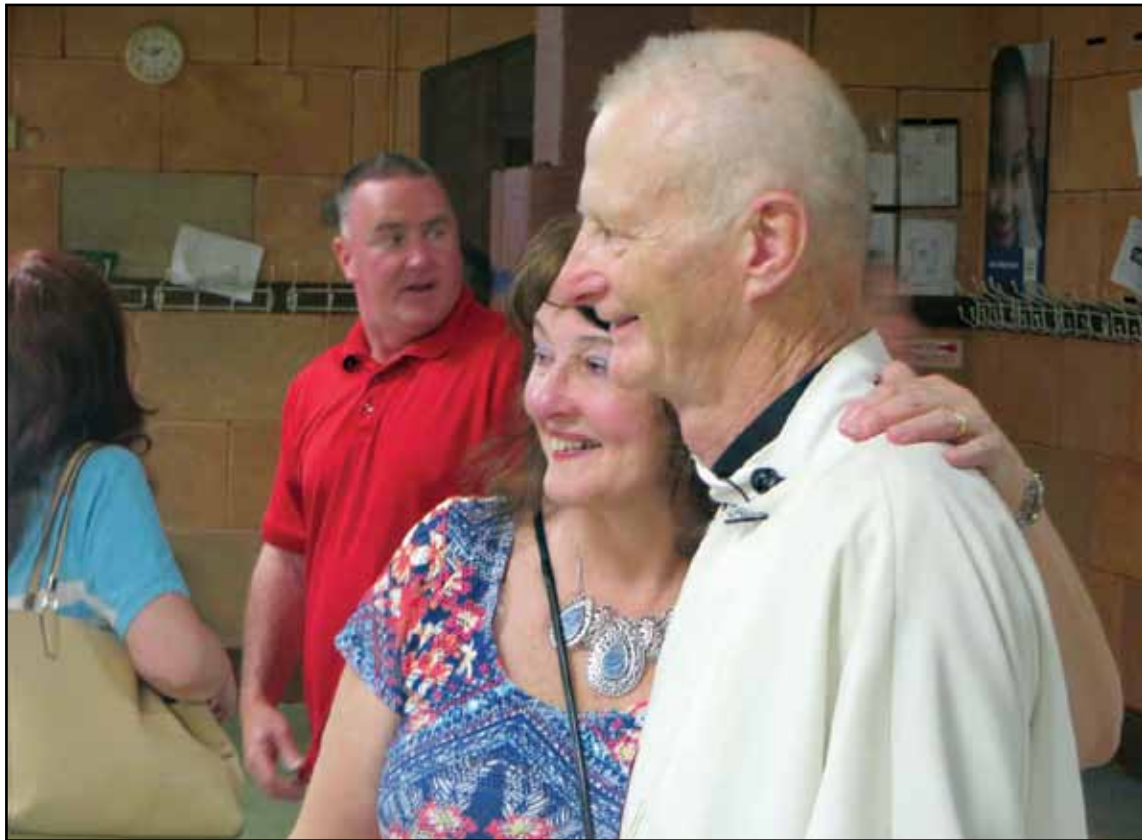
The family lived a “simple, straightforward, church-centered life,” he said. His father, James, was a mechanic and his mother Christina, one of 16 children, was a housewife. To Dan Finn, Kanturk was a “big extended family,” and he took great pleasure in playing sports (Irish football, hurling, and handball) and in being part of a team. It never dawned on him to become a priest until at age 18 he went to live in North Billerica with an aunt, whom he fondly calls his “Statue of Liberty.” On leaving home? “There wasn’t much in Ireland for me in those days. I needed a way out.”

The young immigrant was enrolled as a senior at North Billerica High School, as strange a venue for him as the bar scene in *Star Wars*. “I didn’t know where to go or what to do.” But a guidance counselor finally helped him find the handle, asking probing questions about what he wanted to do with his life. “Until then, no one had ever asked me,” Finn recalled. “There were no choices before.”

He took the challenge as a word from the Lord and over time realized he had a calling to the priesthood. After graduation, he attended Somerville High School for a year of Latin, a prerequisite before entering the seminary. He then enrolled at Cardinal O’Connell Seminary in Jamaica Plain for two years before attending St. John’s Seminary in Brighton in preparation for his ordination.

His first assignment was to St. Catherine’s in Norwood; six months later he transferred to Sacred Heart in Roslindale where he stayed for seven years. He was then assigned to St. Peter’s in Dorchester for 13 years where he became assistant pastor before becoming pastor in 1993 at St. Mark’s.

Recently, Father Finn spoke with the Reporter about his love for the community while reflecting on his years in Dorchester and across the city. A passionate advocate of all immigrant causes – Irish, Haitian, Dominican, Vietnamese, and other newcomers to the city – he has always considered Boston as “a vibrant place with an ethnic



A parishioner has a final word with Fr. Finn after his final Sunday Mass. *Ed Forry photo*

mix that is exciting to me and, in their attention to church activities, good for the parish.”

**Q.** “As you wrap up your ministry in Dorchester, what thoughts spring immediately to mind?”

**A.** “Thirty-five years – half my life – has been in Dorchester. All three parishes, and so many wonderful people over the decades here. They have all been such an example to me. I can’t think of a better place to have spent all these years. Although so many parishioners, so many friends here, have passed, they are still my cheerleaders, still keep me on the road.”

**Q.** “Can you speak to the many ways Dorchester has changed since your arrival?”

**A.** “Dorchester had indeed changed so very much. The city’s very make-up has changed, and I love it. I love today’s diversity. Where else in the archdiocese could I have experienced so many cultures? Because of my own immigrant experience in coming here from Ireland, I believe I can understand on a personal level all the issues that bring us to the States.

War, harsh economic conditions, persecution – all these and more drive people to these shores to make a better life for their families, and like the Irish and every other group that came before, today’s immigrants want that, and they want to work hard for that. I’ve always found that so many immigrants use great faith to battle great hardships. I understand that.

“That’s the greatness of America and the greatness of the church. All you have to do is look at St. Mark’s and the other splendid old churches around here, and you can see how the church has served as a religious, cultural, and social centerpiece of the community, not just in name, but in faith.”

**Q.** “You have ministered to new immigrant groups over most of your years at St. Mark’s. How has your approach changed for those whose native language is not English?”

**A.** “In my early days here, people like myself who came from Ireland spoke English, so despite the hardships, we understood the language. To help people who speak little or

no English, we started English programs to give them the basics here and to get them on the path to citizenship. Breaking down language barriers is crucial to helping people contribute fully to the community and have a real chance at the American dream.

“Building the community also means providing opportunities for poor children to have safe places to play, grow, and interact with other children of all groups and races. Wainwright Park has been a great success in that way. With sports, ice skating, field trips, and so many other programs open to all the neighborhoods’ kids, I believe we’ve been able to connect the message of the Mass into a wonderful community effort.”

**Q.** What aspects of the church have you seen as being constant throughout your ministry?

**A.** “For me, the Mass remains the constant, the compass for any parish. My message has always been for people – including me – to take the messages of the gospel and the sermon out with us on the street. I urge people to act the same on the

street as in church.”

**Q.** “How has the problem of declining attendance at Mass and for the church in general impacted your ministry?”

**A.** “When I was first ordained, people came to church in big numbers. St. Mark’s used to have 8,000 coming to Mass on Sundays. Now it’s 1,000-1,500. It shows that there’s a great need to reconnect with people and engage them both in and out of church. Pope Francis puts this very well and is returning the church to a more pastoral role. The church must be inclusive – just look at how the pope has worked to start healing the problems between the US and Cuba.”

**Q.** “So what’s next for you and what do you take with yourself personally from your life in Dorchester?”

**A.** “I’m taking the summer off and plan to travel to Nova Scotia as well as a few other spots. I haven’t received a letter of assignment yet. “As I leave Dorchester, I realize how much I love these neighborhoods and the people here. I’m a city guy, and Dorchester has made me not just stronger, but also grateful. I know that whatever’s coming, I can take it on. I still have so many friendships from my early days here, lifelong friendships. Now, I can just ring doorbells in Dorchester as a friend, with no need to be a priest unless needed with my friends. People are like candles, the flame reflecting God’s presence in all of us.

“I remember, too, the departed from my years in Dorchester. I still feel their spirit every day. As you get older, more of our friends and loved ones have gone to the other side; but they’re still with us. Life is about separation and about the way in which we deal with that. I don’t mean to sound morbid, but I truly believe that this is all preparation for the biggest separation from life to the other side. We should not fear that, but live life to the fullest. I have been so abundantly blessed, and so much of that is because of Dorchester and its people.”

*Greg O’Brien contributed to this report via his interview in 2005.*

## In last Sunday Mass, pastor reflects on 23 years, sings farewell: ‘Love Changes Everything’

St. Mark’s Church was standing room only at noon-time on Sun., May 31, as Fr. Dan Finn bade members of his flock farewell (for the time being, he added).

Alternatively serious and light-hearted, he looked out over the congregation and talked about the wonderful diversity of those in attendance and those who lived on the streets of “this one-acre parish in the center of Dorchester (“You don’t have to join the Navy to see the world,” he said. “Just come to St. Mark’s”).

Fr. Finn also asked for a remembrance of those who over 110 years had built the parish into a place where religion always played a strong and supportive role.

In his sermon, the pastor of 23 years reiterated his long-expressed belief that being a member of the parish means little if a person doesn’t take the lessons of Jesus Christ’s life out of the church and into the streets where life was being lived individually. He ended his homily by breaking into song – “Love Changes Everything” – a performance interrupted by applause in the middle and a vigorous ovation at its conclusion.

In the final minutes of the Mass, a number of parish girls, their diversity in full flower, danced their way from the back of the church up to the altar, twirling lighted candles en route to the seat of the man of the hour.

A reception followed in the church hall downstairs, giving parishioners a chance to say their own goodbyes.

– TOM MULVOY



The friends of Fr. Finn line up to say farewell. *Ed Forry photo*



# COMMUNITY VOICES

## The Father Dan Finn We Know

“As pastor of Saint Mark’s Church, a community in which seven different languages are spoken, Fr. Dan Finn is passionately committed to helping immigrants whether their origin is Ireland, Vietnam, or Uganda. He was one of the co-founders of the Irish Pastoral Centre, an organization that continues to thrive and to be a vital resource for the Irish community.

“Almost fifteen years ago, in response to Fr. Dan’s request, the Irish International Immigrant Center (IIIC) established a series of Citizenship Workshops to assist members of Saint Mark’s parish along the path to naturalization. Over five hundred people became American citizens through this program. The IIIC continues this partnership by offering bi-monthly legal clinics at the Church where Dorchester residents can obtain free immigration and citizenship advice.

“In 2011, the IIIC honored Fr. Dan with its Solas Award. At that time, former IIIC Executive Director Sister Lena Deevy described Fr. Dan as “a man who, with no fuss or ego, has been a pastor, advocate, mentor, and an inspiring friend to so many people.”

“Fr. Finn’s retirement as pastor of Saint Mark’s Parish is merely a change of course. We can expect so much more from this amazing and gifted man as he now turns his talents in a new direction.”

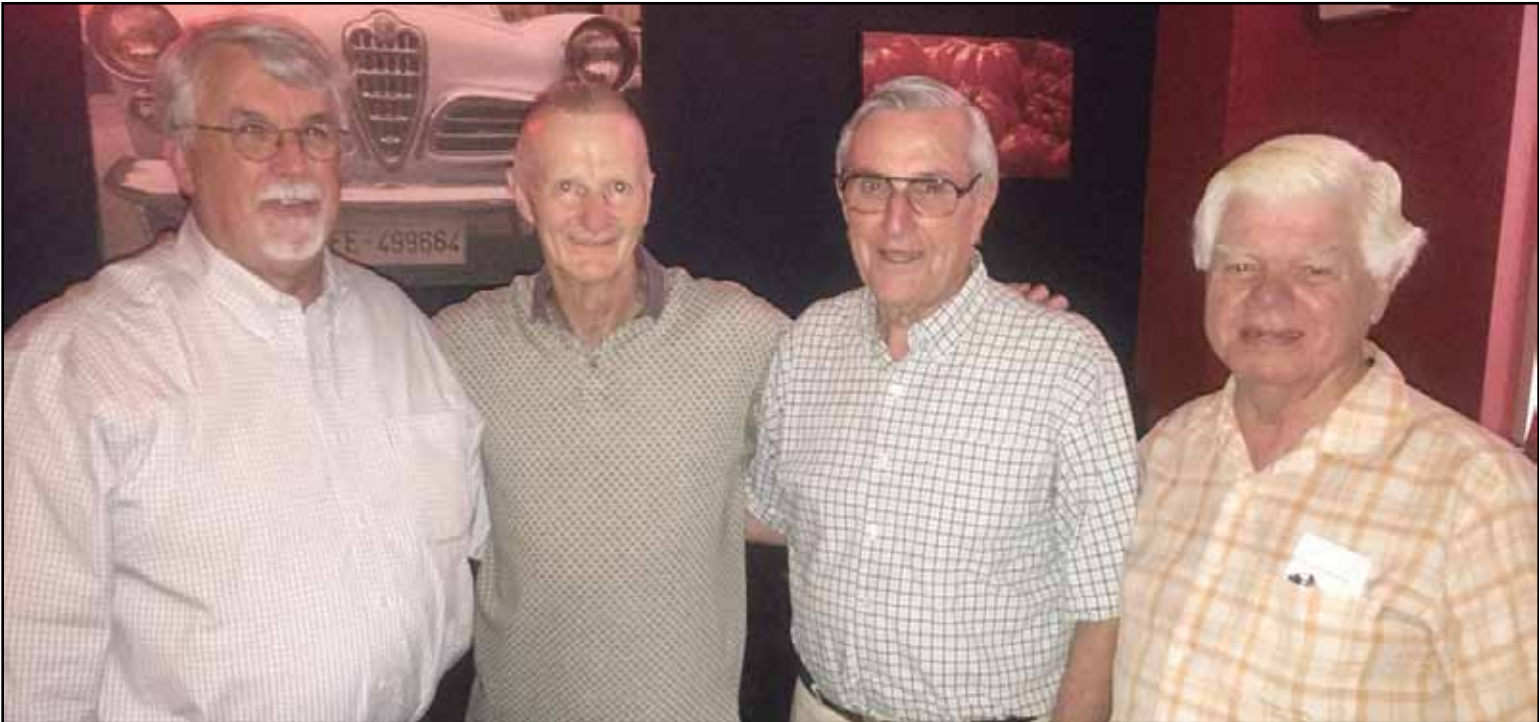
**Ronnie Millar**  
Executive Director  
Irish International  
Immigrant Center

...

“All my memories of Fr. Finn are my favorites. “Any present you gave him, he’d give it to someone else. We always joked that you should never hang coat on coat rack in hallway at the rectory because he might give it to someone else who needed it.”

“When I started at the rectory in 1999, I did not know that singing was part of the job. We would have monthly sing-alongs where everyone would sing their signature song. Fr. Finn would sing “The Rose” and then it was my turn. My mind went blank with only three songs in my head (that I knew all the words to), “The National Anthem,” “Happy Birthday,” and “You Are My Sunshine.” Well, I sang “You Are My Sunshine,” and have been singing it at every function since.

“Fr. Finn is a ray of sunshine. I have never met a person so filled with love for others. He truly lives the gospel on the streets, outstretching his hand in friendship and compassion to each person he meets. He makes each person feel as if



Pictured with Father Dan Finn (second left) are Rich Iandoli, Fr. Gene Sullivan and Fr Gerry Osterman. Ed Forry photo

they are an extended member of his family. He is one of the smartest men I have met, he is well read, well versed and well spoken.

“I remember the day we took the children from our summer Bible camp on a trip to the Duck Boats. I don’t know who was more excited sitting up on top, the kids or Fr. Finn. He was beaming, fidgeting waiting for the ride to begin.

“Then there were the times when I came into work to find Fr. Finn up a tree with a chainsaw in his hand, or on the avenue shoveling snow late at night. There simply is no job too big or small for him, and he would never ask you to do something he would not do himself.

“Scenes for the memory bank: Fr. Finn holding up a newly baptized child, as in the Lion King, as he introduces the newest member of his flock. ... The way he sits quietly with a grieving family. His silence speaks volumes.”

**Judy Greeley**  
Secretary, St. Mark’s Rectory

...

“He has contributed so much to Dorchester over the years. There are so many places he has touched in the neighborhood and the city of Boston. He has been a pastor a long time and has seen the community change from preliminarily Irish Catholic to a diverse immigrant population.

“Father Finn has made a real effort to involve both long-term and newer parishes in the St. Mark’s community. He has shown that it’s important for people to be able to be involved with the parish despite being new to the community. And he

has enabled others to be leaders, not just himself, and he has displayed that in this transition.”

“He responds to the needs of the community. He’s the go-to person for so many different people. To his credit, he’s done this across lots of immigrant groups.”

**Lew Finfer**,  
Massachusetts Community  
Action Network.

...

“Fr. Finn is one of those people who genuinely, genuinely, genuinely loves every person he meets. He sees the good and the possibilities in every human being; it doesn’t matter who they are, where

they come from, what they have or don’t have. So when you need him, you’re just drawn to him

“He helps people feel useful, wherever they are. He knows how to ID talent, put people to work doing good things.

“He’s truly a special man. Is he a saint? He is. I think he’s a saint on earth. I believe so. He always says to us, to his congregation, that we all have to be the hands and feet of Christ on earth. And he is absolutely that, and he challenges all of us to be that way.

“He is a man who is able to see that despite problems in his own life, that Christ is the way and the light, and we don’t have any problems of our own.

“I am hopeful that he will stay in the area even though he is retired from St Mark’s, because he’s a man who you want to be your friend for life, a guy who is very holy but very human.”

**Alyce Lee**  
St. Mark’s parishioner, lector

...

“Dan Finn doesn’t tell you what you need to be a good Catholic Christian; he shows you by example. For all the years that he’s been at St Mark’s he has enabled me to sustain my faith in the Catholic Church in what have obviously been pretty tough times. That’s a special gift.”

**Jim Keefe**  
parishioner

...

“I have been coming to St. Mark’s since 2004, which is when I met Father Finn. A good man, I have never seen better in my life.

“You know what? It’s like a miracle. When I was transferred to Boston College, my bishop asked the archbishop to find a place for me to stay. And then the archbishop introduced me to Fr. Finn, a very, very nice person, and St Marks became my second home.

“Fr. Finn is very welcoming, accepts everybody; he has room for everybody in his heart. He listens, he understands everyone, you know, you can’t find a better man than Father Dan. I came here early this year, because I wanted to witness his leaving.

**Fr. Emmanuel Mwerekande**,  
visiting priest from Uganda

...

“I was a pastor with Dan for eight years at St. Peter’s in Dorchester. He was as active then as he is now. The man doesn’t stop.

A good priest, a prayerful priest, a fun guy to be with, just a dynamite person

“The GAA games- that started in the seminary. He was playing

GAA football in the seminary and he used to be out every Sunday and nobody knew it! He loves tennis too, I don’t know if he still plays but he played tennis for years. He came over (from Ireland) and finished high school in Lowell.

“How has he changed? I would say very little - deeper in spirituality, and stronger in his mission outlook, I would say.

“He was going all the time. He was strong even in the seminary. Dan reminds me of my father (I’m a procrastinator). At St. Peter’s Dan would ask: Should we paint that room and I would answer, maybe we should. The next thing you knew, he and three of his Irish friends were there and the paint job was done.

“The core of any story about Dan Finn is that he’s a priest, and a very good priest, a very prayerful priest. Everything else fills in on the side. Any hour of the day, any time, and he’s always available. That’s what makes him the man that he is.”

**Fr. Eugene Sullivan**  
senior priest,  
Sacred Heart, Roslindale

...

In January 2015, St. Mark’s incoming pastor, **Rev. Linh Nguyen**, talked to the *Reporter* about Father Finn, whom he first met when he was a teenager going to church at St. Peter’s on Meetinghouse Hill:

“He’s a gentle soul and a great model for a pastor, really: to treat people like family and to be with them and not just as a pastor, but as friend and to journey with them at every moment of their life. He’s just kind, gentle, and a good priest.”

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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*

# ICCNE hails its 25th birthday

The Irish Cultural Center of New England (ICCNE) celebrated its 25th anniversary with a dinner dance gala on Saturday, May 30.

On a mild and beautiful summer-like evening, some 400 revelers enjoyed an outdoor cocktail reception followed by a roast beef and turkey dinner served family-style by Hart Caterers.

Guest of honor for the evening was Stephen “Sonny” O’Brien, a center founder and long-time member of the board.

In a special event during the reception hour, the main building was dedicated in his name, emblematic of O’Brien’s million dollar gift that has enabled the center to rebuild its bridge, repave roadways and parking areas, upgrade the main building, and retire its mortgage.

Opening remarks were delivered by president Tom Gallagher, a blessing was



**Boston Mayor Marty Walsh was greeted by Christine Kinealy and Lynn Bushnell of Quinnipiac University during festivities at the ICCNE’s 25th anniversary gala May 30 in Canton.**  
*Ed Forry photo*

invoked by Rev. John McCarthy, and the event was MC’d by Dick Flavin, the Fenway park voice of the Boston Red Sox.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and Congressman Stephen Lynch were among the special guests, and there was a featured

performance by the Mofat School of Irish Dance. Music was provided by John Connors and the Irish Express.

# UK’s Charles meets Sinn Fein for 1st time on Ireland visit

GALWAY, Ireland (AP) — Prince Charles began an official visit to Ireland by meeting the leader of the Irish nationalist Sinn Fein party for the first time, in another symbolic milestone of the peacemaking process.

Charles clasped right hands and chatted over tea with Gerry Adams amidst a crowd at the National University of Ireland in Galway.

The encounter took place Tuesday at the start of Charles’ four-day visit to the Republic of Ireland and the neighboring British territory of Northern Ireland. Adams, a reputed former Irish Republican Army chief, had never met a British royal before.

This is Charles’ third trip to the Irish Republic since the outlawed IRA called a cease-fire in 1994.



**Britain’s Prince Charles shakes hands with Northern Ireland’s Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness as he visits St Patrick’s Church in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Thursday May 21, 2015. On May 19, the Prince chatted with Gerry Adams during a visit to Galway.**  
*Adam Gerrard/PA via AP*

On Wednesday he visited Mullaghmore, Co. Galway

where the IRA assassinated his great-uncle

Lord Louis Mountbatten in 1979.

# U2 guitarist falls off stage in 1st concert

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — U2 guitarist The Edge says he’s fine after falling off the stage at a concert May 14 in Vancouver. The Irish rocker is joking about his tumble on the band’s Instagram

account, where he posted a photo of his scraped arm with the message: “Didn’t see the edge, I’m ok!”

The accident happened near the end of the first show of the band’s new world tour, which kicked

off Thursday night. An online video apparently shot by an audience member shows the guitarist sauntering toward the lip of an illuminated walkway, and falling straight down. The Edge can be seen springing

back up immediately with the help of concert staff, and raising his arm to a cheering crowd.

U2’s tour will be in Boston for three shows at the TD Garden beginning July 10.

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# The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Last month we studied all of the forms of the little **preposition** “in” or “at”, **i**. Let’s review these and then learn one of the special ways that this **preposition** is used.

The **preposition I eclipses**, “over shadows” words that begin with the **consonants b,c, d, f,g, p** and **t** so that they sound like the first letter – and are so written – **mb, cg, nd, bhf, ng, bp**, and **dt**. The second letter remains to remind the reader what the original word was but is not pronounced.

Recall that the **preposition I**, as do all of the more common **prepositions**, combines with the **personal pronouns** (“I, you, he/she/it, etc.”) to form what Irish terms “prepositional pronouns”: **ionam** “in/at me”, **ionat** “in/at you”, **ann** “in/at him”, **inti** “in/at her”, **ionainn** “in/at us”, **ionaibh** “in/at you-all”, **iontu** “in/at them”.

These are not common except for **ann** which is used in many idioms, phrases that mean something other than what they appear to say. An example is **Bhí sé ann**, “He was there” instead of “He was in”.

When **I** is preceded by the article “the”, **an**, they combine to become **sa** as in “We are all at school”, **Tá muid go léir sa scoil**. When the **article** is in the **plural form, na**, the **I** becomes **sna**. -- You did recognize **go léir** as the word English “borrowed” from Irish as “galore”, didn’t you?

At other times **i** becomes **sna** when it means “becoming” or “studying for”. Here is an example: **Tá Nóra ag dul sna bhanaltra**, “Nora is becoming a nurse” implying that she is not there yet. **I** becomes **ina** when someone actually *is* a certain profession. **Tá Nóra ina dhochtúlr** means “Nora *is* a doctor.” An aside, “Nurses” are called “Sisters” in Ireland, a relic of the former religious occupation of “Nuns”.

Still another form of **I** is the emphatic use when it becomes **in** as in the surprise question or exclamation “Is Patrick a nurse?” **An bhfuil in Padraig banaltra?**

**i** is used to form some **adverbial phrases** such **I bhfad** “far”, **I ngra** “in love”, **in am** “on/in time”, and also **in uachtar** “at the top of” or **in iochtar** “at the bottom/foot of”.

Before we get to the other uses of **i**, let us review and do a little more with the **possessive pronouns** or **possessive adjectives** – **mo** “my”, **do** “your”, **a** “his” – all of which **lenite**, “weaken” or “aspirate” the following **noun** if it begins with a consonant such as **teach**, “house” **mo theach, do theach, a theach**. **a** “her” is the only **possessive pronoun** that has no effect on the following noun if it begins with a consonant, “her house”, **a teach**. Remember that **l, n**, and **r** can never be **lenited** (“aspirated”).

**Ar** “our”, **‘ur** “your-plural”, and a “their” **eclipse** following **nouns** if they begin with one of the letters given above – **ar dteach, ‘ur dteach** and **a dteach**.

The “Official Standard Forms” of **ar** and **‘ur** are **ár** and **bhur** but in spoken Irish both are pronounced /uh/ -- as are all of the vowels so **mo** and **do** are really pronounced /muh/ and /duh/ while all of the **a** forms of the **possessives** are simply /uh/.

However, **mo** and **do** before a word beginning with a **vowel** abbreviate **m’** and **do** changes to a **t’** as in **ainm** /AHN-uhm/ “name”, **m’ainm** /MAHN-uhm/ and **t’ainm** /TAHN-uhm/. This time it is a “his” that does not change but a “her” does, adding an **h** right on to the front of a word, **a ainm** /uh AHN-uhm/ “his name” but **a hainm** /uh HAHN-uhm/ “her name”. **Ar, ‘ur**, and a plural (“their”) all add an **n-** so they look like **ar n-ainm** /ar NAHN-uhm/ “our name”, **‘ur n-ainm** /oor NAHN-uhm/ “your-plural name” and **a n-ainm** /uh NAHN-uhm/ “their name”.

Whew! Let’s practice these before we go on, See if you can put these into Irish: “Their name” 2.) “Her ball” 3.) “Your uncle and my mother are going to Dublin.” 4.) “What is your name, child?” 5.) “My son’s name is ‘Bill.’” 6.) Our house is named ‘**Alainn**’, (**Alainn** means ‘Beautiful’ in English.)

Now for a new use of **i**. Irish views “body positions” and “states” as being “in” plus the appropriate **possessive pronoun**. To say, “She is asleep”, Irish must say, “She is in her sleeping”. For “Bill is sitting (down)” or “Bill is seated”, Irish has to say, “Bill is in his sitting (position)”. The same applies for **past** and **future tenses** = “Bill will be sitting” is translated “Will be Bill in his sitting” and “Bill was sitting” as “Was Bill in his sitting.”

Here are some of the more common idioms formed this way. We will practice these in the next column.

<b>coldadh</b>	/KOH-luh/	“sleep”	<b>dhúiseacht</b>	/GOO-shack/	“awake”
<b>seasamh</b>	/SHES-uhv/	“standing”	<b>loighe</b>	/loh/	“lie”
<b>cónaí</b>	/KOH-nee/	“reside”	<b>rith</b>	/roo/	“running”

So, in order to say, “He is standing” we would have to say, “Is he in his standing” **Tá sé i a sheasamh**. Now you see why we had to spend time reviewing **possessive pronouns**.

Answers: 1.) **a ainm** 2.) **a ball** 3.) **Tá m’uncail agus do mhathair ag dúl go Baile Átha Cliath**. 4.) **Cád is t’ainm, a leanaí?** 5.) **‘S e a ainm mo mhac Liam**. 6.) **Is ainm ar dteach ‘Alainn’**.



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6 Saturday	Pub Night with Colm O’Brien: Free Admission	5 Sunday Noel Henry’s Irish Show Band
7 Sunday	Andy Healy	11 Saturday Save The Date: Corrigan Family Benefit Dance on Saturday, July 11, 2015 from 6 PM until 12 AM. Music by Erin’s Melody. Donation \$15. Raffles and Auction including an auto-graphed Tom Brady Football. Sean Corrigan from Co. Mayo was killed in a terrible storm related accident this past winter, Leaving his wife and 3 young children. For more information, Please Call Seamus Mannion at 508-785-0320 or Tracey Mannion Graham at Traceymannion@Yahoo.com
14 Sunday	Denis Curtin	12 Sunday Erin’s Melody With Margaret Dalton
19 Friday	Pub Night with Ireland The Band. Free Admission. Also, Billy’s Brigade Fundraiser for Dana Farber. For more information, please Call Chrissy Laraia at 857-222-8586.	19 Sunday Andy Healy
21 Sunday	Fintan Stanley	
27 Saturday	Irish Social Club 70th Anniversary Party with Andy Cooney and Deidre Reilly. Table and ticket reservations available. Call Mary Maloney at 617-	

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