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ALL ROADS LEAD TO CANTON



Above: The Wolfe Tones' appearance at Irish Fest Boston will include a special presentation of music to commemorate the Easter Rising centenary. Below, at left, Liz and Yvonne Kane will bring their smiles to the stage, and, at right, the groundbreaking Cunningham Family will surely delight with their exciting brand of sean-nos (old-style) dance.



Irish Fest: Stars will come out to shine; an occasion to salute Rising centenary

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It has gone by different names over the years, but the Irish Cultural Centre of New England's annual festival – now known as Irish Fest Boston – is set to celebrate its silver anniversary on June 4 and 5 at the ICC campus in Canton with a line-up that includes international performers such as The Wolfe Tones, John McDermott, Andy Cooney, the Cunningham Family, as well as numerous Boston/Massachusetts acts.

Irish Fest Boston also will feature other Irish-related arts and culture, and family/children-oriented entertainment and activities.

This year's festival will mark the centenary of Ireland's 1916

Uprising, and the commemorative theme will be reflected in several new songs to be performed by The Wolfe Tones. One of the most enduring and popular Irish folk and ballad bands, the Dublin-born group – co-founders Brian Warfield and Noel Nagle, and longtime member Tommy Byrne – has for five decades played its repertoire of traditional, historical, topical, and rebel songs, and humorous ditties throughout the world. Their extensive discography includes 16 studio albums, three live albums, and 40 singles, among them "Flight of the Earls" and "Streets of New York," which were No. 1 hits in Ireland. In 2014, they released their 50th anniversary box set containing six

CDs and three DVDs. Although retired from full-time performing, they have periodically reunited for special events, such as the 1916 Uprising centenary.

The Wolfe Tones will be the closing act on Stage 1 both nights of the festival.

Born in Scotland and raised for most of his childhood in Canada, John McDermott has nonetheless advanced the legacy of the Irish tenor in popular music throughout a long career that stretches back to the early 1980s. Working at a full-time newspaper job, McDermott started out performing at company parties, then began singing the national anthem at professional sporting events

(Continued on page 18)

Deadlock over: Fine Gael's Kenny back in as Taoiseach

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN – Irish Taoiseach Enda Kenny won a narrow re-election last month on his fourth try, ending 70 days of deadlock and forging a novel but fragile minority government containing independent voices.

Kenny received 59 votes, with 49 against, in the 158-member parliament – by far the fewest ever received for a winning premier in Ireland, a nation used to coalition governments with stable majorities. Speculation mounted on how long this government might survive.

In his victory speech, Kenny appealed to opposition lawmakers to "work in partnership together to build a better Ireland. It will be a real test of our democracy, of our character and, indeed, of this house – a test I am convinced we will pass."

Kenny had governed Ireland for the past five years atop a two-party government sporting the strongest majority in Irish history. But voters were angered by the several years of austerity that underpinned Ireland's 2013 exit from an international bailout and shifted support to socialist protest parties and maverick independents in the Feb. 26 election.

Kenny's centrist Fine Gael party, though weakened, retained its top position in the Dail. But its coalition ally in the left-wing Labour Party was decimated, leaving Kenny & Co. without a viable majority partner.

Now, Fine Gael will stay in government only with external support from its age-old enemy, Fianna Fail.

Those parties have never shared power since Ireland's 1920s independence from Britain, when the two took opposite sides in a fratricidal civil war. Fianna Fail rebuffed Kenny's weeks-long effort to form a majority coalition.

Last month's breakthrough became possible once Fianna Fail accepted a compromise plan to support legislative votes from outside government ranks on a case-by-case basis through late 2018.

Kenny had lost three previous leadership votes as Fianna Fail's 44 lawmakers blocked his nomination.

(Continued on page 9)



The Glasnevin Cemetery Trust and Tourism Ireland is touting new features, tours, and sites that have made the resting ground one of Dublin's most popular tourist destinations. Above, the tomb of "the Liberator," Daniel O'Connell. See Page 9.

Photo from the book, "GLASNEVIN: Ireland's Necropolis," by Shain MacThomais.



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An old pub on Dot Ave. takes on a new look

By BILL FORRY
EDITOR

Dorchester's newest restaurant, the Lower Mills Tavern, will officially open its doors next week, just in time for Dorchester Day. It's worth the wait.

The *Reporter* was given a chance to peek inside and sample a beer or two during a private, pre-opening event hosted by co-owner Ken Casey, the front man for the Dropkick Murphy's, and his business partner, Brian O'Donnell, a Milton native who lives in Lower Mills and can walk to the new eatery. O'Donnell's wife, the acclaimed interior designer Taniya Nayak, came up with the concept for the space, which sought to brighten and modernize what had become a tired-looking watering hole. The trio has succeeded in transforming the former Lower Mills Pub into a welcoming and cozy neighborhood hangout that feels hip without a hint of pretentiousness.

"It was really important to us to get this right," said Nayak, who has designed restaurants all over the world. "We know the Lower Mills Pub was there forever. We wanted it to feel a part of Lower Mills, but a revised version."

This is the third joint venture for Casey and O'Donnell, who own and operate Central Bistro and McGreevey's, an Irish-themed sports bar on Boylston Street. They are in the process of building out another restaurant space at the Ink Block in the city's South End.

The Lower Mills project, initially slated for last fall, has enjoyed overwhelming support from the local civic association, which approved the developers' pursuit of the pub in April 2015. But the Casey-O'Donnell



The Lower Mills Tavern on Dorchester Avenue will open for business on May 31. The former pub has been totally renovated by a new ownership team, which includes Dropkick Murphy's leader Ken Casey and experienced restaurateur Brian O'Donnell.

team did not acquire the property until late last year, the sale having been prolonged by a licensing issue stemming from a decades-old dispute over the ownership under the previous management.

In January, the new owners transferred the old pub's liquor license to their South End project, then sought and acquired a new license for the Lower Mills space.

Renovations went into high gear over the winter. Nayak says her husband would sometimes walk over to the space from their Milton home, pick up a jack-hammer, and pound away on the demolition work himself.

"This place feels like our baby," she said. "We put so much into it and so much care. [Brian's] dad would come in and help with the

work. It's very much a family place for us."

Last weekend, during a private event that included patrons of the old pub, Nayak said she was elated that the feedback was so positive. "It needed a little update, it needed a change, but part of my design MO is making sure there's always a tie back to something."

In this case, Nayak and the team seized on a vintage mural that predated even the old pub. The colorful oatmeal ad was painted on the side of an adjacent building and was left intact when the pub was built next to it, likely in the 1940s.

The mural now serves as a perfect backdrop for the bar. "It was the greatest thing," said Nayak. "We found out that we had a few inches more mural to

expose. We didn't have to do much to it. We gave it a good scrub-down, but the colors are so vibrant, it held up."

Nayak added her own touches elsewhere: tufted leather booths that are favored by O'Donnell and Casey in their other pubs. Large windows that swing open in warm weather line the Dot Ave frontage and let natural light pour into what was once a darkened space, but which now has room for 91 customers.

"It gives it that nice, cozy pub feel. You want to sit down and not get up."

Nayak went to great lengths to find the right vendor to install a throwback hexagon-shaped tile mosaic – with the initials LMT – that greets visitors at the entrance.

Casey was content to leave the finer design

touches to Nayak. "I haven't seen an idea of hers that I didn't like," said Casey, who is recording an album with his band and prepping for a month-long tour in Europe that starts next week. "We're very fortunate to have her involved. What she did was just right: It's a nod to the old place and also such a cool look to it."

Casey has been just as impressed with the menu, which is coming together under the direction of 26-year-old Colton Wood, formerly of the Ashmont Grill and Loco.

"I came in for tastings a few times and the food was way better than I expected. You know, when we started, we just planned simple pub fare in the McGreevey's style, but this has now become a legit awesome restaurant

and I think people will really like it. I definitely think in this day and age people expect more," he said.

Casey joked: "I've never had a black bean burger in my life, and I'm not the type to have one, but it is awesome."

The tavern has also turned to its neighbors down the block to help design a signature dessert: The Ice Creamsmith teamed up with Colton to create an ice cream sandwich that Casey proudly dished out to friends last Sunday.

Despite the lack of a traditional stage, the tavern will still find room for music "a couple of nights a week," said Casey. "If you take a space that's already small and put in a kitchen where there wasn't one before, you run out of room pretty fast," he said. "But there's a nice spot in front of windows to put in a riser and have a small three-piece."

The tavern is still hiring and training staff, and the owners are careful to note that they are not open yet, despite some private events that included a visit from a prominent neighbor, Mayor Marty Walsh.

Casey said they're excited that they'll be throwing open the doors on May 31. "For me, this is an area where I know a lot of people. This is somewhere where I'll spend time and bring the family to eat."

O'Donnell and Nayak, who live just across the Neponset, will be regulars, too. The pub's proximity to their home was what drew them to the project in the first place.

"The nice thing about having a place in the neighborhood is that we have felt that people are so supportive."

Follow the team's progress to the opening on Twitter: @LowerMillsTav

Mural depicts Ray Flynn as harbor booster

Ray Flynn, former Mayor of Boston and US Ambassador to the Vatican, was honored at the harbor's Black Falcon facility last month with the unveiling of a life-sized mural depicting him overlooking Boston's waterfront.

The artwork was created by children representing the Laboure Center, South Boston Boys and Girls Club, South Boston Catholic Academy, South Boston Community Health Center and the South Boston Arts Association.

The students were instructed by South Boston artist and watercolorist Dan McCole.

The ceremony, which drew city and state officials, took place at the Cruiseport Boston Black Falcon facility operated by Massport, as part of the Cruiseport Boston Week celebrating the 30th anniversary of the facility.

Massport CEO Tom Glynn praised Flynn for preserving the South Boston waterfront and bringing it back to active use. As a youth, Flynn worked on the docks as a longshoreman alongside his father and father-in-law.



ICC hails 'Riverdancers' on 20-year anniversary tour

Currently on their 20th Anniversary North American tour, the cast of Riverdance has been performing nonstop for months. By the end, they will have performed in 75 cities, often in multiple shows per day.

Which leaves the question: What do the dancers do on their rare days off?

Last month, they used respite time to visit the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton, where eight members were guests of honor – a public meet and greet, a dance showcase, honorary ICC memberships, and a nice meal – in celebration of their anniversary tour.

"There are now fantastic roles for Irish dancers because of Riverdance," said ICC's director of programming and Development, Maudy Dooher.

Almost 100 people, many of them ICC members, gathered to meet the dancers and watch them perform a brief line. Children from local Irish dance schools followed the performers with their own treble reel.

Dooher said the children were in awe of the professionals. "It's every young dancer's dream to make it to Riverdance,"



Members of the Riverdance 20th anniversary tour danced at the ICC in Canton. Ed Forry photo

she said. "To meet them up close and personal was a real privilege and a special honor for them."

After the event, the cast members went into Boston for an eight-show run at the Wang Theater.

– KIERA MURRAY

Quick-Look Calendar June 2016

June 1: Síobhra Aiken, former Irish Fulbright language Teaching assistant for the Irish Cultural Centre and Elms College, will discuss the Gaelic

poet Patrick F. Hagerty at 7 p.m. in the Library Theater at Elms College in Chicopee.

Hagerty was a Gaelic poet and scholar from

Springfield, Mass. who learned to read and write Irish in the States and passed on the language to his children while delivering Irish languages classes in this area.

The discussion will also shed light on the Gaelic Feis of Springfield. Free and open to the public.

Learn more at IrishCenterwne.org.

June 4-5: The annual Irish Festival will take over the 46-acre campus of the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton. The schedule:

Sat., June 4 – 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sun., June 5 – 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the

gate; discounted advanced tickets available through irishfestboston.com.

June 25: The Irish Cultural Centre Library will host the Friends of Irish Research for a session of the School of Irish Genealogy on Sat., June 25 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For details and

to register, please email friendsofirisresearch@gmail.com.

– KIERA MURRAY

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See Sean Smith's calendar of Irish music and dance events in June in the arts section of this edition.

UPCOMING EVENTS & CONCERTS AT THE ICC



June 7th: The Kane Sisters will play in the Irish Cottage at the ICC . Tickets \$20 in advance/ \$25 on the door



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August 19th: SHARON SHANNON
will play LIVE at the ICC Concert Tent .
Tickets \$30



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August 11th: Live at the ICC Concert Tent
Dinner & Dancing - Tickets \$30



- Coming in September:
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 - ICC Golf Tournament
 - Helena Byrne Irish *Storyteller & Singer*



July 15th : EMISH "High powered Irish-
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Please join our friends at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England on June 4th and 5th for a lively celebration of traditional Irish music, dance, and history.

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Publisher's Notebook

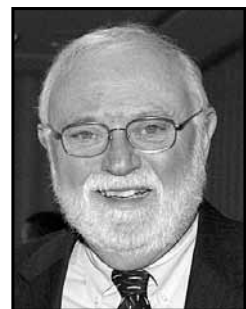
Logan-to-Cork route bid mired in dispute

By Ed Forry

Bostonians looking for a new way to fly from Logan to Ireland might soon be able to book a non-stop flight to County Cork on a low-cost economy airline operated by an Ireland-based subsidiary of a Norwegian air carrier. Or maybe not.

There was excited reaction on April 15 when the US Transportation Dept. approved a permit to Norwegian Air International (NAI) for a Cork-Boston flight. DOT's "show cause order" included a 21-day comment period, and the final decision was expected by late May or early this month.

Cork leaders were delighted that their city would soon be hub for regular transatlantic flights to the US, with Cork Airport head Niall McCarthy telling



the Irish Times, "We have been working hugely behind the scenes. I've been over to Washington several times and we have got great support from local representatives and from the Chamber particularly, from the councils and from the Irish government."

The Times noted that McCarthy had told Cork's local FM radio station that "there was huge opposition within

the US, particularly from trade unions to the granting of this permit and it does show the Irish lobby is still a powerful lobby in the States and we have been successful in bringing it to where it is at, but we have put huge work in."

In mid-April, the Cork/Boston route was all but certain, but on April 28, four members of Congress introduced what they termed a "bipartisan bill to stop a short-sighted DOT decision." Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Rick Larsen (D-WA), Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ) and Lynn Westmoreland (R-GA) filed H.R. 5090, which they said seeks to "prevent the US Department of Transportation (DOT) from permitting a foreign air carrier to operate between European countries and the United States unless the carrier complies with basic, fair US or European Union labor standards. ... NAI established itself in Ireland, where labor laws permit the airline to hire its pilots and flight attendants on individual employment contracts under non-European law in order to cut costs. NAI's overt practice of labor forum-shopping violates our Open Skies agreement with Norway and the European Union and gives it an unfair competitive advantage in the transatlantic market."

"Consumers may purchase tickets on Norwegian.com and they may board planes marked Norwegian in big bold letters, but this airline is 'Norwegian' in name only," DeFazio said. "The DOT record shows that Norwegian Air International is headquartered in Ireland and employs contract crews based in Thailand to circumvent Norway's fair and strong labor standards. It's a virtual airline set up to undercut competition by exploiting cheap labor. Our bipartisan legislation sends a strong message to DOT—we must stop this race to the bottom, and protect the open and fair transatlantic aviation market."

Added LoBiondo: "Norwegian Airlines has side-stepped the bedrock labor agreements that are the foundation of the US-EU Air Transport Agreement. In so doing, they have compromised the competitiveness of American air carriers. There has been long-standing opposition in Congress to permitting this to go forward."

The issue has become a political hot potato. Cork's Mayor Chris O'Leary challenged Ireland Taoiseach Enda Kenny to "play hardball" in getting the deal done, and the issue has found its way into presidential politics, with both Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders saying they oppose the decision.

In late May, O'Leary told Cork's Evening Echo, "We've been pussyfooting around; it's now time to play hardball. We're hearing a lot of hardball from the US — just because it is election time there doesn't mean we can become a ping pong. We have applied for the route and the license correctly, and we have complied with every piece of paper and legislation that they have sought. There is no reason we shouldn't get this license."

Political turmoil as Ireland awaits the vote on Brexit

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Recent parliamentary elections in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland have created a political instability not seen in many years. Unfortunately, this comes at a time when the controversial prospect of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union is a distinct possibility.



Joe Leary

The British have scheduled a vote on breaking their ties to the EU for June 23 in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. While no one knows the impact of such a move, virtually everyone believes there will be many new problems to solve following a breakaway decision. In the Republic, voters elected a parliament without a clear winner, requiring the formation of a tenuous agreement between two political parties that have been at odds for nearly a century going back to the 1916 Easter Rebellion. Fine Gael only won 50 seats out of 157 but will head the government, but only with the continuous approval of Fianna Fail and its 43 seats. The latter abstained from the vote to elect Fine Gael leader and former Taoiseach Enda Kenny as the republic's new taoiseach.

The vote to install the new government was 59 to 49, with a number of independents joining with Fine Gael. Any serious argument between the two major parties will bring down the government and cause a new election to be held. Most experts feel this could happen anytime while predicting the current agreement will last less than two years. This is not a good situation. The challenges presented by the UK leaving the EU will be substantial, especially in dealing with Northern Ireland and the border between the two divided parts of Ireland.

In the North, the elections to the Stormont Assembly went fairly smoothly. The DUP, and its new leader, Arlene Foster, did very well in taking 38 seats. Foster can be considered the big winner in the North as she replaces Peter Robinson, the DUP's outgoing leader who had taken over from Ian Paisley a few years ago.

Off the Bench

Wall between US and Mexico 'too costly,' says Trump. "I'm proposing a minefield"

By James W. Dolan
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

President Trump announced today that his long-promised plan for a huge wall along the United States-Mexico border now appears more costly than he expected and he was having difficulty getting Mexico to pay for it. Instead, he proposed a simpler solution—a minefield.

"A minefield to halt illegal immigration across the border would be more effective, cheaper, and more attractive," he said. "Besides, we have hundreds of thousands of mines in military warehouses that could be easily deployed to the border. The mines would be a more-subtle deterrent and not detract from the natural beauty of the border area."

"In an effort to reduce costs, I will encourage corporations to sponsor various sections. For a licensing fee, they could have tasteful signs in those areas showing their support for the program. Also under consideration is a reality TV show called "Border Survival" in which desperate illegals try to cross the minefields into the United States. Perhaps we will allow wagering on various contestants as they start out from Mexico. Commercializing the entry attempts could mean the entire project will pay for itself."

"Those who successfully negotiate the minefield will immediately be sworn in as US citizens." When asked by a reporter what happens to those who don't make it, Trump said with a smile, "They're fired. The bold, courageous and daring few who successfully negotiate the minefield will be welcomed as heroes with the 'right stuff' to be Americans. Unlike a wall, this system gives folks a chance and also provides a natural selection process."

What about "collateral damage," a reporter asked, as people are killed or maimed when they attempt an entry? "It's certainly not my intention to injure the innocent," the president said, "but those folks are breaking the law. They know the risks. There is no Statue of Liberty on the Mexican border. If they want to be considered part of the 'huddled masses yearning to be free,' they should enter legally through the port of New York, like my ancestors."

But those folks were not required to swim from the Statue of Liberty to Ellis Island, another reporter observed. Responded Trump: "Well, we probably could

Her party retained the seats they had in the previous Assembly in an election that generally showed substantial strength for Unionist politics.

The number two Unionist Party, the UUP, maintained its 16 seats but it is still struggling to emerge from behind the DUP's shadow.

The Nationalist vote in the North weakened somewhat. Sinn Fein, Northern Ireland's second largest party, ended up with 28 seats, a loss of one seat, and SDLP, which lost two seats, now has 14, less than half of their Nationalist rivals.

A personal success story on the Nationalist side is hard-working Máirtín O'Muilleoir, a Sinn Fein leader who topped the vote in South Belfast and has been appointed Minister of Finance in the new government. O'Muilleoir has visited Boston several times and will be a key figure in the future fortunes of Sinn Fein.

The problem in the North is the dominance of the two major parties, the DUP and Sinn Fein. Usually the lesser parties, the UUP, the SDLP, and Alliance join the government with minor representation, but that is not the case this time. The Alliance Party refused to take the controversial Minister of Justice portfolio and Colum Eastwood of the SDLP, and Mike Nesbitt of the UUP have led their parties into active opposition. This means they will not be part of the government in parliament and will oppose it when they feel it necessary to do so. This will give them both more publicity and identification, but it will hurt progress if they become a hindrance to solving problems. And there are sure to be difficulties if the British decide to leave the EU.

The move by conservatives in Britain to rid themselves of what they perceive as interference by Europeans received a boost when Prime Minister David Cameron offered to have a referendum on the question if he was re-elected. Brexit is the media term for the issue.

The two sides are known as "Leave" and "Remain" As with all elections, there are wild claims being written and spoken on both sides. Cameron is fighting hard to keep the United Kingdom in the EU and his friend, Barack Obama, has helped him with positive statements during the president's recent visit.

The ability to respond to problems in the North if Britain leaves the EU is of critical importance and a sound decision-making Parliament will be necessary.

have eliminated a lot of problems with such a test, but my ancestors would have made it. They were all huge swimmers."

Taking up a query about stories noting that large numbers of American citizens began crossing the border into Canada after the election, the president said, "Yes, the Canadian prime minister called me recently. He said if I don't stop the flow, he would build a wall and make us pay for it. But if they're leaving, we don't want them, so I told him it was his problem. He's got some nerve stealing the wall idea from my playbook."

One correspondent, mentioning that large numbers of Hispanics, many of them American citizens, have been fleeing the country, posed this question: Since there is no such thing as a one-way minefield, won't your plan prevent them from getting out? "I am assigning that problem to Vice President Palin," said Trump, "to take up after she establishes the relocation camps where we will hold the 11 million illegal immigrants before deporting them."

What about those of your supporters who are angry about your decision not to build the wall after promising to do so before the election? "Well, that wall was not a meant to be a real wall; it was a metaphor for a barrier. Just like my ban on Muslims entering the country was a metaphor for terrorists. It's not that I don't mean what I say; just call it poetic license. Obama was much too literal — he meant what he said. I prefer to keep everyone guessing. That way you can get the best deal and even get elected president, as I just demonstrated."

As to his relationship with Congress, Trump said that things have been "just fine since I appointed Ted Cruz to the Supreme Court. He's happy and his colleagues in the Senate are thrilled to be rid of him. I'm having them all up to what used to be Camp David — it's now Donald's Hideaway — for a weekend barbecue. I'll keep them there until we make some deals. I always made my best deals when the other side was either in custody or incapacitated. You want to be unpredictable. Being reasonable just limits your options."

The final question was about Russian President Putin's reaction to Trump's appointment of Bobby Knight as Secretary of Defense? "You mean Vladimir — he asked me to call him Vladimir. He said Bobby was his kind of guy: impulsive and tough. Now there's a winning combination; keeps opponents off balance. Wait'll Bobby starts throwing chairs at one of those Joint Chiefs of Staff meetings."

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



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Point of View

HIGH PERFORMERS IN THEIR SPHERES

The revolutionary Thomas Meagher, and the golfer Christy O'Connor, Sr. deserve acclaim for the loves they led

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

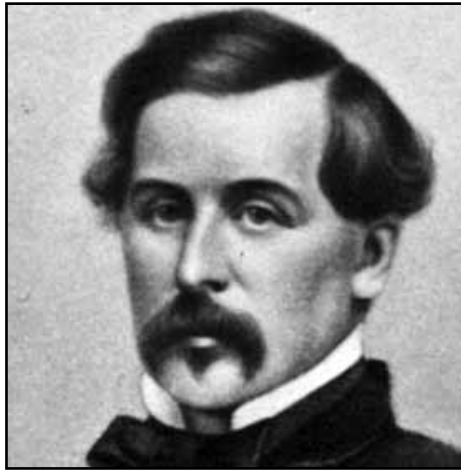
“The Immortal Irishman,” indeed. Some lives splash across a larger-than-life canvas. Such a saga is that of Thomas Francis Meagher. In the finely wrought new biography “The Immortal Irishman: The Irish Revolutionary Who Became an American Hero,” National Book Award winner and Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Timothy Egan has brilliantly captured the proverbial force of nature that was Thomas Francis Meagher.

In many ways, Meagher’s story embodies the quintessential struggle of immigrants escaping oppression to seek a better life in America. As the Great Famine ravaged Ireland in the 1840s, the handsome, well-educated Irishman unleashed his fiery oratory against the British government, denouncing Ireland’s oppressors as at least a million of his fellow Irish perished from starvation and disease.

Meagher translated his words into action when, as a leader of the Young Ireland movement, he launched a revolt against British rule that the empire crushed, in the process transporting Meagher to a prison colony in remote Tasmania, where and early death from hard labor loomed a certainty.

Willing to risk death rather than remain a prisoner, Meagher made a daring escape. Some six months later he turned up in New York City, seething with determination to make his way in America and with a desire to return to Ireland someday to fight for her freedom again.

Acclaimed as a rebel hero by the Irish in America, Meagher’s course moved inexorably, perhaps fittingly, to the carnage of America’s Civil War. As the commander of New York’s legendary Irish Brigade, he led by example, always in the thick of the action. Under his valiant, inspirational leadership, his regiments earned a reputation for fighting prowess that was second to no other unit on either side in the conflict. In many of the war’s bloodiest frays, such as Antietam and Fredericksburg, the Irish Brigade endured stunning casualties but never broke. Meagher was shot from his saddle twice while leading charges against the Confederates. One time, he was left for dead; but to no one’s surprise, he got right back up. Meagher was revered by his fellow



Some lives splash across a larger-than-life canvas. Such a saga is that of Thomas Francis Meagher, above at left. In many ways, Meagher’s story embodies the quintessential struggle of immigrants escaping oppression to seek a better life in America. As the Great Famine ravaged Ireland in the 1840s, the handsome, well-educated Irishman unleashed his fiery oratory against the British government, denouncing Ireland’s oppressors as at least a million of his fellow Irish perished from starvation and disease. At right, Galwayman Christy O’Connor, Sr., who passed away last month at age of 91. While a great many golfers these days might believe that “Irish Golf” somehow started with a bright star whose first name is Rory, O’Connor, Sr., was a trailblazer for the likes of McIlroy, Graeme McDowell, Pádraig Harrington, Darren Clarke, and others in international golf.

Irishmen as a commander who led from in front. Throughout the fighting, he never gave up his dream to return to Ireland – this time at the head of Irish and Irish-American combat veterans hardened on the battlefields of the Civil War and ready to take on the Royal Army on Irish soil.

That dream was one that would elude Meagher. As the territorial governor of Montana after the war, he perished in a manner that remains both tragic and murky to this day. I won’t delve into it, as Timothy Egan brings compelling new evidence to the mysterious circumstances of Meagher’s death.

For anyone interested in Irish, Irish-American, and American history, “The Immortal Irishman” is an absolute must-read. It is of equal importance to Terry Golway’s “Irish Rebel,” the masterful biography of John Devoy.

“*The Immortal Irishman: The Irish Revolutionary Who Became an American Hero*,” Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, hardcover, 384 pages; ISBN-10: 0544272889; ISBN-13: 978-0544272880, \$28.)



RIP to Galway’s grand gift to the links game

In May, Galwayman Christy O’Connor, Sr., passed away at the age of 91 in Dublin’s Mater Hospital. While a great many golfers these days might believe that “Irish Golf” somehow started with a bright star whose first name is Rory, O’Connor, Sr., was a trailblazer for the likes of McIlroy, Graeme McDowell, Pádraig Harrington, Darren Clarke, and others in international golf. The *Irish Post* aptly accorded him the status of “Irish golf legend.”

So how good was O’Connor? There’s a reason – there are many, in fact – why he was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2009. From 1955 to 1973, he played in every Ryder Cup competition. Only Great Britain’s Nick Faldo appeared in more. O’Connor competed in fifteen World Cups for Ireland, his victory in 1958 with Harry Bradshaw proving front-page news across the Emerald Isle.

Former British Open champ and Northern Irishman Darren Clarke lauded O’Connor as man and golfer: “Christy was in many ways the father of Irish golf and his death, so soon after that of his

nephew, Christy Jr., means that Ireland has lost two Ryder Cup legends in the space of five months. Christy, Sr., was a golf icon and a wonderful person as well.” (In January 2016, Christy O’Connor, Jr., named for his uncle and a splendid Ryder Cupper and European Tour professional himself, died at the age of 67.)

In a statement to the media, Ireland Taoiseach Enda Kenny lauded the Galway great: “Christy O’Connor, Sr. was known as ‘Himself’ and always was himself, a wonderful man who left an indelible mark on professional golf and the sporting world.”

He was born in Galway on Dec. 21, 1924, into a famous farming family. His future did lie on “good old Irish turf,” but not on fields marked by stone demesne walls. Instead, he mastered the intricacies of knocking a small ball along rain-kissed, wind-swept fairways.

In his 20s, O’Connor served notice that his links talent was world-class, so much so that Irish golfers soon placed him in the rarefied company of Fred Daly, the first Irishman to win the British Open (1947), and Harry Bradshaw, an Irish Open stalwart and loser to Bobby Locke in a playoff at the 1949 British Open.

Although O’Connor was 13 years younger than Daly and 11 years younger than Bradshaw, the Galwayman joined them as part and parcel of Ireland’s “Great Triumvirate,” on the Irish and British professional circuit of the 1950s.

Possessing a smooth and rhythmic swing, O’Connor was sometimes plagued by a fickle putter. His near misses in the British Open – ties for third place in 1958 and 1961 and a bitterly disappointing second to Peter Thomson in 1965 – would frustrate him. And he was stung by British golf great Henry Cotton’s assessment that Daly, because of his triumph in the 1947 British Open, was Ireland’s “greatest player.”

O’Connor retorted: “The consistent winning of major tournaments over a long period of time, as in my three decades, might be adjudged to be of greater merit than hitting the jackpot once.”

O’Connor rightfully but politely made his case that his on-course resume took a backseat to neither of his fellow members of the Irish triumvirate. The dossier is a full one: Ten Irish PGA titles, ten Ryder Cup teams, 21 wins on the British and Irish circuits, and a PGA Match Play championship.

Some in US see British exit from EU as threat to progress in North

By FRANCIS COSTELLO
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

A vote by a majority in Britain in the upcoming (June 25) referendum to exit the European Union poses a serious threat to the Northern Ireland economy in the view of several US commercial and political leaders, Democrat and Republican alike.

Each of those interviewed has shown a long-standing commitment to building peace and stability in the North that should give some pause to those seeking to minimize the impact of a “Brexit” from the EU.

Computer software pioneer John Cullinane, a frequent visitor to Northern Ireland who served as an advisor to the Clinton Administration and to virtually all the political parties in Northern Ireland over the years as a champion for US investment, stressed that “business likes stability. This was always one of the big issues in getting companies to locate in Northern Ireland,” he stated from Boston.

Cullinane, who played an influential role in persuading a number of US companies to locate in Northern Ireland, feels a British exit from the European Union would create “instability whether real or imagined.”

Likewise, Jim Lyons, who served as a special advisor to President Clinton for Northern Ireland, bluntly summed up what a Brexit from the EU would mean for Northern Ireland: “The border would be re-instituted and cross-border institutions put in jeopardy, especially all Island tourism and economic development. And direct EU funding would obviously be terminated for Northern Ireland.”

Lyons also underscored that US investment and business to business economic partnerships would also “clearly suffer” and added that “while the Republic would still have the ‘EU gateway’ argument, obviously the North would not.”

Former Congressman Jim Walsh, a New York State Republican who was his party’s leader on the influential ‘Friends of Ireland Committee’ in the Congress, believes “the free flow of people, goods and commerce

would be hurt on the island overall. Likewise, Congressman Richard Neal, Walsh’s Democratic partner in the Congress in advancing an agenda supporting peace and stability in Northern Ireland, noted that efforts to equalize the corporation tax between the North and South “would mean little if a land border is restored between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic separating the North from the European Union and more meaningful cross-border cooperation within the island of Ireland.”

“It’s not just history” that lies behind the value of Britain remaining in the EU, Neal said, “it’s also the people, It has been a partner that speaks English in accessing Europe for America.”

Timothy P. Murray, chairman of the Worcester Chamber of Commerce that has some 2,500 members in Central Massachusetts, stresses that “many Massachusetts companies looking to expand business into the European market naturally look to the United Kingdom and Ireland. An exit by the United Kingdom from the European Union will put it at a competitive disadvantage and this will be especially so for Northern Ireland, which has seen significant economic growth over the last two decades.”

The scale of EU investment across a range of social, educational, and infrastructure projects has benefited all communities in Northern Ireland. Almost 150 million pounds have been committed by the European Investment Bank to support the development of Ulster University’s new Belfast campus. While in 2013 alone, the EU invested 5 billion pounds across several sectors of the UK economy, the European Investment Bank also provided 200 million pounds for such important road projects as the upgrading of the M1 and M2 motorways as well as for key improvements to large sections of the A1, the A4 and the A5. This in addition to many hundreds of millions in structural fund programs for peace and reconciliation and many millions more for agriculture, fisheries, and overall social inclusion.

The importance of the EU in helping to spur badly needed private sector economic growth in the North is shown by the role of the European Investment Bank in helping to grow the fledgling venture capital industry. In providing a total of 13 million pounds in vital investment to Crescent Capital and its first two venture funds the EU helped to spawn venture capital in an area emerging from years of conflict. Its investment in Crescent between 1995 and 2005 saw the development of successful local technology companies like And/or, Lagan, APT, Amino, and Mail Distiller.

With that in mind, Crescent CEO Colin Walsh said, “It would be very countered productive after all that success in my view if Britain and Northern Ireland in particular were to leave the European Union. It has not only helped connect us to important sources of investment capital but also to produce high tech growth and access to the European marketplace as active players. Clearly without this engagement with the EU Northern Ireland rather than going forward would become more peripheral,” Walsh said.

Ironically, a vote to leave the EU could play into the hands of those seeking to stoke up tensions in Northern Ireland and to remove the EU as a significant investment partner throughout Northern Ireland and in the border region.

That is why to many it has been especially perplexing that British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Theresa Villiers supports leaving the EU and accepting a return to a land border on this island, offering only the anodyne comment that “sensible arrangements” can somehow be worked out.

That attitude is a throwback to the old ruling class mindset that was content to allow the economic and political clock on this island to go backwards. It also recklessly ignores the hard work done by so many people in both communities with the engagement of the US and the EU to build hope and opportunity.

Dr. Francis Costello is a Belfast-based consultant assisting US and Irish companies.



Surrounded by students at Franklin (MA) High School is “Children In Crossfire” chief Richard Moore (back row left, light shirt, sunglasses) following his talk there during a series of meetings in the United States in behalf of the Irish charity aiding children around the world. Also shown is Paul Pelan, of the Irish International Immigrant Center in Boston (second from right, back row).

BIR gives hundreds of books to ICC library

The *Boston Irish Reporter* has donated more than 300 books and videos to the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in memory of the late BIR publisher Mary Casey Forry.

“Over the 26 years that we have published our Boston Irish Reporter, our newsroom has gathered hundreds of works relating to Ireland, many of which we have reviewed in our pages over the years,” said Ed Forry, Mary’s husband and current publisher of the BIR.

When the BIR relocated to a new space at 150 Mt. Vernon Street, Forry and his staff took stock of their large collection and decided that it deserved to be shared with the larger audience the cultural centre will provide.

“Many members likely do not realize that there’s a veritable treasure trove of

works available in the ICC library,” he said. “I hope that our donations will encourage others to look at their own home libraries and decide to share some of their collections with the greater Boston Irish community.”

Dave Barrett, a volunteer librarian who leads a team of other volunteers in maintaining and cataloging the growing collection at the ICCNE library, thanked the Forry family for the donations.

“Ed Forry and his late wife, Mary Casey Forry, have been great supporters of the Irish Cultural Centre for decades,” he said. “That support has been felt quite strongly in our library, where Ed and Mary have donated hundreds of books. We are indebted to the Forrys for their kind support.”

– KIERA MURRAY



John Mossy Walker, Ed Forry and Dave Barrett.

Immigration Q&A

Applying for US citizenship? Still time to vote in Nov.

Q. I have had a green card and have been eligible to apply for US citizenship for quite some time, but I keep putting it off. I would like to vote in the November presidential election. Is there still time?

A. If you file your application for US citizenship now, there is a good chance you will be sworn in as a US citizen in time to register to vote in the Nov. 8 presidential election. The current processing time for naturalization cases at the Boston USCIS field office is about 4-5 months. If you live outside of Massachusetts, you can check the current processing time for your USCIS field office here: <https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/processTimesDisplay.do>.

In Massachusetts, the deadline to register to vote in the presidential election is Oct. 19. However, if you are sworn in as a US citizen after that date but before the election, you can still register up until 4 p.m. on the day before the election. To do so, you will need to go to the election department in your city or town hall and present them with your naturalization certificate.

IIIC strongly recommends that all eligible legal permanent residents apply to become naturalized US citizens. In addition to voting, there are many benefits of becoming a US citizen, including:

Protection from 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 of time outside the US without obtaining permission from the immigration authorities beforehand. We frequently have been contacted by immigrants who inadvertently abandoned their legal permanent residence status, and who later wanted to return to live in the US. Generally they had to go through the whole arduous processing of applying for permanent residence all over again. There are

(Continued next page)



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A journey from Wicklow to Boston

By MARITA DOLIDZE
Meet Sarah Connor – a very interesting person. She decided to study molecular medicine while growing up in the historical county of Wicklow, alive with old castles and churches and resplendent with the smell of history dating back to the 9th century. What can be more intriguing than this mix of the ancient and the modern?

After earning her master's degree at Trinity College Dublin, the rich medical and science community of Boston beckoned and Sarah applied for a J-1 Intern Work & Travel (J-1 IWT) visa. She is grateful to the IIIC for always being available to answer any questions she had, which made the visa application process much easier. Moreover, the IIIC provided Sarah with information about the metropolitan Boston communities, public transportation, and any events organized by the center to meet with fellow J-1s.

Most importantly, the IIIC was helpful with the job search process – reviewing her résumé and inviting her to networking events – is something Sarah found to be very supportive. All of this preparation paid off. Currently Sarah works as research trainee at Brigham and Women's Hospital and at MIT's Broad Institute. She has acquired many new lab



Sarah Connor

skills and techniques, and is doing research in an area in which she is extremely interested. Sarah doubts she would have encountered the same opportunities back home and believes that what she has learned will be very useful upon her return when she begins a new job search. She will also be bringing home a new set of friendships she acquired during her internship year.

Before her one-year visa is up, Sarah hopes to spend her remaining time exploring those parts of Boston she has not yet visited. She also plans to travel around a bit of the country during her last two weeks here.

The IIIC wishes Sarah best of luck in her future endeavors and knows that she brings home a treasure trove of wonderful memories from America!

The IIIC helps Irish graduates find paid, one-year, internships in the United States. If you have any openings, please contact Paul Pelan at ppe-lan@iicenter.org

Applying for US citizenship? Still time to vote in Nov.

no restrictions on the amount of time US citizens can remain outside the US. Also, US citizenship is for life, whereas legal permanent residence must be renewed every ten years at considerable expense.

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.

Federal jobs: Many jobs with government agencies or contractors require US citizenship. This is especially true for jobs in the law enforcement, energy, national security, and defense sectors. We also have reports from immigrant-owned businesses that were not eligible to bid on contracts involving such business sectors.

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.

Federal Grant Aid: Many federal grants may be available only to US citizen applicants. (Once again, immigrants are reminded that a false claim to US citizenship on an application to obtain a benefit under any federal or state law may be a bar to US citizenship and may render a lawful permanent resident deportable.)

Running for Public Office: If you have any aspirations to run for public office, you should know that candidates typically must be US citizens.

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: iicenter.org Email: immigration@iicenter.org

Welcome to Boston, J-1 Summer Students!

Free Welcome & Orientation Sessions – June 1 and June 8: Join us for a welcome session at our center in downtown Boston! Staff, volunteers, and sponsor representatives will be available to answer any questions and provide information to help you have a safe, successful, and enjoyable summer. Refreshments will be served!

Wed., June 1 at 2 p.m. and Wed., June 8, at 2 p.m.: For more informa-

tion or to register for one of our free Welcome Sessions, email j1summer@iicenter.org or call 617-542-7654, Ext. 18.

Access to Health Care & Wellness Services – Do you have questions about health care such as: What health insurance plan am I eligible for? What services and health insurance plan am I eligible for with my immigration status? How do I apply for MassHealth?

Get these and many other questions answered by contacting the Mayor's Health Line, a program of

the Boston Public Health Commission. Trained and certified staff can walk you through your questions and your insurance application, or connect you or your family to the health resources you need. All of the services

are confidential and free regardless of income or immigration status.

To get started, call 617-534-5050, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit the website at bphc.org/mayorshealthline

June Legal Clinic Schedule:

Tues., June 7 and June 21 – IIIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston. Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street.

Mon., June 13 – The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton Center

Tues., June 28 – South Boston Labouré Center, 275 West Broadway, South Boston

For additional information about the legal clinics, call the IIIC at 617-542-7654.

Matters of Substance

Anxiety disorders – What we all need to know

By GINA KELLEHER
IIIC WELLNESS DIRECTOR

First in a series

We all feel fearful at times; it's part of being human and has helped us survive through the ages. If a vicious beast approaches, and it doesn't faze us, we are more likely to be its dinner than if we react with terror which will mobilize us to run! Anxiety is an irrational and unreasonable reaction of fear to nonthreatening situations and is a combination of both physically and psychologically distressing symptoms. Anxiety disorders occur in 18 percent of the population in this country compared to 6.7 percent who experience depression. Because they are so common, it's vital to learn more about them because chances are you, or someone you love or know will experience this at some time in their lives.

The causes of anxiety are believed to be a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Anxiety is thought to run in families and so can be partially inherited just like the risk for getting heart disease or diabetes. Prolonged stress or abuse, particularly in childhood, can change the way the brain reacts to threatening situations. The good news is that anxiety conditions are highly treatable. However, only about a third of people with anxiety seek treatment. If left untreated, people are at risk of becoming depressed (very common among those who experience anxiety), or self-medicating with alcohol or other substances. They



Gina Kelleher

will go to the doctor frequently with complaints of physical ailments, either real or imagined.

The most common types of Anxiety conditions are: specific phobias; social anxiety disorder; generalized anxiety disorder (GAD); and panic disorder. This article will address GAD and panic disorder. Next month, we will address social anxiety disorder, specific phobias and effective treatments for all anxiety disorders.

We all know people who worry excessively or may be worriers ourselves, especially if we have children! So how do we know when it's within the normal range or when it can be considered a problem? When the fear or worry interferes with normal functioning, it can be considered a disorder. Generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) is chronic, excessive and unrealistic worry and fear about a variety of everyday things, with the person usually expecting the worst. People who are diagnosed with this are unable to control their irrational fears about things including money, job, family, and social situations. So for example, while it's normal for parents to have some worry if their teens

are out driving, someone with GAD might not be able to stop thinking of the worst, unable to distract themselves with TV, reading or other pursuits until their children come home. They may even go so far as to not allow their teens to get their driver's license. In order to be diagnosed with GAD, a person must have experienced the excessive fear most days for a period of 6 months with at least 3 of the following symptoms:

Restlessness, feeling keyed up.

Easily fatigued.

Difficulty concentrating/mind going blank.

Irritability.

Muscle tension.

Sleep disturbances.

GAD can range from mild to severe. In mild cases, people are usually able to function at work and socially. Some people are not aware that they have this disorder but it's frequently very apparent to their family and close friends. In severe cases, they may have difficulty performing the simplest daily tasks.

You've probably heard of the Fight or Flight response, which is our bodies' reactions when faced with a perceived danger. It serves a protective function in that it prepares us to face the danger or flee if necessary. It can be very helpful in certain situations, like making a speech in front of a group by motivating us to prepare and practice ahead of time. However, some people find that they have

an excessive fear of certain situations or places that are not actually threatening.

Panic disorder is an extreme reaction of terror that can happen spontaneously or in response to certain triggers or situations. When the person experiences this extreme terror, their bodies can react with heart palpitations, chest pain, stomach upset, dizziness and difficulty breathing. It's common for people to feel that they are losing their minds, having a heart attack, or going to die. Because of the distressing nature of these symptoms, people often go to great lengths to avoid situations that they know trigger panic. So if the panic attack occurs while grocery shopping, the person may start avoiding stores. If it occurs in an elevator, they may now take only the stairs. Panic attacks in these situations can lead to phobias such as agoraphobia (fear of going outside or open spaces).

Panic disorder is very debilitating and exhausting for the person who experiences it and there is a high rate of depression in those who are diagnosed with it. Help is available for these disorders. The most important step is talking with your doctor for an accurate diagnosis. If you want support for an anxiety condition, please reach out in confidence to Gina Kelleher at 617-542-7654 or by email at gkelleher@iicenter.org



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Welcome to Boston J-1 Summer Students!

Free Welcome & Orientation Sessions at the Irish International Immigrant Center

Join us for a welcome session at our Center in downtown Boston! Staff, volunteers, and sponsor representatives will be available to answer any questions and provide information to help you have a safe, successful, and enjoyable summer.

Refreshments will be served!

For more information or to register your spot in one of our free Welcome Sessions, email j1summer@iicenter.org or call (617) 542-7654 ext.18.

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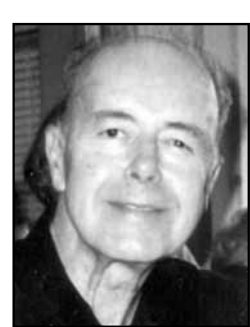
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Boston Irish Reporter’s Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

Irish Government Seeks Steady Footing—After a couple of months of negotiations, bargaining, offers spurned, and offers finally taken, the two major parties in Ireland have settled on an accommodation. In actuality, it is something called a “minority government,” and it offers a way forward to both Fine Gael and Fianna Fail.

During the weeks that preceded the agreement to form a minority governing structure, it became clear that what the two parties wanted were gateway agreements. With Fine Gael haunted by the water



Bill O'Donnell

charges and the austerity program and stumbling about and uncertain, **Enda Kenny** was looking for a second chance, a shot at broadened popular support, and a Fine Gael return to government.

Fianna Fail, after the Cowan/Ahern fiasco, once buried and trailing in the polls, had made a miraculous rise from the ashes to new electoral popularity. That meant getting together with Fine Gael, but not too close. Thus a cooperative accommodation that would for a

time stand by Fine Gael in government but was not an official partner with Kenny and his party. It was for Fianna Fail and its leader, **Micheal Martin**, a “hands free” step forward to full redemption and restoration of the party’s reputation and the trust of the faithful.

There are brigades of Irish voters who believe that the new minority government led by Enda Kenny is flawed and lacking political leadership. They are looking to salve their wounds by calling for a new election and, lacking a swift turn-around, they could get their wish.

Noel Whelan of the *Irish Times* cited the “current lack of productivity and instability” in Irish politics, and the “dangerous lack of political leadership.” The *Times* column notes the inactivity at the highest level with the new Cabinet meeting only twice since their appointment and the reality that “half a year of government has been lost.”

Kenny has a formidable challenge in the immediate days ahead. He has to convince the voters that he has what it takes to breathe life into a minority government that for the moment looks weak, incoherent, and not quite ready for prime time.

Bell Family Does God’s Work – In June 2013 **Colin Bell and his wife Eithne**, of Newry, Co. Down, received the phone call that no parent ever wants to receive: their son **Kevin**, 26, had been killed in a hit-and-run in New York. Friends of Kevin in New York, Ireland, and Australia (where Kevin had worked) held fundraisers and collected an amazing \$200,000 for the Bell family.

After expenses for bringing Kevin home, the family had another idea. They decided to spend that money to repatriate Irish sons and daughters, who, like Kevin, had died tragically far from home and to financially help the bereaved families. This notion, agreed to by all the Bell family members – Colin, Eithne, and their six sons and daughters – helped to create the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust to work with airlines, funeral homes, hospitals, and Irish welfare organizations in situations like Kevin’s. To date, the trust, which is run out of the family’s Newry home, has helped to repatriate some 170 Irish people back home to every Irish county, north and south. This help, without government aid, reaches out to the United States, Australia, Europe.

The Bells were recently honored in Australia by Irish organizations there for the work the family has done to assist families of Irish people killed while traveling or working abroad.

Bobby Sands book raises hackles – The recent publication of “Bobby Sands, Freedom Fighter” has brought to light several controversies surrounding the late hunger striker. The book, written by **Gerry Hunt**, has been a target of criticism by unionists as well as the Sands family. The unionists fault the largely sympathetic light in which Sands is portrayed, while the Sands family says the book did not have its input and contends that the author has “hijacked their history.”

Another aspect of the charges raised by the Sands family is that the Bobby Sands Trust played a central role in creating the book . They have demanded that the Trust be dissolved and that there be a prohibition against using Sands’s writing for commercial gain while apparently not sharing the proceeds with the family.

Critics of the Trust allege that **Gerry Adams** and his Sinn Fein/IRA confidants control the Trust and that they operate secretly and have never published a report on the royalties paid since it was established.

The Irish journalist **Ed Moloney**, now resident in the US, has been keeping tabs on the Trust and the Sands family and reports on their activities in his Broken Elbow blog.

BFD Honors Father Dan Mahoney—His ties to the Boston Fire Department stretch back some 52 years to October 1964 when Cardinal Richard Cushing named Father Mahoney assistant chaplain for the BFD. It has been a long and loving relationship between Father Dan and the Jakes, and he has been at their side as senior chaplain, comforting and consoling firefighters and their families for devoted decades.

Early last month in honor of his longtime service as chaplain, the Department named their new 32-foot fireboat “Father Dan”; it will be berthed at Battery Wharf and used for water rescue and firefighting. A

great and humble servant and a beloved Bostonian. God bless the mark.

New Government Regains A-Grade Credit Rating – Amidst some of the fury and fire of the election that returned Enda Kenny and his Fine Gael party to office, there was an encouraging sign from the top credit agencies that Ireland has regained its coveted A-grade rating. The rating agency Moody’s was the last of the three credit agencies to announce the raised rating on Irish debt. The improved number is Ireland’s first at that level in five years by all three credit rating agencies.

The Moody’s news came just a week after Enda Kenny was returned to office and is a positive sign by key financial agencies toward the new administration and its economic plans.

Ireland still has a large post-crash debt (23 billion euros) that imposes heavy costs on the public finances. However, investors in Irish debt have been encouraged by the order in public finances and the healthy outlook on economic growth.

Marty Walsh’s City Hall Under Scrutiny – After weeks of rumors about alleged union strongarm tactics, federal authorities in Boston arrested a top aide to **Mayor Martin Walsh** last month on union-related extortion charges. “I take this job very seriously and the integrity of this job very seriously,” said Walsh, a longtime union official before his election, to *Boston Globe* reporters.

Walsh also was quoted after the charges were made public saying “I don’t condone any of this type of behavior or anything like this in my administration. I tell everyone to be honest and up front and very open.”

I don’t know the mayor but I am an unabashed fan, a believer, a person who admires this strong, empathetic Connemara-rooted personality. I have commented on occasion about his activities and the way he handles himself and the tough job of mayor. He is familiar with hardship and struggles and he will overcome this newest challenge.

I will say one final thing: I believe Marty Walsh. I believe it when he says he takes the integrity of his job as mayor very seriously. I believe him and what he has said about the aide’s charges. Everyone, including the aide who was arrested, is entitled to a presumption of innocence.

Yes, even in that building where I once worked in years ago.

J1 Student Visa Delay Threatens Irish-to-US Travel – An unexplained delay in approving J1 visas for students heading to the states this summer is causing widespread concern among program recipients. The concern is intensified by the fact that many students have already paid sums up to \$900 each to travel to the US. In addition, others have paid deposits,

The two agencies organizing the J1 program out of Ireland are Travel Bug in Castlebar, Co. Mayo, and American Work adventures (AWA) as registered sponsor. Travel Bug Ltd. has said that it has had problems contacting AWA. This delay in issuing J1 work documents is critical because students cannot attend a US embassy interview, which is mandatory prior to departure, without their work papers.

Having worked in the past with a number of agencies here and in Ireland on J1 visa programs, I found the overwhelming majority to be competent, time-oriented, and caring. However, some agencies, a tiny handful, were often more interested in the fees these programs generate. I hope these youngsters are taken care of and they make it to the US.

Irish Jesuit Headed For Beatification – **John Sullivan**, a Dublin native born in 1861, was a member of the Church of Ireland and remained a Protestant until his mid-thirties when he took up studies to be a Roman Catholic priest. At 46, he was ordained a Jesuit. His father, a successful barrister and a Protestant, later became Lord Chancellor of Ireland. His mother, **Elizabeth Bailey**, was a Catholic from Co. Cork.

John had earlier studied at Trinity College, a university proscribed for Catholics in those days, and had thoughts about the law, but he also began to look at the priesthood. His ministry took Father John to Clane, Co. Kildare, and later to the rectorship at the Retreat House at Rathfarnham on the outskirts of Dublin. During his life, Father Sullivan was known far and wide for helping the poor, the ill, and the homeless. In his later years, he taught at Clongowes Wood College in Kildare.

On Nov. 7, 2014, Father Sullivan was declared as Venerable by the church. His beatification received the approval of Pope Francis in April 2016 after a single miracle attributed to him was recognized. A date for his beatification must now be set.

Breakaway IRA Dissident Threat Grows—British security service warnings from MI5 and others are out and they have upgraded the threat level from so-called dissident republicans to mainland Britain from “moderate” to “severe.” The uptick in threat level to severe is usually meant an attack is a “strong possibility.” Early analysis of the current threat strongly suggests that the possibility of a Northern Ireland-related terror attack has increased, but also notes that the threat level to UK locales such as England, Scotland and Wales “reflects the continuing threat from dissident republican activity.” UK security agencies also suggest that the threat level from international terrorism remains unchanged at severe, meaning that an attack is highly likely.

Old Friend Has Warm Words For Ted Kennedy - The celebrated broker of the Good Friday Agreement, former US Senate Majority Leader **George Mitchell**, had glowing words of praise for his former friend and

colleague at a discussion in Washington last month. The event was hosted by the Edward M. Kennedy Institute. Mitchell remembered **Ted Kennedy** as “one of the truly great architects” of the Northern Ireland peace process. He went on to recall a private hour-long discussion with Kennedy off the floor of the Senate in 1994 that was “my baptism into the issue.” Mitchell recalled that Kennedy “instinctively understood the attitudes of Ulster Unionists” and made them “feel at home here so they could see that the country was not monolithic in its views of Northern Ireland.”

Nancy Soderberg, a key foreign policy adviser to **President Bill Clinton**, said that everyone in the White House at the time “looked to Ted Kennedy as the bellwether on which way to go on Northern Ireland.”

The Kennedy Institute, in partnership with the Miller Centre at the University of Virginia, has been conducting interviews with people who worked and knew Kennedy to build an oral history of his life and times.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

The Lord Mayor of Dublin has urged the government not to file an appeal to a court ruling that allows for expansion and preservation of the Moore Street battlefield site. ... US House Speaker **Paul Ryan** seems to be getting some religion, or at least hints of Catholic social justice, in saying that he was wrong in his earlier criticism of recipients of government benefits. ... Democratic presidential candidate **Bernie Sanders** didn’t seem so liberal defending his partisan thugs throwing chairs at the Democratic state convention in Nevada. ... It’s overdue and exciting to look forward to \$20 bills with **Harriet Tubman’s** image on face of the currency. ... **Pope Francis** is scheduled to add Armagh to his itinerary in Ireland when he visits there in 2018. Francis was last in Ireland last 37 years ago. ... With the addition of the SDLP, and with Ulster Unionists already joining the Stormont opposition, there might be some actual debates and ideas percolating in that sleeping body. ... Global demand for commercial property in the UK has heavily declined ahead of the EU voting on UK status.

The latest Irish Tourism numbers of visitors in the 2016 first quarter are the best in years; North American visitors alone were up 25 percent. ... The Mourne Mountains will likely be seeing a gondola ferrying passengers up and down those glorious heights. ... The new movie on **Bobby Sands** is in some theatres already, mostly in Canada. It’s directed by **Brendan Byrne** and co-funded by the BBC, the Irish Film Board, and NI Screen. ... It was good to see the Hub’s legendary ad man and philanthropist **Jack Connors** out defending Mayor Walsh *before* the City Hall aide’s arrest. Good man, Jack. ... Father **Dan Berrigan** deserved to be lionized a lot more than he was. ... Did I already say that the Southie lockdown of Starbucks is right, if not PC. ... The Fenway Park charity Fantasy Day is a fun way to boost the Jimmy Fund; the event is June 11.

Glancing at Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s Twitter come-backs suggests that opponents should not underestimate the gentle lady. ... If Donald Trump is successful in not releasing his tax returns, America should hang its head in shame. ... **Rupert Murdoch** all in for Trump? Is anyone surprised? ... Dublin Archbishop **Diarmuid Martin** has appealed for info on the disappeared victims. Don’t hold your breath waiting for the TD from Louth to help with that. ... Fox “anchorless” **Neil Cavuto** allowed Florida AG **Pam Bondi** to praise **Donald Trump** on air without telling viewers she got a \$25,000 campaign donation from the realtor candidate while also refusing to follow NY and indict the fraudulent Trump and his fake university. No surprise there, either. ... One of the huge losses in Northern Politics is the defeat of **Alasdair McDonnell** as SDLP party leader. A good man, a good friend in a no-win situation. ... The NI secretary of state is urging a \$3.7 billion package to deal with terrorists, republican and loyalist gangs, and the so-called paramilitary dissidents. ... Ashford Castle in Mayo, where **John Wayne** and **Maureen O’Hara** once gamboled, is opening its grounds for tea and other munchies for hotel non-residents. It’s a favorite spot of mine for tea or a pint or whatever in late afternoon time-outs.

Memories Of A Remarkable Man – **Christy Brown**, author, poet, and painter died in his Somerset, England, home 35 years ago. He was 49 years old and he died from choking on a piece of lamb when his wife Mary briefly left the dining area. One of the enduring regrets of those who knew the Dublin-born writer is that he never had the chance to see the film of his riotous, rollicking life. Christy would have loved the movie they made, a film that won Oscars in Hollywood, and cheering fans in theaters across the globe.

Christy was born with cerebral palsy. He had little independent movement of his limbs, but he had something magical that gave a title to his life, his autobiography, and the wondrous movie they made of his life: “My Left Foot.” His sole functioning limb, his left foot allowed him to write (barely), use an IBM Selectric typewriter (expertly), but it as worthless in hoisting a pint, a ritual that friends and family gladly saw to.

Christy, like most CP victims, had difficulty speaking clearly but whether it was a holler for another brandy or a loud disagreement on a esoteric point in an argument, he rarely if ever failed to make his needs manifest. His rough, difficult-to-decipher speech fooled some who thought he was mentally disabled. Big mistake. Christy had a measurable IQ around 150, and he was always on his game. He was grand company, a stubborn debater, a proud Dubliner, and my friend.

Christy would have been 84 this month of June and I miss him still.

Spreading the word about the Glasnevin Cemetery Museum

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

The Glasnevin Cemetery Trust and Tourism Ireland is proud of an array of new features, tours, and sites that have made Glasnevin Cemetery one of Dublin’s most popular tourist destinations.

At a meeting held recently at the Boston College Club in Boston, Ann Kilcoyne, the Trust’s sales and marketing director, described how Glasnevin, in the city’s Northside at Finglas Road, is truly “both the guardian and storyteller for over 1.5 million people” [the number of men, women, and children who repose there]. Kilcoyne and Jean McCluskey of Tourism Ireland have been spreading the word about Glasnevin here in the US.

Glasnevin’s mission is one that strives to make the stories of those laid to rest beneath the simplest stones and also that of the man whose crypt is housed within a spectacular round tower: Daniel O’Connell, “The Liberator.”

Kilcoyne described how those stories at Glasnevin range “from the ordinary to the truly extraordinary” and tell how “these people helped shape the Ireland

of today. We want to share their stories and times with you through tours of the cemetery, a visit to the museum, or through a genealogy search for your family history.”

The Trust is justifiably proud that the Glasnevin Museum is the world’s first cemetery museum. The natural beauty of the grounds merges with a who’s who of Irish history through which experienced, knowledgeable, and entertaining guides take visitors on a moving and memorable journey through the impeccably preserved Victorian cemetery.

One can choose any number of themed tours – from one focusing on the men and women of the 1916 Easter Rising and featuring such unique touches as the Padraig Pearse Oration Reenactment to others that provide personal connections to the final resting places of the men and women who have carved out Ireland’s past and present.

One of the most popular attractions is the Botanic Gardens, a spectacular 19th-century site that visitors reach via the gate at the wall framing the far side of Glasnevin Cemetery, Prospect



Statuary marks the mausoleum of Dublin’s Edward Cardinal McCabe (1816-1885).

Photo from the book, “GLASNEVIN: Ireland’s Necropolis, by Shain MacThomais.

Square entrance. The Trust notes that “within the living collections at the National Botanic Gardens we have over 300 endangered species from around the world, and 6 species already extinct in the wild. These are a vital resource, like a Noah’s Ark for the future.”

In 1832, Daniel O’Connell opened Glasnevin as a place of repose where people “of all religions and none...could be buried with dignity and respect.” The museum’s interactive genealogy search tools allow visitors to find information about the cemetery’s 1.5 million people, whether famous or not.

Glasnevin is open Monday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (5 p.m. in winter), with public and private tours daily starting at 9:30 a.m. There is bus service from O’Connell Street to Glasnevin, as well as Dublin Sightseeing Hop on Hop Off (Blue Route) every 30 minutes. The site’s restaurant, the Tower Café, offers a perfect spot for a varied menu now including an Irish Breakfast for early visitors.

(Glasnevin Cemetery Museum, Finglas Road, Dublin 11; tel. 01 882 6550; glasnevincemetery.ie; museum@glasnevin-trust.ie).

EATING AND EMOTION

Dr. Bernadette Rock

Gaining control of your eating

Imagine you’ve had a long and tiring week, and it’s now Friday. When you walk in the door in the evening and someone asks how your day was, your respond with the word “fine,” and then you head straight for the fridge for a few spoonfuls of ice cream or seek refuge in a soft crusty loaf of bread with lashings of butter.

I recently spoke to Emily, a mother of two, and she said that when she’s feeling annoyed or overwhelmed, her eating becomes out of control. That’s not a good place to be. Stuffing down your emotions – anger, anxiety – with food may work temporarily, they will always come back. Have you noticed?

It may seem daunting, but facing up to your dis-ease will bring you more contentment in the long term. In order to change our behaviors, we must first understand why we are doing them in the first place. A journal can be a great place to start figuring out the thoughts and feelings that drive your actions.

In Heyday’s online program we use a tracker to identify not only why/when you’re eating but also to help you let go of what you’re holding onto.

What is it that you believe about this difficult situations or stressor? (“I feel like an idiot here; I should have said more.”) It’s those “ice-berg” beliefs that can trigger a feeling of being overwhelmed, anxious, stressed, followed by a drive for food.

What small steps can you take to support yourself?

- It can be what you tell yourself about the stressor: “I have a choice here. I’m not powerless.” “I’m doing my best.”

- Pause and take a few moments to center yourself. Bring your attention to your breathing.

So this week ahead step back, be aware and observe how this pattern plays out in your life. Once you’re aware of your “ice bergs” they will loosen their power and grip. Be aware of the feedback you give yourself. If you don’t get a constructive response from others, then give it to yourself. Ask yourself, “What can I do to help myself?” Support is far more effective than criticism.

What you practice you get good at. If your habit is to compare, judge, and criticize yourself, then you’ll get better at it. Is there a more effective habit that you could practice?

Be intentional and alert as opposed to being in a trance-like state around food. Often, we live our lives in the same way we eat – consciously or unconsciously. When you eat calmly and consciously, you will feel calm and conscious afterwards. The more attention you pay to food, the more you enjoy it, and be satisfied with less.

Pause and ask yourself “what do I want?” before selecting food. This will help you choose something that is more likely to satisfy you. Remember to pause while eating to notice whether you are really enjoying your food and whether it is satisfying what you want.

In each series of the online programme, there are mindful eating tips about how to stop eating once you’ve had enough and how to feel satisfied afterwards. Satisfaction doesn’t just come from physical fullness but from also fully enjoying the food that you choose to eat.

Send your comments or questions to Bernadette at hello@heydayworld.com and check out heydayworld.com for further details.



Dr. Bernadette Rock



The Trump International Golf Links and Hotel in Co. Mayo where the beach in front of the 18th green is disappearing at a rate of about a yard a year.

Trump eyes wall to protect Clare golf resort

By MICHAEL BIESECKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

— Donald Trump wants to build another huge wall, this time to keep out the rising seas threatening to swamp his luxury golf resort in Ireland.

The Republican presidential candidate has called climate change a “con job” and a “hoax.” But in an application filed this month in County Clare, Ireland, the Trump International Golf Links and Hotel cites the threat of global warming in seeking a permit to build a nearly two-mile-long stone wall between it and the Atlantic Ocean. The beach in front of the 18th

green is disappearing at a rate of about a yard each year.

Trump’s application, first reported Monday by Politico, cites local regulations pertaining to “rising sea levels and increased storm frequency and wave energy associated with global warming.” An attached environmental impact statement says that almost all the dunes in western Ireland are retreating “due to sea level rise and increased Atlantic storminess.”

Trump campaign spokesman Alan Garten did not respond Monday to messages from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Trump, who has roiled the immigration debate by proposing to build a massive wall along the Mexican border, has repeatedly taken to Twitter to express skepticism that human activity is causing the world to warm, raising sea levels as the polar ice caps melt. He has also said he would seek to “renegotiate” the global accord to cut climate-warming carbon emissions agreed to by President Barack Obama in December.

“The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive,” Trump tweeted

in 2012.

“The entire country is FREEZING - we desperately need a heavy dose of global warming, and fast! Ice caps size reaches all time high,” Trump tweeted in 2014.

Environmental groups pounced on the application as evidence of hypocrisy.

“Donald Trump clearly cares more about the fate of his golf courses than the health of the millions of families already affected by the climate crisis,” said Adam Beitman, a spokesman for the Sierra Club.

Associated Press writer Shawn Pogatchnik contributed from Dublin, Ireland.

Enda Kenny back in

(Continued from page 1)

This time they abstained, opening the door for Kenny to win a majority of votes cast. Kenny received 50 from his own party and nine from independents, three of whom received Cabinet seats as part of the bargain, another Irish first.

The scheduled “high noon” vote on May 6 was delayed amid tense behind-the-scenes haggling with independents, several of whom made demands at sharp odds with Fine Gael’s pro-business, pro-EU policies. Failure to persuade enough independents to back Kenny would have forced him to call Ireland’s first early election since 1989.

Labour’s seven sur-

viving lawmakers voted against Kenny. Labour leader Joan Burton, who until Friday was Ireland’s deputy prime minister, denounced Kenny’s deal with Fianna Fail as “a deeply flawed arrangement.”

Kenny later unveiled a new-look 15-member Cabinet that included promotions for four women. Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald gained the post of deputy premier. An independent, American-born gay rights activist, Katherine Zappone, became minister for children.

A particularly outspoken independent, financial commentator Shane Ross, became minister of transportation — a red-hot topic in traffic-choked Dublin.



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Irish Fest Boston

Saturday, June 4 & Sunday, June 5

Irish Cultural Center, 200 New Boston Drive, Canton, MA 02021
irishculture.org

Entertainment Schedule

Saturday, June 4

Main Stage

- 11:00 Ciaran Nagle & Tara Novack
- 12:00 Matthew O'Donnell
- 1:00 Andy Cooney
- 2:30 The Whistlin' Donkeys
- 3:30 The Cunningham Family
- 4:00 John McDermott
- 5:30 Fenian Sons
- 6:30 Inchicore
- 7:30 Devri
- 8:30 The Wolfe Tones

Traditional Tent

- 12:00 The Cunningham Family
- Sean-nós dance workshop
- 1:00 Claire Egan/Eoin O'Neill
- 2:30 Beocht
- 4:30 Bartley O'Donnell
- 6:00 Cunningham Sound
- 6:30 Marian Ui Cheide
- 7:00 Stuart Peak & Friends
- 8:30 Open session
- 11:00 Close

Stage Two

- 11:00 Jinty McGrath
- 12:00 Rare Ould Times
- 1:00 Ireland's Jolly Tinkers
- 2:00 Boston's Erin's Og
- 3:00 Boxty
- 4:00 Erin's Guild
- 5:00 Gobshites
- 6:00 Colm O'Brien
- 7:00 Danny Gill & The Old Brigade
- 8:30 Close

DJ Sean O'Toole
Irish Fest Boston House DJ
Main Stage

Main Building

- 12:00 Jive Lessons - Niall Maguire
- 1:00 Set Dancing 1 - 4
- 2:00 Set Dancing
- 4:00 Jive Lessons - Niall Maguire
- 4:00 Silver Spears
- 6:00 Erin's Melody
- 8:00 Close

Saturday Dance Performances on Stage Two

- 1:30 Dunleavy, Boyle & Connolly School of Irish Dance
- 3:30 Haley School of Irish Dance
- 5:30 Hansen Keohane School of Irish Dance
- 4 p.m. on Jive lessons with Silver Spears and Erin's Melody in the Main Building



Irish Cultural Centre, Canton • Gates Open at 10:00
Discount Tickets – www.IrishFestBoston.com

Sunday, June 5

Sunday Dance Performances

- 12:50 Heavey Quinn Academy of Irish Dance (Stage Two)
- 2:30 Greene O'Leary School of Irish Dance (Stage Two)
- 6:45 Keane O'Brien Academy of Dance (Main Stage)

4 p.m. on Jive Lessons with Erin's Melody and
Noel Henry's Irish Showband in the Main Building

Main Stage

- 10:30 Sunday Mass
- 11:30 Boston's Erin's Og
- 12:30 Devri
- 1:30 Pauline Wells
- 2:00 The Whistlin' Donkeys
- 3:30 John McDermott
- 5:00 The Cunningham Family
- 5:30 Inchicore
- 7:00 The Wolfe Tones
- 9:00 Close

Tug of War • 3:00 • Field B

Traditional Tent

- 12:00 The Cunningham Family
- Sean-nós dance workshop
- 1:00 Cunningham Sound
- 2:00 Bartley O'Donnell
- 3:30 Claire Egan & Eoin O'Neil
- 5:00 Beocht
- 7:00 Dennis Galvin & friends ceili
- 9:00 Close

Stage Two

- 12:00 Curragh's Fancy
- 1:00 Boxty
- 2:00 Silver Spears
- 3:00 Colm O'Brien
- 4:00 Matthew O'Donnell
- 5:00 Ciaran Nagle & Tara Novack
- 6:00 Jinty McGrath
- 7:00 Close

DJ Sean O'Toole
Irish Fest Boston House DJ
Main Stage

Main Building

- 12:00 Jive Lessons - Niall Maguire
- 1:00 Set Dancing 1 - 4
- 2:00 Set Dancing
- 4:00 Jive Lessons - Niall Maguire
- 4:00 Erin's Melody
- 6:00 Noel Henry's Irish Showband
- 8:00 Close

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Broadway’s Ciarán Sheehan is Billy Bigelow in ‘Carousel’

**By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**

Broadway’s Ciarán Sheehan will be in town from June 9 to June 19 to kick off Reagle Music Theatre’s 48th summer season with Rodgers & Hammerstein’s “Carousel.” The classic musical tells the challenging love story of Julie Jordan, an innocent New England mill worker, and Billy Bigelow, a swaggering carnival barker. Ciarán stars as Billy opposite Boston’s own Jennifer Ellis as Julie.

The Dublin-born actor-singer-producer made his Broadway debut in “Les Miserables” – mentored by legendary producer-director Hal Prince (“Evita,” “Cabaret”)—and subsequently starred in more than 1,000 performances of “Phantom of the Opera,” both on Broadway and in Toronto.

His credits include roles at The Irish Repertory Theater and in Frank McCourt’s “The Irish And How They Got That Way,” “Finian’s Rainbow,” and “Camelot” (with Jeremy Irons). As well, he produced and starred in a sold out run of “The Molly Maguires” at the Kirby Center in Pennsylvania.

As a solo artist, the charismatic Sheehan has sold out Carnegie Hall, appeared at the National Concert Hall in Dublin, opened the dedication of the Irish Hunger Memorial in New York City, and sang at funeral services for Beau Biden at the request of Vice President Joe Biden. He also has three PBS musical specials under his belt.

In contrast to his success on stage, Sheehan has faced his own share of darkness. He was sexually abused as a boy. He later suffered a near death experience. Admirably, he has come through it all to survive, succeed and help others with their own pain.

While “Carousel’s” rich score boasts songs like “June Is Busting Out All Over” and “If I Loved You,” Billy Bigelow comes with a rough edge and Sheehan finds him to be a fascinating, multi-layered character. In a phone interview from his suburban New Jersey home, he said, “To me, he’s sort of a wounded innocent . . . In some ways, I know this guy really well. Because up until my 20s, my answer for a lot of things was my fist. So I understand his response to things. He doesn’t know how to function in the world. He really has no skill set other than as a barker.”

Billy falls in love with Julie, but romance is new territory for him. Sheehan said, “(Billy’s) life has been bouncing around as a carnival barker. He doesn’t know how to deal with Julie. . . . That first scene (Jenn and I have) is so beautiful, so rich. (We sing) ‘longing to tell you, but afraid and shy. I let my golden chances pass me by’ . . . and I think that’s his story. That fear of being honest. That



Jennifer Ellis is Julie Jordan and Ciarán Sheehan is Billy Bigelow in Reagle Music Theatre’s production of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s “Carousel,” playing June 9 - 19. Photo Courtesy Reagle Music Theatre

fear of communication.” He paused. “Honestly, I love this piece. There’s so much about a soul’s redemption. I find that just beautiful.” Born in Dublin, Sheehan was raised in New York in the Inwood neighborhood of northern Manhattan. His father was a restless soul and relocated the family on a regular basis. But no matter his location, Ciarán maintained a strong connection to his home land. While living in New York, he spent every summer with

his grandmother in Ireland. He notes there was always music in his life. His aunt was “The Girl With The Golden Voice” on Irish radio. His uncle, a dairy farmer in Limerick blessed with a tenor voice, serenaded his cows with “I’ll Take You Home Again, Kathleen.” Sheehan sang in the church choir. Despite this, he never considered music as a career. At Rutgers, he majored in electrical engineering, which he hated. So he quit school, joined a heavy metal

band, and moved to the Jersey Shore. There, on a fateful Sunday afternoon, he was in a horrific car crash that was so devastating, he recalls his spirit pulling out of his body and watching the wreckage from above the scene.

“It was a real wake-up call,” he said. “I was an angry young man. I was doing a lot of drinking and a lot of fighting and a lot of women and lots of everything. When I got hit, I remember thinking I had totally wasted this trip.”

Realizing how fast life can flash by, he reevaluated his personal journey and decided to study acting in New York. A chance meeting on the subway brought him to the Irish Repertory Theater. He volunteered around the theater, made friends, and was eventually asked to participate in the reading of a new play, “Grandchild of Kings.” Based on Sean O’Casey’s autobiography, it was written by Hal Prince, whom Sheehan had never heard of.

At the time, he said, he was working as a security guard. “To be honest, I wasn’t a big musical theater fan. I really didn’t know who Hal Prince was. I think that’s why he and I got along so well together. I wasn’t terrified by him . . . He became quite the mentor to me.”

Prince saw potential and set Sheehan up with voice lessons, which would open the door to a remarkable musical career.

Over time, he has used his considerable talents to help others as a Voice Healer. People often came to him after concerts saying they felt a physical sense of healing in his music. So he began developing workshops combining the power of music, meditation, and his own life story to facilitate spiritual healing for those in pain, particularly abuse survivors like himself.

“I’m game for trying anything that potentially will help anyone,” he said. “For me, it’s about finding a place for forgiveness. Not necessarily for that other person, the perpetrator, but for yourself. It just gets too damn heavy to carry.” He says letting go of the shame can bring a fuller, more settled life.

“I’ve done some really cool things,” the father of three said. “Whether it’s playing the Phantom or selling out Carnegie Hall . . . I was a kid living next to a coal room in a cellar on the upper west side of Manhattan and suddenly I’m getting to do some really wonderful things. And getting to do some wonderful things for other people. That’s the most satisfying.”

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

Reagle Music Theatre’s “Carousel,” June 9 - June 19, Robinson Theater, 617 Lexington Street, Waltham, MA. Info: 781-891-5600 or ReagleMusicTheatre.com.

The June calendar: Irish/Celtic events

In addition to the Irish Cultural Centre of New England’s IrishFest Boston [see separate story], the June calendar includes a rare visit by the fiddling Kane sisters and an appearance by influential guitarist John Doyle.

• June 1 will see a concert at Club Passim in Harvard Square by local fiddle-cello duo **Caroline Dressler and Giulia Haible** at 8 p.m. The pair – members of the quintet Scottish Fish – play traditional and contemporary Scottish/Celtic music with robust harmonies, jazzy riffs, and melancholic refrains. This event will mark the release of their first CD, “Dragonfly.” Opening the show will be another duo, **Meridian Post**, featuring Dressler and Haible’s Scottish Fish band mate Maggie MacPhail (violin) with Paul Franzosa (guitar), performing music from Celtic traditions, American folk, jazz and other genres.

On June 12 at 3 p.m., another Boston-area duo, **Caroline O’Shea and Lindsay Straw**, will appear at Passim. O’Shea (flute, whistle, vocals) and Straw (guitar, bouzouki, vocals), who are part of the band The Ivy Leaf, are among a talented local core of young adults who are strongly attuned to the Irish tradition. Also performing will be the Connecticut-based quartet **Ensoleil**, who play an inventive blend of traditional and contemporary Irish, Scottish, Québécois, New England, and classical influences with original tunes, songs and pieces.

John Doyle, whose distinctive guitar playing has become a force in both the traditional and contemporary music realms, will visit Passim on June 19 at 3 p.m. A co-founder of the Irish-American group Solas, a frequent collaborator of fiddler Liz Carroll, and a current member of bands The Alt and The Teatallers, Doyle is also a dynamic singer and, in recent years, an emerging songwriter – his most recent solo album, “Shadow



Guitarist John Doyle and his band head to Club Passim on June 19. Keith Wright photo

and Light,” comprised mainly original compositions. For tickets and other information, see passim.org. • Connemara-born **Liz and Yvonne Kane** will make two appearances in the area: On June 7 at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton [go to irishculture.org for details] and on June 8 as part of The Burren Backroom series. The sisters, who originally toured with accordionist Sharon Shannon’s band

The Woodchoppers, built a following of their own with two acclaimed albums, “The Well-Tempered Bow” and “Side by Side,” which showcased their highly developed unison fiddle playing.

• On the bill with the Kane Sisters at the June 8 Burren show (which begins at 7:30 p.m.) will be **Pat Connor and Eoghan O’Sullivan**, whose birthplaces represent two distinguished Irish music traditions: Connor, from Co. Clare, is known for his lightly ornamented fiddle style that evokes Irish dance music’s rural roots; similarly, O’Sullivan’s classic “press-and-draw” technique on two-row button accordion is redolent of his native Cork and its Sliabh Luachra tradition. See burren.com/Backroom-Series.html.

• Connor and O’Sullivan also will play a solo concert on June 11 at 8 p.m. in Melrose at the Beebe Estate at 235 W. Foster Street. E-mail Lisa Coyne at lisa.coyne@ccebostonmusicschool.org for details or to RSVP.

• Some of the area’s finest Scottish-style musicians – including **Hanneke Cassel, Katie McNally, Neil Pearlman, Barbara McOwen, Anne Hooper and Terry Traub** – will be on hand for the Boston Scottish Fiddle Club fundraising gala, June 11 at 7 p.m. in the Canadian American Club of New England (202 Arlington Street in Watertown). A highlight of the event will be the new **Boston Scottish Fiddle Orchestra**, directed by Neil Pearlman, which will perform several sets and play with the special musical guests. The gala also includes a session, silent auction, cash bar and light refreshments. There is a requested donation of \$25, \$10 for persons under 18. For tickets, go to brownpapertickets.com/event/2543155. Information about the Boston Scottish Fiddle Club is at www.bsfc.org.

• The Notlob Music series for this month includes two fiddlers, both with Boston/New England roots, representing multifaceted backgrounds and approaches that incorporate Celtic music. On June 11 it will be the **Jordan Tirell-Wysocki Trio**: Tirell-Wysocki, from New Hampshire, grew up playing for contra dances and went on to explore other genres, including rock and country. The various bands he’s been in have shared

(Continued next page)

Lúnasa’s Crawford believes the band’s ‘marriage of sounds’ undergirds its staying power

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Yes, yes, Kevin Crawford says he and his Lúnasa band mates are well aware that their 20th anniversary is coming up in the next year, and they will most assuredly do something to mark the milestone.

“We’ve only really just started putting out feelers,” said Crawford during a recent stop at Boston College while on tour with his fellow Lúnasan Cillian Vallely and guitarist (and Worcester native) Patrick Doocey. “We just don’t know the direction yet. We want to celebrate, but also want to have something to market.”

That would seem to suggest, oh, perhaps making a new album?

“Well, we haven’t recorded a studio album in a good chunk of time,” said Crawford, laconically. “I guess there is a certain expectation we do a new one.”

He’ll get no argument from the many Lúnasa supporters who these past two decades have savored the band’s layered, harmonically sophisticated and quite modern treatment of Irish traditional music, marked by tight – but not suffocating – precise and polished arrangements yet full of passion and power. It’s been three years since their last release, a live album of previous material enhanced by the presence of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, and six since their previous studio recording, “Lá Nua,” in which the band continued to expand its range beyond Irish tradition, incorporating Breton, Galician, and Asturian music as well as original material.

But time – especially for things like making new albums – is a particularly valuable commodity where Lúnasa is concerned. That’s because its members – Crawford (flute, whistle), Vallely (uilleann pipes, whistle), Sean Smyth (fiddle, whistle), Trevor Hutchinson (double bass) and Ed Boyd (guitar) – are involved in numerous other collaborations, projects, and enterprises. Crawford, besides playing with Vallely (who’s just finished up a new solo album), also is part of the trio The Teatotalers with fiddler Martin Hayes and guitarist John Doyle. Boyd tours with the marvelous quartet Flook and singer Cara Dillon. Hutchinson seems to turn up on about every other album – whether as musician or producer, or both – or concert stage. As for Smyth, when he’s not playing music, he’s busy pursuing his “other” career as a medical doctor.

Meanwhile, over the past few years, Lúnasa has been breaking in a new member, fiddler and tin whistle player Colin Farrell, formerly of Grada, who will sub in as needed for – but perhaps also play with – Smyth.

What with all their other activities, it might’ve been understandable if Lúnasa rang down the curtain. But as Crawford explains, calling quits on something this rewarding is just too difficult.

“There’s a certain pride, a doggedness to the band, I think – we’re just not going to let it go, because it’s our baby. We have a number of other things going on outside Lúnasa, and we obviously get a lot out of them. But there’s really no better vehicle for what we do than Lúnasa. I like the combination of instruments, this marriage of sounds, and it’s different than most other bands.

“I think, for example, the way we use the whistles together, especially when we do the harmonies, is a real hallmark. I’m surprised that more bands haven’t taken on a double bass, because of how it fills out the lower end of the spectrum. We don’t have a bodhran, so that really puts it on the guitar to deliver the rhythm. And there aren’t that many bands that don’t have a singer. I guess you could say our instruments are our voices.”

As sharply defined as their sound might be, by contrast Lúnasa’s history is a bit muddled, at least at the beginning. As Crawford explained, the band “was something else before it was Lúnasa”: a shifting cast of musicians formed to support Smyth on tour following the release of his “Blue Fiddle” album. Crawford joined up in 1996 when the band went to Australia.

The June calendar

the stage with Tommy Makem, Derek Warfield and the Young Wolftones, Willie Nelson, and Little Feat, among others. A few years ago, he formed a trio with Matthew Jensen (guitar) and Chris Noyes (double bass) that incorporates Celtic, New England and original music.

Boston native **Mari Black**, who performs June 13 with her World Fiddle Ensemble, spans the musical globe with a repertoire that includes Irish and Scottish traditions as well as American folk music, Argentine tangos and even classic swing tunes, to name a few. She’s won honors such as Glenfiddich Scottish Fiddle Champion, Canadian Maritime Fiddle Champion, US National Scottish Fiddle Champion, Canadian Novelty Fiddle Champion and first prize at the American Protégé International String

Competition.

Both concerts will take place at the Arts at the Armory Café, 191 Highland Avenue in Somerville. For information, see notlobmusic.blogspot.com.

...

Celtic Woman, now celebrating its new album, *Destiny*, on an 85-city North American concert tour, will appear at Lowell Auditorium on June 28 at 7:30 p.m. The tour features an entirely new production showcasing vocalists **Máiréad Carlin**, **Susan McFadden** and newest member **Eabha McMahon** along with violinist and founding member **Máiréad Nesbitt**, all accompanied by a group of equally talented musicians and dancers. See celticwoman.com for additional information.



Lúnasa’s Kevin Crawford, left, and Cillian Vallely performing at Boston College this spring. For all the band members’ other activities, “there’s no better vehicle for what we do than Lúnasa,” says Crawford. *Sean Smith photo*

“I had no expectations: It was literally just for six weeks,” he said. “When the tour was over, everyone went back to what they were doing. There were a few one-off gigs in 1997, and then we were invited back to Australia – by that time we were calling ourselves ‘Lúnasa’ – and I said, ‘Well, I’ll ride it as long as I can.’ We’d put together a sound I was really interested in, so it seemed a good fit.”

There’s even some ambiguity surrounding their first album, most of which was recorded live during the formational period: The original was released on their own label and licensed to various record companies around the world, but the “official” version was released in 1998 through Compass Records.

Recording projects have in fact come to be the fulcrum on which Lúnasa turns: At a certain point, when the members have accumulated enough ideas (and time), they gather to work them out in the studio. And thus the band repertoire grows, and they’re ready to hit the road.

“Most of our work together seems to go into making an album,” said Vallely. And then when the band prepares to go out on tour, he quipped, “you learn everything from listening to yourself on the recording.”

“It does take us a lot of time, which is probably why we haven’t been in the studio in so long,” Crawford mused. “A lot of other groups don’t work that way, which is fine. We just look at the whole process from a broader pallet, from which to choose the tunes. We probably do overthink things sometimes, but that’s how it is – without having a singer, being all-instrumental all the time, we feel we really need to choose our material carefully. We’ll spend a lot of time talking about whether that tune or this one can be a good fit, and what might we do with it in terms of harmonics and rhythm.”

“And then we might play it for a tour or two, then get rid of it.”

Of course, Lúnasa wouldn’t go through all this trouble if its fans didn’t appreciate the results.

“I do think listeners appreciate the investment we make,” said Crawford. “We’ve been very happy to see the loyal following we have in the US, and especially in Boston – I think people here have probably seen about a half-dozen different combinations of Lúnasa over the years.”

Not surprisingly, Lúnasa fans have been wondering about the Smyth/Farrell transition, prompting Crawford to set the record straight. “Sean’s always been part of the band, and he will be until he decides he’s had enough. He’s just in a particularly busy period, but a few years from now the situation might be different. It’ll be kind of like what Altan does: They have an ‘American team’ – with Daithi Sproule as the guitar-

ist – and an ‘Ireland team,’ with Mark Kelly instead of Daithi. So, when we’re on the road in the US, we’ll have Colin with us, but if we have gigs in Ireland it’ll most likely be Sean.”

Or even both. “We did some concerts with [singer/guitarist] Tim O’Brien and had Sean as well as Colin, and the double fiddle thing went very well. It’s another dynamic that, sometimes, we’ll be able to work in.”

Crawford praises Farrell not just for his musical abilities – “He’s got some great tunes, and he’s a fantastic improviser” – but for helping “to keep it fresh – having some new blood coming in keeps things from getting stale. We’ve enjoyed having with us.”

With the start of the band’s third decade nearing, Crawford and Vallely have reflected on the proximity of Lúnasa’s beginnings to the splash “Riverdance” made when it became a worldwide phenomenon at around the same time. Unquestionably, they say, the show – which returned to Boston last month on its own 20th anniversary tour – raised the profile of Irish music as well as Irish dance, and so the mid-to-late 1990s was a pretty serendipitous period to be an Irish musician.

“It was fortunate for Ireland and Irish music that ‘Riverdance’ was the thing that caught on, because everything was so top-quality: the dancers, the musicians, the singers, the whole production,” said Crawford. “A lot of what followed in its wake, frankly, was just not as good; if those were the things that had gotten people’s attention, well, you might have seen a different outcome.”

“Where we were concerned, the timing was good, because our arrangements, our production, and our approach to the music had some elements in common with ‘Riverdance’ – even though, of course, we had come up with those on our own – so that probably helped draw some attention to us. In fact, at one theater where the show was, they played our first CD over the sound system while the audience was filing in.

“But at the same time, we knew that something as popular as this could wind up being exploited and imitated, so we worked hard to fashion our own identity and stay true to what we were doing. Because if you are passionate about what you do, and you stick to your values, you’ll find your niche. I think people who have liked our music appreciate that, and so we’ll always have die-hard followers.”

Vallely put it simply. “The reason Lúnasa has lasted,” he said, “is because it’s been successful: It’s been successful in that we’ve been able to create a sound that we can continue to build on and be creative with, and it’s been successful in that people have responded positively to what we’ve done. So as long as this all keeps happening, so will Lúnasa.”



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BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps hosted a dinner on May 20 at the Kennedy Library & Museum to honor individuals "who truly embrace" the legacy of the late US Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and "work tirelessly to better the lives of children and their families." The 2016 Embracing honorees were: Joseph E. Corcoran, Corcoran Jennison Companies; the Dropkick Murphys leader Ken Casey; Thaddeus Miles, director of community services at MassHousing; and Francine T. Sherman, clinical professor and director of the Juvenile Rights Advocacy Program at Boston College Law School.

Pictured are: 1.) Leslie E. Harris, Roxbury; Evelyn Miles, Virginia Beach, Va.; Donna Santos, Esther Santos, Hyde Park; 2.) Tom Lyons; 3.) Della Francis, Dorchester; 4.) Ken and Jennifer Casey, John Burke Hingham; 5.) Todd and Martha Golub, Newton; 6.) Nell and Pat Jones, Hingham; 7.) Larry and Hope Zabar, Swampscott; Congressman Joseph Kennedy; 8.) Gil Sullivan, Canton; Joe Corcoran; 9.) Ella Pinderhughes, Brookline; Jasmine Waddell, Cambridge; 10.) Ginny Doyle Milton; Eileen Casey, Hingham; 11.) Fran T. Sherman, Newton; Ned Loughran, Winchester; Ronna Benjiman, Newton; 12.) Kyle Saunders, Beacon Hill; Gaetan Daphnis, Milton; Joe Corcoran, Milton; 13.) Phil and Mary Chaves, Arlington; Jen and Merit McIntyre, Haverhill; 14.) Jennifer Casey (Mrs. Ken); Stephen Casey, Walpole; 15.) Congressman Joe Kennedy, Ken Casey.



Comprehensive Financial Planning: What Is It, Why It Matters

Your approach to building wealth should be built around your goals & values

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

Just what is “comprehensive financial planning?” As you invest and save for retirement, you will no doubt hear or read about it - but what does that phrase really mean? Just what does comprehensive financial planning entail, and why do knowledgeable investors request this kind of approach? While the phrase may seem ambiguous to some, it can be simply defined.



Comprehensive financial planning is about building wealth through a process, not a product. Financial products are everywhere, and simply putting money into an investment is not a gateway to getting rich, nor a solution to your financial issues.

Comprehensive financial planning is holistic. It is about more than “money”. A comprehensive financial plan is not only built around your goals, but also around your core values. What matters most to you in life? How does your wealth relate to that? What should your wealth help you accomplish? What could it accomplish for others?

Comprehensive financial planning considers the entirety of your financial life. Your assets, your liabilities, your taxes, your income, your business - these aspects of your financial life are never isolated from each other. Occasionally or frequently, they interrelate. Comprehensive financial planning recognizes this interrelation and takes a systematic, integrated approach toward improving your financial situation.

Comprehensive financial planning is long-range. It presents a strategy for the accumulation, maintenance and eventual distribution of your wealth, in a written plan to be implemented and fine-tuned over time.

What makes this kind of planning so necessary? If you aim to build and preserve wealth, you must play “defense” as well as “offense.” Too many people see building wealth only in terms of investing - you invest, you “make money,” and that is how you become rich.

Basing decisions on a plan prevents destructive behaviors when markets turn unstable. Impulsive decision-making is what leads many investors to buy high and sell low. Buying and selling in reaction to short-term volatility is a day trading mentality. On the whole, investors lose ground by buying and selling too actively. A comprehensive financial plan - and its long-range vision - helps to discourage this sort of behavior. At the same time, the plan - and the financial professional(s) who helped create it - can encourage the investor to stay the course.

Think of a comprehensive financial plan as your compass. Accordingly, the financial professional who works with you to craft and refine the plan can serve as your navigator on the journey toward your goals.

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. He may be reached at 617-479-0075 x331 or bosullivan@financialguide.com.

Couple to attempt to row from Chatham, MA, to Dingle, Ireland

By DOUG FRASER
CAPE COD TIMES
CHATHAM, Mass. — Back in 2007, James Caple was captivated by a story about Roz Savage’s attempt to row across the Pacific Ocean after she had successfully rowed from the Canary Islands to Antigua.

Caple realized he and Savage had a similar background. A management consultant and project manager providing information and software to financial institutions,

Caple is a software engineer who rowed in college, completed an Ironman triathlon and the Marine Corps Marathon,

but really wanted to test his mettle on a solo trans-Atlantic row.

“I was just smitten with the idea at that point and I thought, ‘If she could do it, why not me?’” he said.

Caple, 47, bought a gunning dory from a builder on Cape Cod. He brought it back to his home in Alexandria, Virginia, and attempted a long-distance row to Tangier Island in Chesapeake Bay, but everything went wrong. A second attempt, this time rowing with a friend, was not only successful but enjoyable.

“It occurred to me I’m probably best with a partner,” Caple said, standing

beside his girlfriend and rowing partner, Cindy Way, at the Ryders Cove boat ramp Wednesday afternoon.

Way and Caple are preparing to make what they hope will be the first successful west-to-east Trans-Atlantic row by a mixed pair. They are aiming at a 100-day crossing beginning May 24.

Way, 41, who works for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Maryland, also has a competitive streak. She caught the rowing bug at Tabor Academy in Marion and has been a competitive horse rider, run in sprint triathlons, and rowed for



James Caple and his girlfriend Cindy Way.
Image courtesy WCAI

the Alexandria Community Rowing club, where she met Caple. In the 2016 Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints, both rowed in a grueling 26.2 mile race, with Way taking the gold in the women’s division and Caple, 47, who once trained for a spot on the U.S. national rowing team, winning bronze in the men’s division.

The couple has been preparing for their first ocean crossing for nearly a year.

“He told me about the sport of ocean racing, which I didn’t even know existed, and I thought it was the most amazing thing in the world,” Way said. “I love the ocean, everything about it, and what better way to mesh everything, the beauty of nature, the sport of rowing, than to go across the ocean and really live.”

Both have taken a leave of absence from their jobs. They used savings and credit cards for the \$85,000 to \$100,000 needed to finance the voyage, including \$50,000 for a 24-foot-long vessel specifically made for long distance rowing that has been used in three successful Atlantic crossings. It has an enclosed section for storage in the bow and one for sleeping and refuge in storms in the stern. It’s equipped with satellite communications and map plotting, as well as a desalination unit to produce fresh water. A New Hampshire company will supply them with vital weather forecasts and hopefully route them around the bad stuff.

“It’s got good pedigree,” Caple said about the vessel.

Although neither has any open ocean experience, they sought the advice of experts like the boat builder, Justin Adkin, and Savage, who is serving as their adviser and mentor on the trip.

“I think we have the book knowledge, we just need the real experience,” Caple said.

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Traveling People

Bountiful color makes Ireland sparkle in springtime

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Color is the operative word in Ireland these days – brilliant color from the greenest of fields and occasional blue skies to flowering plants, trees, and bushes whose colors pop when sunshine hits them in gardens, yards, and along the roadside.

Flowers flourish on the Emerald Isle – especially in the nearly tropical south – and present a mixed palette of yellow (gorse and iris), pink, white and red (rhododendrons), white (wild garlic), orange (montbretia), and most other colors in the flower world throughout the year.

GARDEN TRAILS

With that in mind, Garden Trails are available in nearly every county, thanks to local gardeners offering their handiwork for public viewing.

Donegal's Garden Trail (donegalgardentrail.com) is celebrating its 10th year this summer and joins garden trails in Carlow, Connemara, West Cork, Wicklow, Waterford, Limerick, and other counties. Most of these public and private gardens and trails have websites and can easily be found on the internet in whatever area you are visiting.

There are interesting tours offered in a series of gardens near Lough Derg (loughderggardens.ie), in the Secret Gardens of Sligo (secretgardensofsligo.com), and in the Dublin Garden Group (dublinalgardens.com) as well as many more around the Republic and Northern Ireland.

If you are in West Cork, be sure to take a ferry over to see Inacullin on Garnish (or Garinish) Island (garnishisland.com), a magnificent and unique garden on a 37-acre island in Bantry Bay. Frequent ferry transport is available from Glengarriff Pier nearby.

You can visit gardens on your own or sign on for a specialized garden tour – many tours are offered online including: myirelandtour.com, specialireland.com, gardenvisit.com, rosstours.com and there are others too.

Also be sure to visit Houses, Castles and Gardens of Ireland's website: hcgi.ie for many more garden's and homes open to view.

RESTAURANT AWARDS

If you're hungry in Ireland, it's your own fault! There are outstanding restaurant options in lots of different categories and the Restaurants Association of Ireland just gave out their 2016 awards chosen from more than 70,000 online nominations.

Dublin's Luna restaurant on Drury Street won the top award as 2016 All-Ireland Best Restaurant after being open for less than a year. Luna is modeled after a New York-style Italian restaurant.

Enda McEvoy of Loam, Galway, (loamgalway.com) won Best Chef in Ireland and Loam, just off Eyre Square in Galway City, won best restaurant in Connaught.

Best restaurant in Leinster was The Pigeon House in Wicklow, (pigeonhouse.ie) and in Munster, 1826 Adare, Main Street Adare, (1826adare.ie) owned by Elaine and Wade Murphy, took home the top prize.



Blue poppies in gardens at Bruckless House in Bruckless, Co. Donegal.
Judy Enright photos

David Hurley of Gregans Castle Hotel, Ballyvaughan, Clare, (gregans.ie) was named best chef in Munster and the hotel's dining room also won best hotel restaurant in all of Ireland.

Other winners included:

- Best chef: Dublin, John Wyer of Forest Avenue, Dublin; Leinster, Rob Krawczyk of Brabazon at Tankardstown House, Meath; Ulster, David Gillmore of James Street South, Antrim;

- Best Hotel Restaurant: Dublin, The Brasserie at The Marker, Dublin; Connaught, The Library Restaurant at Belleek Castle, Mayo; Leinster, The Lady Helen at Mount Juliet, Kilkenny; Ulster, Harvey's Restaurant at Harvey's Point, Donegal;

- Best Café: All-Ireland, Café Rua, Castlebar, Mayo; Dublin, The Pepper Pot, Dublin; Leinster, Blackberry Café, Kilkenny; Munster, The Granary Café, Waterford; Ulster, Aroma Café in the Donegal Craft Village, Donegal.

The awards recognize achievement and excellence in the restaurant and hospitality industry throughout the 32 counties and are made up of 19 different categories.

OUTSIDE THE PALE

Well, the following places didn't make the big list but we'd like to add these eateries as some of our favorites: Lough Inagh Lodge Hotel in Recess, Mitchell's Seafood Restaurant in Clifden, and Renvyle House (crab salad) on the Renvyle Peninsula, all Co. Galway; McDermott's Pub and Roadford House, both in Doolin, Co. Clare, and these Mayo establishments: the café at Foxford Woollen Mills in Foxford, Mulranny Park Hotel dining room and bar in Mulranny, Glen Keen Farm (great gift shop) in Louisburgh, the Beehive (great gift shop and world's best lemon drizzle cake) in

Keel on Achill Island, and Ginger & Wild Café at the Ballycroy National Park visitors' center.

Good homemade food with locally sourced ingredients can be found all over Ireland.

ASHFORD CASTLE

When you see all the renovations and exquisite special touches at Ashford Castle in Cong, Co. Mayo, you might think this hotel simply cannot get any better. Then you return a year later and see so many more upgrades and changes at this five-star Irish hotel and you know that, yes, Ashford is even more incredible.

Red Carnation Hotels, a South African company owned by the Tollman family, bought Ashford in 2013 and has spent the past three years undertaking a mega-million euro interior and exterior renovation that included more than 800 new windows, new wiring, new lead roof, air conditioning, repointed stonework, and more. The extensive renovation meant the infrastructure had to be completely overhauled because of the age and size of the castle.

There are now heated towel rails and under-floor heating in all bathrooms, smoke detectors and complimentary Wi-Fi



Crystal chandeliers and vases of fresh cut flowers at Ashford Castle in Cong, Co. Mayo.

throughout and two telephones in every one of 82 bedrooms. All walls are covered in fabric and all fabrics are different.

Additions at the castle included a luxurious five-room spa, a billiards room complete with an antique billiards table that was bought in London and that King George V reportedly once played on, indoor swimming pool, technogym, and a cigar terrace off the billiards room. A 32-seat cinema screens classic films – including, of course, "The Quiet Man" (many crew members, actors and actresses stayed at Ashford during filming).

Virtuoso, a luxury travel network, recently named Ashford the world's leading hotel, and you can see why.

Also upgraded was The Lodge at Ashford, another accommodation building on the castle estate that is an option for those who wish to partake of the castle's many activities but want to pay less.

Beatrice Tollman, president and founder of Red Carnation Hotels, her daughter, Toni, the Red Carnation project team, and architect Philippe Bonino, are credited with the upgrades and renovations.

EVENTS

The 8th annual Percy

French Festival, an annual symposium on Ireland, will be held at Castlecoote House in Co. Roscommon (castlecootehouse.com), from July 6 to July 8. Titled "The French Letter," the festival is billed as "an informed social and cultural discussion of Ireland today" and includes music performed by leading songwriters and musicians. Speakers include Dr. Brendan McEvoy, Brian Griffin, Jane Maxwell, Eugene McGee, Maureen Beary Ryan, Karina Melvin, Dr. Kieran O'Mahony, Dr. Teresa O'Donnell, Alan Tongue, Eamon Maher and Brian Munn.

Performers this year will be: Michael Banaghan, The Castlecoote Ramblers, Peadar MacMahon and Friends, The Mulligan Sisters and The French Ensemble. See percyfrench.ie for more information and to download a brochure.

Ireland Bike Fest Killarney in Co. Kerry, is June 3 to June 6 and welcomes motorcycle owners and enthusiasts from around the world. See irelandbikefest.com for more.

From June 3 to June 12, Carrick-on-Shannon in Co. Leitrim hosts the Carrick Festival with numerous events and activities

for the whole family. See carrickonshannon.ie for details and check out the convenient and welcoming Bush Hotel while you're in town.

From June 4 to June 12, enjoy a series of family fun events at the Cork Harbor Festival in Cork City and Crosshaven. For more, visit corkharbourfestival.com.

The Innishannon, Co. Cork, Steam and Vintage Rally, in support of the Irish Cancer Society, is June 5 and June 6. See isvrally.com for more.

The Bloomsday Festival in Dublin (June 11-16) celebrates that one day in James Joyce's Ulysses when all action happens. See bloomsdayfestival.ie for more.

On June 10 and June 11, Shauna Kelly and her father, Sean, welcome diners to Kelly's Kitchen in Newport, Co. Mayo, for a "Gourmet Greenway Afternoon Tea" to sample Kelly's Butchers' Gourmet Greenway Pudding, sausages, the Black Goat and more. From June 16 to June 18, join Gerry and Julie at the Chalet Restaurant in Keel, Achill Island, Co. Mayo, for "Formula 1 salmon weekend" and try Ireland's famous seafood offerings. Gerry is well known for his Achill smoked salmon. The Gourmet Greenway events were designed by the Mulranny Park Hotel and annually attract diners, hikers, walkers, and bicyclists to the Great Western Greenway that runs from Westport to Achill Island.

The Erris Beo Festival is June 16-June 19 in Belmullet, Co. Mayo. See errisbeo.ie for details.

The Carlow Arts Festival will be held from June 10 to June 19 in Carlow Town and surrounding areas. For more information on this festival, visit carlowartsfestival.com.

TRAVEL

Enjoy Ireland whenever and wherever you go. Be sure to check discoverireland.com and discoverireland.ie for events and information on happenings and more. And, if you need advice when you're in Ireland, look for the big green shamrock that designates tourist offices all over the country.

Ryanair posts record 2016 profit, sees lower fares for travel this summer

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN — European budget carrier Ryanair has posted record full-year profits and passenger figures, and expects both to hit new highs this summer amid rapid growth and declining fares.

Monday's results for the year ending March 31 showed the Dublin-based airline strengthening on every front. Net profit before exceptional gains rose 43 percent to 1.24 billion euros (\$1.4 billion) and the percentage of seats sold rose 5 points to 93 percent. Total sales rose 16 percent to 6.54 billion euros and the overall number of passengers for the year rose 18 percent to 106.4 million.

Chief Executive Michael O'Leary says Ryanair expects average fares to fall around 6 percent this summer and even more in winter amid increased competition and well-hedged fuel costs. He says Ryanair should carry 116 million passengers and record a minimum net profit in 2017 of 1.38 billion euros, 11 percent higher than Monday's record figure. Analysts expect Ryanair to beat that forecast by at least 100 million euros.

O'Leary said Ryanair foresees its fleet of Boeing 737-800s growing this year by 53 aircraft to reach 380

as the airline expands eastward with seven new bases including Bucharest, Romania; Prague, Czech Republic; Sofia, Bulgaria, and the German cities of Hamburg and Nuremberg. Ryanair already is central to western Europe's short-haul traffic with the biggest market share in Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Poland and Spain. It's No. 3 in Germany and France and No. 2 in Britain where it's battling to dethrone budget rival easyJet.

Ryanair shares rose 2.4 percent in afternoon Dublin trading to 13.53 euros.

Monday's net profit excluded an exceptional gain of 317.5 million euros from Ryanair's November sale of its stake in rival Irish carrier Aer Lingus to IAG, the parent of British Airways. Ryanair launched three hostile bids for Aer Lingus that faced opposition from competition regulators, the Irish government and labor unions.

Analysts credit Ryanair's 2013 decision to start improving customer service and broadening its product range as critical in driving its latest growth. A business previously infamous for surprise extra charges and cut-throat inflexibility now offers smoother online sales, family and business tickets, more relaxed baggage rules and better space on its new Boeing models.

All roads lead to Canton for Irish Fest

(Continued from page 1) (including Boston Red Sox games), until he recorded the album “Danny Boy” in 1992. The record’s success spurred him to become a full-time singer, beginning as an opener for The Chieftains before touring as a solo act. In 1998, he, along with Anthony Kearns and Ronan Tynan, formed The Irish Tenors, which was featured regularly on PBS. Since leaving the group, he has continued to perform with his own band as well as various symphony orchestras while also working in support of veterans, for which he has received the Medal of Honor Society’s Bob Hope Award. In 2000, he dedicated McDermott House in Washington, DC, which provides transitional living quarters for homeless vets.

Long Island native Andy Cooney has been singing professionally for some 30 years, and since launching his solo career in 1994 has performed across the country as well as internationally, offering

renditions of familiar Irish favorites like “Danny Boy” and “Galway Boy,” and his hit records “The Irish Wedding Song,” “Boston Rose” and “Daughter of Mine.” He has worked with prominent entertainers including Ronan Tynan, Crystal Gayle, Seamus Egan, and Phil Coulter, and been featured on CD and DVD as well as on broadcast TV.

The Cunningham Family, individually and collectively, has galvanized the world of Irish sean-nos (old-style) dance. Galway natives Irene, Brian and Ashline regularly perform with well-known acts like Dé Danann, The Chieftains, Sharon Shannon, Altan, Dervish, and Téada. Their “Fuaime Chonamara” show was a headline act at the Volvo Ocean Race spectacular in Galway during 2009, attracting an audience of some 20,000. Brian Cunningham is known to many Bostonians through “Atlantic Steps,” a tribute to sean-nos dance he created and co-directed; the

show was a headliner at the ICC’s 2013 festival.

Other special guests at Irish Fest Boston include Galway country singer-songwriter Matthew O’Donnell, Connemara “country-and-Irish” singer Beairtíle O Domhnaill, and the Co. Tyrone-based folk-rock band The Whistlin’ Donkeys.

Also on hand will be many acts that have become familiar to area concert and festival-goers, such as Marian Uí Cheide Keady; Ciaran Nagle and Tara Novak; Devri; The Silver Spears; Boston’s Erin Og; Inchicore; Jinty McGrath; Colm O’Brien; Denis O’Gorman; Fenian Sons; Erin’s Melody; Pauline Wells; the Noel Henry Irish Show Band; Erin’s Guild; Danny Gill & Old Brigade; Stuart Peak & Friends; Boxty; House DJ Sean O’Toole; Curragh’s Fancy; The Gobshites; Clare Egan with Eoin O’Neil; and Bill Bailey.

Other attractions include The Viking Irish, a Boston organization that recreates Hiberno-Norse

Viking culture from the ninth and 10th centuries; the Irish Wolfhounds Association, which will show and offer information about its iconic dogs; a recreation of a 19th-century Irish cottage that will provide a setting for talks and demonstrations on the language, traditions and folkways of Gaelic-speaking communities; Irish sports and games organized by the Gaelic Athletic Association; numerous vendors of authentic Irish products, food and beverages; and activities for children and families.

“The mission of Irish Fest Boston is to give people a true sense of what it means to be Irish here in New England,” said ICC President Seamus Mulligan. “The activities during festival week will create a sense of this region’s rich Irish roots. The festival during the weekend features dozens of the finest musicians, singers, dancers, writers, and cultural advocates you’re likely to see in one



Singer-songwriter Colm O’Brien will be among many Boston and Massachusetts acts at Irish Fest Boston.

setting.”

For tickets and other event details and updates,

go to the festival website at irishfestboston.com.

Tips on genealogy session at ICC June 25

By KIERA MURRAY
BIR CORRESPONDENT

The Friends of Irish Research will present The School of Irish Genealogy at

the Irish Cultural Centre on June 25 at 1 p.m. Richard Reid will discuss advanced methods on the genealogy search tool FamilySearch, and Robert Murphy will talk about dual citizenship.

Users generally only need some basic information to get started on FamilySearch, such as parents’ and grandparents’ names, county or town locations, and parish names if known, says Reid.

Primary sources like newspapers have also been digitized and made available on FamilySearch, he says, so users can better understand their ancestors’ lives in historical context.

FamilySearch is particularly useful to those hoping to obtain dual Irish-American citizenship, because it provides access to the documents they need, like birth and marriage certificates, to present to the consulate. Before digitization, these documents may have been impossible to retrieve. Or, a person may not have known they existed at all.

For those hoping to claim dual status, Robert Murphy will be speaking on how to go about it, guiding attendees through the steps and providing insight into various idiosyncrasies they may encounter when dealing with the Irish government.

Murphy was born in Massachusetts but was able to become an Irish citizen because his grandfather was born in Innishannon, Co. Cork. To gain citizenship, a candidate must have a parent or grandparent who was born in Ireland. He or she will need a grandparent’s birth

and baptism certificates, parents’ birth certificates and marriage certificate, and his or own birth certificate. Each document is necessary in order to trace the candidate’s history back to the parent or grandparent.

These all must be original documents, so while programs like FamilySearch can confirm their existence, the person still has to send away for the original, physical documents.

While citizenship does provide tangible benefits like voting rights, retirement options, and work and educational opportunities, Murphy has found that many who pursue it are looking for more than just faster airport queues. An Irish passport can represent a familial connection and patriotism that people have felt for a long time.

In Murphy’s experience, the Irish welcome his and other Americans’ efforts to become citizens, and appreciate that they want to claim the culture not just as their father’s or grandfather’s, but as their own.

The application could be considered an act of mending ties, he said.

“I’ve never met or heard of anyone who left Ireland because they wanted to,” he said. “Those people in the 19th century didn’t leave on their own accord. They were forced out. And the Irish have a very deep conscience. They like to right what they consider to be wrongs.”

For many, in other words, it’s not so much obtaining citizenship as regaining it.

Prior registration is preferred to guarantee that attendees will receive all necessary materials. Those interested can register by emailing friendsofirishresearch@gmail.com.

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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

This month’s “irregular” verb is **téigh** /chey/, “go”. Don’t worry, we are almost done with “irregular” verbs – at least in the three tenses that we have had so far, the **Habitual Present**, **Definite Past**, and the **Future**. **Téigh**, “go” is “irregular” in all three of these tenses.

In the **Habitual Present** tense, **téigh** drops the **-igh** and the “stem” is simply **té-**.
“I” becomes simply **Téim**, /cheym/ and “he, she, it, you-all” and “they” are **Téann tú, sé, sí, sibh, siad** /CHEY-awn/ but “we go” is the expected **téimid** /CHEY-muhj/.

Note that the Subject Pronouns “I”, “you” “he”, “she “, “It” “you-all” and “they” are required to clarify **Teann** unless “go” has already been expressed in an immediate conjunction with a **Subject** such as **Téann Nóra go Doire. Teann gach lá**. “Nora goes as far as Derry. (She) goes every day.” Here the **Subject**, “Nora” is understood. Since “I” and “we” have distinctive endings, **mé** and **muid** are not required.

The **Definite Past**, corresponding to our “went”, is truly “irregular”, **Chuaigh** /HOO-ey/ as **Chuaigh mé, tú, sé, sí, sibh, siad** but **Chuamar** for /HOO-mahr/ for **muid**, “we went”.

The **Future tense** is similar to the **Habitual Past** but here the “stem” to which suffixes are attvehed is **rach-**: **Rachaidh** /RAHK-ee/. **Rachaidh mé, tú, sé, sí, sibh, siad** but again **Rachaimid** /RAHK-ee-muhj/ “We will go.”

“To add insult to injury”, the **Verbal Noun**, “going” is **dul. Tá mé ag dul go Doire**, “I am going as far as Derry”. Lucky for you that you have already learned this form.

As you may have guessed, in addition to its basic meaning of traveling away from the speaker or to describe motion from one place to another, **Téim** is used in a number of **idioms**. English “go” has some forms that don’t use **Téim** at all.

Here are a few Irish phrase that use forms of **Téim**.
Tá sí ag dul a dhéanamh ... “She is going to do ,,
Rachaidh siar air Séan gealltanas. “Sean will go back on a promise.”
Chuaigh síos Máiri síos an staighre. “Mary went downstairs.”
Agus chuaigh suas sí an staighre. “And she went upstairs.”
Téigh lorg! “Go for it! Fetch!”
Téigh isteach! “Go in!”
Rachaidh an tine. “The fire will go out.”
Chuaigh tríd an traen Gaillimh. “The train went through Galway.”
Téimid ar turas. “We go on (a) trip.”
Dul ar aghaidh le rud. “Go on with what you were doing.”

However there are many nglish phrases using “go” that are not from **Téim** at all. Here are some examples:

“Go away!”
“Go on!” (with what you are saying)
“Go off/explode”
“The gun went off/ Fired.”
“The milk is going to spoil.”
“The play went off well”

“He will go into the army.”
“Go with him!”
“It goes for ten Euros.”
“It has gone up three Euros.”

Imigh leat!
Lean ort!
Pléasc!
Scaoil an gunna.
Chorraidh sa bainne.
D'eirigh go geal leis an drámaíocht.
Chromaidh air an t-arm.
Teacht leis!
Imeacht ar deich Euro.
D'ardaigh sé trí Euro.

Now let’s see how well you can do with the following translations:
English to Irish: 1.) “Go into the house now!” 2.) “Mary will go upstairs.”
3.) “Will it go through Wexford? (**Loch Garman**)” 4.) “You-all go away!”
5.) “Didn’t they go through Galway?” 6.) “We will go on a trip.” 7.) “The bread spoiled.” 8.) “Are you going to Dublin?” 9.) “No. I am going as far as Wexford.” 10.) “They went to Galway.”

Answers” 1.) **Téigh isteach an teach anois!** 2.) **Rachaidh Máiri suas an staighre.** 3.) **An théim tríd sé Loch Garman?** 4.) **Imigh libh!** 5.) **An chuaigh tríd siad Gallimh?** 6.) **Rachaimid ar turas.** 7.) **Chorr sa aráin.** 8.) **An téann tú go Baile Átha Cliath?** 9.) **Níl. Níl mé ag dul go Loch Garman.** 10.) **Chuaigh siad do Gallimh.**



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1 Sunday	Silver Spears	26 Sunday	Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton
1 Wednesday	Dance Classes from 7:15 pm until 9:15 am. \$12 per class.		JULY 2016
5 Sunday	Mossie Coughlin	3 Sunday	Wild Rovers
8 Wednesday	Dance Classes from 7:15 pm until 9:15 am. \$12 per class.	8 Friday	Chefs Table Foundation fundraiser for Veteran culinary scholarships hosted by Fred Zagami of Salem Food Market, Dedham. 70’s, 80’s, 90’s Reunion. Call Fred at 508-468-7800.
12 Sunday	Noel Henry’s Irish Show Band	10 Sunday	Denis Curtin
15 Wednesday	Dance Classes from 7:15 pm until 9:15 am. \$12 per class.	16 Saturday	Colm Keegan from Celtic Thunder concert.
17 Friday	West Roxbury Rocks to benefit Ethos AgeWell West Roxbury, keeping seniors and the disabled at home for as long as possible. Tickets \$40 includes dinner and entertainment. Call Ann Glora for more info at 617-477-6616.		
18 Saturday	Mary Heavey Quinn: Celebrating 35 years teaching Irish Step Dancing. Music by Noel Henry’s Irish Show Band. Admission \$15. 7-11 pm. For more information, please call Kathleen Heavey at 617-281-7310.		
19 Sunday	John Connors		
22 Wednesday	Dance Classes from 7:15 pm until 9:15 am. \$12 per class.		

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