

# Quarantined, They Died; Now, They are Remembered

**BY BILL BRETT  
AND CAROL BEGGY**  
**BOSTON HARBOR**  
 — Some 600 people gathered on a bright Saturday morning of the 2019 Memorial Day weekend to dedicate a permanent marker on Deer Island to those Irish emigrants who some 170 years ago left their island during the Great Hunger (“An Gorta Mor”) for the United States only to be too sick to enter the country when they arrived in Boston Harbor.

Standing at the wind-swept site, a visitor can gaze over the harbor and see city neighborhoods where in the mid-1800s tens of thousands of Ireland’s men, women, and children who managed to survive the harrowing ocean journey in relatively good health made new lives for themselves. But not everyone made it to the farther shore beyond the small island they embarked upon. Quarantined there by civic and medical officials fearful of the spread of deadly diseases like typhus to the general population in Boston, over time almost 1,200 would-be immigrants, historians say, never left the tiny prominence that faced the city proper. Their fate was to die waiting.

Those who gathered on May 25 near the towering Celtic cross witnessed its dedication as the symbol of the Great Hunger Memori-



**Boston Mayor Marty Walsh spoke to a gathering of some 600 at the dedication of the Deer Island Irish Memorial.**  
*Photo courtesy Bill Brett*

al, a commemorative to the hundreds of Irish refugees who arrived at the island in the years between 1845 and 1852 with cases of what officials called “ship fever,” most likely a form of typhus. The cross and the memorial site were built “in memory of the Irish souls who, in hope of avoiding starvation, left their native land for new lives in America, only to perish and be interred in unmarked graves.”

The day’s events includ-

## Words of Remembrance

“Deer Island has a place in this tapestry of endurance. The victims we remember today were far from home, but not yet attached to our immigrant community. So for them, it may have felt as if the “emerald thread” was broken. But today, in our prayers, our education, and our collective memory, through this powerful monument to their hopes and their hardships, we weave their thread back into the pattern.”

— Mayor Martin Walsh

This event speaks to “our interdependence and our interconnectedness, how we are connected to one another and connected to the people who died on this island and who are buried here.”

— Cardinal Sean O’Malley

ed welcoming remarks by MWRA executive director Fred Laskey, a blessing by Boston’s Cardinal Seán Patrick O’Malley, and remarks by Boston’s Mayor Martin J. Walsh. The rector of Holy Cross Cathedral, Msgr. Kevin O’Leary, also participated in the ceremony, and Irish-born vocalist Mairin Uí Cheide Keady performed the Irish and US national anthems.

City of Boston Archivist John McColgan, whose

research of historic records helped tell the story of the quarantine station on Deer Island, gave the keynote address at the ceremony, a 2,500-word recounting of the chapters that made up the full story. He had noted earlier that historical accounts say that in the 1670s, some 500 Native Americans who had been captured near modern-day Natick during King Philip’s War were interned on the island where close to half of them died of starvation and exposure.

The backstory to the memorial dedication initiative was the discovery in 1990 by a backhoe operator working to help build a wastewater treatment plant for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority of some skeletons initially believed to be the remains of those captured Native Americans two centuries earlier. But laboratory tests later confirmed they were the remains of Irish refugees.

For many Irish who died in those years, the burial place was mass graves at Deer Island’s historic Rest Haven Cemetery. Figures as to how many were buried in an unmarked grave vary because a number of bodies were claimed by family members and buried elsewhere in or around Boston. Those who were unclaimed—they had died alone — were laid to rest in unmarked graves

**(Continued on page 7)**

# Shakeup in the sessions scene: ‘Slán’ to the iconic Green Briar, ‘Fáilte’ to the Burren’s new gig

**BY SEAN SMITH**  
**SPECIAL TO THE BIR**  
 April was a cruel month indeed for Boston’s Irish music community, as word circulated that three area Irish sessions were coming to an end, including, arguably, the most iconic of them all, the Monday gathering at the Green Briar Pub in Brighton.

Also on the list were Harrington’s in Wakefield and the monthly session at the Canadian American Club in Watertown.

But news of the Green

Briar’s closing — the pub itself, not just the session it had hosted for 29 years — in particular shocked and saddened musicians and non-musicians alike. Tributes cited not just the Briar session’s longevity, but also the quality of its music and, most of all, the fellowship it inspired and the valuable resource it provided as a place for less experienced musicians to learn the ropes.

There was also fervent praise for the late Larry Reynolds, head of Boston’s Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éire-

ann chapter, who was not only the session organizer for so many years but its public face and ambassador.

“A sad loss.” ... “So many amazing memories, both of the music and the people who made it.” ... “Never would’ve been a musician if not for the Briar.” Comments like these were spread far and wide via social media and personal conversation.

The grief was partly tempered when organizers for the Briar session

**(Continued on page 15)**



**The penultimate Green Briar “late” session in progress. While many notable Irish musicians dropped by over the years, said co-organizer Tommy Sheridan (playing accordion at rear left in the photo), “you know who really makes the session? It’s those people who come every week, or every two weeks, or once a month — whenever they can.”**  
*Sean Smith photo*

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GRAMMY NOMINTED ARTIST FORMERLY OF CELTIC WOMAN

# Mairead Nesbitt

*"...a demon of a fiddle player!"*  
The New York Times



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11am: Katie & Clodhna

4pm: Devri

**Take in some of Ireland's oldest sports- Hurling and Irish football. The North East GAA championship will be in full swing on Sunday**

**1:00pm MJAFc: Aidan McAnespies V Connemara Gaels**

**1:30pm MJBFC: Galway V Sean Ogs**

**2:30pm MIFc: Cork V Shannon Blues**

**3:45pm MSHG: Tipperary V Fr. Tom Burkes**

**5:00pm MSFC: Donegal V Wolfe Tones**

**Adult Admission: \$10 Kids / 12 & under: FREE**

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**Food & Drink:** Pub service starts at 6 p.m.

## SATURDAYS AT THE PUB

**Music: open music session led by Billy O'Neill 5-8 p.m.**

**Food & Drink:** Pub service starts at 5 p.m.

## Irish beers on tap – Peaty Single malts and other old favorites

## SUMMER WORKSHOPS AT THE ICC (JULY 8-12)

9:30am -11:30am **IRISH SPORTS MEDLEY**

Tadhg leader, former professional rugby player in Ireland, currently plays with Free Jacks of New England rugby club and the USA Rugby club will return to ICC to host a week of sports. Tadhg is a full time rugby coach but also played hurling and football to a high level in Ireland before relocating to the states. He will be creating a fun and safe environment for the kids to try various sports and form new friendships. The participants will get the opportunity to play the traditional Irish sports – Gaelic football and hurling, also soccer and rugby.

11:45am -1:45am **CAMP-O-RAMA STEAM PROGRAM**

The kiddos are going to have "S'more Fun" during this camping themed STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) program. They will design and build a solar box cooker and use it to make S'mores! Learn how to make their own magnetic compass and design flashlights that can turn on and off.



2pm-4pm CULTURALLY SPEAKING: AN INTRODUCTION  
TO IRISH SONG, DANCE, HISTORY & LANGUAGE.

The kids will be introduced to conversational Irish through song, dance and play. Liz our expert crafts person will work with them on a historical project. *Roisin Byrne* will introduce them to a couple of Irish ballads. They will also learn some simple ceilí dances – no dance experience necessary. We'll also take a "trip" out to the ICC Cottage to learn about the life in early 1900's Ireland. We will end the week with a mini "session in the cottage" - parents welcome! *It will be an immersive experience in Irish Culture.*



**AGE GROUP:** Ages 7 to 14.

**DATES:** 5 day workshops – from July 8th to July 12th

**FEE:** Each workshop costs \$90 ICC member/\$100 non member (for 5 days)

All 3 workshops: \$250 ICC member/ \$270 non member (for 5 days)

- Children can move from workshop to workshop that run consecutively and will be supervised by the leader of the program.

• Questions to : [mdooher@irishculture.org](mailto:mdooher@irishculture.org) or call 781-821-8291 to



200 New Boston Drive, Canton MA 02021 [www.irishculture.org](http://www.irishculture.org)



BIR NOTEBOOK

Introducing Laoise Moore, Boston’s new consul general

Quinlan now Irish ambassador to Turkey

The Irish community is welcoming a new Consul General, Laoise Moore, who arrived in late May to the Consulate offices in Copley Square, “I’m delighted to be taking up my new post,” Moore told the BIR in an email. “I’ll be accompanied by my husband Michael and our daughter Anna, and we’re really looking forward to the next few years in Boston.

“Prior to this posting I worked in the Political Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin. Before this I worked at the Houses of the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) with the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Committee on

the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly. Previous postings include the Irish Embassy in Malaysia and the Irish Consulate General in Edinburgh.”

Among the first tasks for CG Moore (first name is pronounced “Lee-sha”) in her new post was hosting Ireland’s Higher Education Minister, Mary Mitchell O’Connor, at a May 30 reception.

In another staff change, Vice Consul Aoife Budd will leave in July and return to a Department of Foreign Affairs position in Dublin.

Moore takes the post as Fionnuala Quinlan, who



Laoise Moore Enconced in Boston

served here for almost four years, has been promoted to Ireland’s Ambassador to Kenya, and was to begin the new assignment this month in the Kenya capital city of Nairobi. Quinlan, who made many friends all across the Boston community, was feted at several events last month in Boston, including a May 14 Union Club reception hosted by the Charitable Irish and Eire societies.



ICCNE names Burke as executive director

Steve Burke was recently named executive director of the Irish Cultural Centre of New England (ICCNE). He will direct the ICC’s fundraising and membership campaigns, as well as oversee the utilization of the 46-acre campus’s four athletic fields, artistic performance spaces, banquet hall, library and genealogy center, traditional Irish cottage and on-site restaurant and pub. The ICC is home to GAA Boston and Irish Sports Youth League football and hurling, Boston Irish Wolfhounds rugby, Cumann na Gaeilge i mBoston Irish language Society, and Tree Top Adventures zip line and high ropes course.

Burke brings a wealth of corporate business development, marketing, and non-profit gover-



Steve Burke

nance and fundraising experience to the role. He founded and still directs the Boston to Belfast Youth Empowerment Program, an outgrowth of Mayor Walsh’s sister city agreement with Belfast, Northern Ireland. He is a former business de-

velopment executive at international law firms Proskauer Rose, Mintz Levin and Ropes & Gray, Director of Urban Youth Sports at Northeastern University’s Center for the Study of Sport in Society, past president of the Massachusetts Sports Partnership and co-founder of the S.C.O.R.E Boston inner-city youth hockey program. He is also an active member of the Boston Irish Business Association and Irish Network Boston, and serves on the boards of the Dedham Community House and City Year Boston. A graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and the New England School of Law, he lives in Dedham with his wife, Sandra Lopez Burke, and their daughter Julia.

**Irish Ambassador to the US Daniel Mulhall was in Boston for two days last month, and made a presentation at the Edward M Kennedy Institute for the US Senate to speak about Brexit and its possible effects on Ireland. He was greeted by Congressman Joseph Kennedy (Photo from Twitter courtesy @danmulhall)**



Brett reappointed to Disability Council post



Jim Brett, at left, president and CEO of the New England Council, has been reappointed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency making recommendations to the president and Congress to enhance

the quality of life for all Americans with disabilities and their families and to promote equal opportunity. Brett is also the chairman of both the Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability and the Disabled Persons Protection Commission.

Apollo 11’s Michael Collins, Jeff Bezos will participate in JFK Space Summit

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing and President Kennedy’s vision that launched the effort, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum will host Apollo 11 Lunar Command Module pilot Michael Collins and Blue Origin Founder Jeff Bezos as they take part in a daylong symposium on June 19 at the Library.

The JFK Space Summit will highlight the history that led to the first Moon landing, current scientific and technological space initiatives, and the future of space exploration.

“We are thrilled to bring together such an extraordinary group of people to celebrate one of the greatest achievements in human history,” said Ambassador Caroline Kennedy, honorary President of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation. “I hope that this program inspires new generations to come together, set ambitious goals, and renew our civic commitment to solving the problems of our time.”

In addition to Bezos and Collins, the full day JFK Space Summit program will feature:

- A panel of international astronauts from the United States, Japan, Italy, and Russia to discuss the international cooperation that has been essential to so many of the scientific and technological breakthroughs resulting from human space exploration.

- Former NASA administrator Charles Bolden, former director of the Johnson Space Center Ellen Ochoa, and former NASA deputy administrator Dava Newman to discuss NASA’s past and future with National Air and Space Museum director Ellen Stofan.

- Dennis Muilenburg, chairman, president and CEO of The Boeing Company, to discuss Boeing’s role in the Apollo program and in space travel today and in the future.

- Former NASA Earth Science Division Director Michael Freilich to examine how space satel-

lites have revolutionized our understanding of Planet Earth.

- Scientists Maria Zuber, MIT vice president of research, Laurie Leshin, president, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Sara Seager, MIT Professor of Planetary Science and Physics, to discuss scientific discoveries that have changed our understanding of the universe beyond Planet Earth, and questions that remain unanswered.

- A special preview of National Geographic’s latest documentary, “Apollo: Missions to the Moon,” airing in July 2019.

Visit [jfklibrary.org/spacesummit](http://jfklibrary.org/spacesummit) for the full schedule and to register. Seats are no longer available to the public for the evening program with Michael Collins and Jeff Bezos. The event with Dennis Muilenburg is by invitation only. Seats are available free of charge for the remainder of the day’s events. Registration is recommended.

Ireland’s voters give a resounding ‘yes’ to change in divorce laws

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Irish voters have overwhelmingly endorsed a plan to liberalize the country’s constitution to make it easier for couples to divorce, election officials said on Sunday.

Just over 82 percent of voters endorsed removing a requirement that couples be separated for four of the previous five years before they can divorce.

It will fall to Ireland’s Parliament to come up

with new legislation to govern divorce. The country’s Fine Gael party-led government has proposed halving the separation period to two years. Divorce was banned in the largely Roman Catholic country until 1995. Ireland has seen rapid social change in recent years. In 2015 the country voted to legalize same-sex marriage, and last year, voters opted by a two-to-one margin to end a constitutional ban on abortion.

Culture Minister Josepha Madigan told RTE News that voters had shown compassion by “humanizing the system. I think it’s an emphatic, unequivocal result, and even though we have a very low marital breakdown in Ireland, it just demonstrates the amount of people who stand in solidarity with them,” she said. perce Voter turnout for the referendum was just over 50 percent.

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

Boston Irish Honors 2019 -- Call for Nominations

**The Boston Irish Reporter-** The region's leading chronicler of all things Irish-American, is a family-owned and operated media publication, a unique and independent source for news and information. Each month we report on the Irish people and events here in Boston as well as stories focused on the Irish diaspora. At the end of this year the BIR will complete three full decades-30 years-of telling "The stories of Boston's Irish."

**Save the Date-** The Boston Irish Reporter will host the 10<sup>th</sup> "Boston Irish Honors 2019" celebratory luncheon on Friday, October 18, 2019 at the Boston World Trade Center / Seaport Hotel. At this inspiring event, we recognize and celebrate exemplary individuals and families who share our culture and traditions- by telling the stories of their special achievements in public service, business, philanthropy and community leadership. Our annual BIH luncheon is the season's premier celebration of Irish-American achievement in Massachusetts.

**Telling the stories-** Our honorees represent the best qualities of the Irish- devotion to our fellow Bostonians; a sense of compassion for all people no matter their place of birth or station in life; and a deep connection to our common ancestral Irish homeland. In their personal and professional lives, BIH honorees inspire us and our fellow citizens with their dedication to our country to our Commonwealth and to the neediest among us.

**Call for nominations-** Our annual Boston Irish Honors luncheon celebrates the contributions of families and individuals who brought honor and distinction to our city and region over many decades. We earnestly seek your suggestions of potential honorees for the 2019 honoree luncheon. Nominations will be accepted until **Thursday, May 30, 2019**. Please send your nominations to us at [honors@bostonirish.com](mailto:honors@bostonirish.com)

**Past Boston Irish Honorees:**

2018- Trevor McGill M.D., Rev. Richard "Doc" Conway, Bob Scannell and Mary (Kinsella) Scannell –  
2017- Tom Tinlin, Kevin Cullen, Anne Marie, Nora & Bill Kennedy family  
2016 - Jim & Mary (Cahill) Judge, Senator Paul G Kirk Jr, Kevin & Joe Leary & family  
2015 - Margaret Stapleton, Mike Sheehan, BPD Commissioner William Evans family  
2014 - Katherine Craven, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, the Burke family of South Boston  
2013 - Senate President Therese Murray, Gerry & Bob Mulligan family, John P. Driscoll Jr.(posthumous)  
2012 - Congressman Richard Neal, Brendan & Greg Feeney, family of Mary & Bob Mulvoy  
2011 - Kathleen O'Toole, Senator Tom Kennedy, & families of Joseph Corcoran, James Hunt, & Mark & Tom Mulvoy  
2010 - US Rep. Ed Markey, John Donohue, and families of Jim Brett, Tom & Peg Geraghty, & Mayor John B. Hynes

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



Editor's Notebook

# Eire Society Gold Medal honoree O'Toole gives thanks to 'incredible family, friends'

By ED FORRY

It was a grand night on April 27 at Boston's Seaport Hotel as several hundred guests applauded Kathy O'Toole, the recipient of the Eire Society of Boston's 2019 Gold Medal Award.

A native of Pittsfield, she was born Kathleen Horton, and moved in her teens with her family to Marblehead, and later to Boston. A graduate of Boston College and New England School of Law, she has been married for 37 years to a now-retired Boston police officer, Dan O'Toole, and they make their home in South Boston. Their daughter Meghan lives in Seattle.

Kathy began her career in law enforcement as a Boston cop, and has served in a number of police command roles, including Secretary of Public Safety in Massachusetts, and terms as police commissioner in both Boston and Seattle. In 1998 she was appointed a member of the Patten Commission to reform policing in Northern Ireland, and later served in Ireland as Chief Inspector of the Irish police force, the Garda Inspectorate.

The Eire Society event in the hotel's Lighthouse ballroom was filled with many current and former police officials, including current BPD Commissioner Willie Gross, retired Commissioner Bill Evans, and State Police head Col. Kerry Gilpin. Boston Globe columnist Kevin Cullen was MC.

In her remarks, O'Toole said, "I appreciate the kind introduction first of all. Thanks, Kevin Cullen. I often say that Kevin and I rose through the ranks together. I was a young beat cop when he was a young beat reporter at the Boston Globe and our paths have continued to cross. We continued to pass on both sides of the Atlantic. Ever since Kevin has dubbed me the 'Nun with the Gun.'

"I was introduced to the Eire Society years ago by the distinguished scholar and my friend Catherine Shannon and attended these events previously, but never imagined I'd be a recipient. So from the bottom of my heart, very sincere thanks to Dr. Richard Finnegan and the board for this honor."

O'Toole was mostly light-hearted in reflecting on her career. "I've served in a few high profile positions, but honestly I don't like being the center of attention. So I do find comfort in being surrounded by incredible family and friends. You know, everyone in this room has touched me in some way, either directly or indirectly, and provided friendship and support along the way."

This event is my opportunity to thank you, all of you, so if you don't mind, I'm going to make a few remarks about all of you.

"It would be impossible to acknowledge everybody and I apologize in advance for those I do neglect. I still have a cousin in Co. Roscommon who hasn't spoken to me for ten years because I neglected to mention that he was one of my cousins during a profile piece for us, and he's a wonderful human being. But you know, it's like, what do they say about the Irish? All Alzheimer's, forget everything but the grudge. But my friends and family are certainly a wonderful cast of characters."

"I know I'm preaching to the believers here because so many of you I know personally have been so supportive to the police over the years and I appreciate that. If you don't mind, I'd like to take the opportunity to ask all the people who have served or are serving and law enforcement the stand up so that we can all applaud them. And thank them."

She also recognized two Boston priests, John Connolly and Sean Connor: "Usually it's customary to acknowledge the priests at the front, but I thought I'd save the best for last. I'm so pleased that Father John and Father Sean are here tonight. These are two wonderful, selfless guys who've helped so many of us maintain our faith during very difficult times. They've always been there for me personally and professionally. It was a privilege for me to appoint them as the Boston police chaplains. Of course, it was at the orders of Monsignor Bill Francis who said, 'This is the way

it has to be.' But that was an easy one for me because they're just great, great guys."

"We've shared wonderful times together on both sides of the Atlantic, and you know, sometimes, they say what happens in Dublin should stay in Dublin, but I can't resist telling this one story and I don't want to embarrass anybody- but I think it's priceless:

"So this one night, Father John and Father Sean were in Dublin with us and we're all heading out to dinner on a Saturday night. But I hadn't the good sense to make a reservation. You know, it was a really busy night in Dublin, so we were in close proximity to Shanahan's, a beautiful restaurant on Stephen's Green. And I said, 'Oh, are you kidding me? You know, we'll never get in there.'"

"And I love Shanahan's downstairs. They had this great bar, very posh, it's called the Oval Office and is dedicated to all US presidents with Irish ancestry. In fact, they have JFK's rocking chair in a case to the back of the bar, his original rocking chair. So I thought, 'Now we're never going to get in here, you know, this is ridiculous.'"

"Father Sean said to me, 'No worries. Follow me. Let me speak to the hostess.' So I followed him inside. And next thing I knew, I saw him taking his wallet out and I said, 'I can't believe it. He's going to like duke the hostess with a twenty to get into this place. Nope, not at all. So I saw him pull

out the wallet and quickly flash it and close it. But just for an instant, I could see his Boston police chaplains's badge. And then he said, 'US Secret Service. Any chance we can get a table, possibly downstairs?' And he pointed to Dan as the alleged president."

"Obviously the Polish hostess was not a student of American history. I couldn't imagine which president she thought Dan was. But for the rest of the night, we were treated regally. In fact, one of them actually curtsied when she took our order."

So I just want to thank Father John and Father John for being dedicated priests who live in the real world.

"As I said at first, tonight isn't about me. It's about all of us here and in some ways, all of you who have touched my life. And that's why I wanted my comments to focus entirely on you. So thank you for your love. Thank you for your support. Thank you for your incredible friendship and for paving the way for me to receive this honor."

## Off the Bench

# Reconciling a break in key relationships takes a full measure of humility and grace

By JAMES W. DOLAN  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Reconciliation. What a marvelous healing word. It implies humility, understanding, forgiveness, and renewal. It affirms the repairing of a breach in a relationship. Most meaningful relationships will fray from time to time, and some will fracture for reasons that may at the time seem almost irreconcilable.

Friends will allow a disagreement or misunderstanding to break a bond. Hurt, angry, disappointed, they stop talking and withdraw into their respective corners while usually blaming the other for the rupture. A mutually beneficial connection is sacrificed to anger and blame. Rejection becomes the objective manifestation of the inner pain one or both feel.

Married couples are particularly susceptible, given the normal annoyances inevitable in such a close relationship. In the absence of accommodation skills, problems can grow and undermine the balance so important in sustaining a lasting relationship. It's a shifting balance that recognizes and accommodates strengths and weaknesses as the parties together navigate occasionally tempestuous seas.

It's easy to love people you don't know. Love in the abstract requires little effort. It's loving another imperfect human being – a spouse, a parent, a sibling, or a friend – that requires self-control, sympathy, understanding, and the capacity to overlook minor grievances and to forgive those who trespass against you as you would hope to be forgiven for your transgressions.

Reaching out to someone who has offended you or whom you have offended is a noble gesture. It says what we have is too important to let a disagreement or misunderstanding come between us. If it's good, it's worth saving. Why let pettiness and anger fracture a relationship. Who is at fault really is not that important. An apology, even when you believe you are the aggrieved party, is a small price to pay for peace of mind.



"Thank you" time for Kathleen O'Toole

out the wallet and quickly flash it and close it. But just for an instant, I could see his Boston police chaplains's badge. And then he said, 'US Secret Service. Any chance we can get a table, possibly downstairs?' And he pointed to Dan as the alleged president."

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When friends stop talking, each tends to blame the other, finding it more comfortable to be the victim. Both have been wronged and, therefore, feel no obligation to bridge the gap. Pride prevents them from setting aside their feelings for a greater good, the preservation of the relationship. It's not "Blessed are the peacemakers except when wronged," or "Love your neighbor as yourself only if loved in return."

Take the initiative and seek to reconcile with those with whom you have a grievance. A powerful example occurred several years ago when a number of Quaker children were murdered in their schoolhouse. When the perpetrator was apprehended and brought to court, the Quaker elders came to offer their forgiveness. Such examples of selfless love are few and far between. We can only marvel at such displays of grace and mercy.

While all marriages are not salvageable, some are. The ramifications of a breakup, particularly where there are children involved, should be strong incentives to overcome problems that threaten the union. There is that greater good to be considered. Will the children be better off emotionally, psychologically, and financially in the absence of a parent? Regrettably, in some cases, the answer is yes. To remain together requires sacrifices, difficult accommodations, and adjustments. While, often with some effort, one spouse can control his/her behavior, it may not be enough unless the other party is also trying.

Reconciliation ends an estrangement and restores harmony in a relationship. It can occur between individuals, warring nations, and theologically (between sinner and deity). There is precious little reconciliation in Washington these days. Seemingly intractable hostility, discord, and partisanship have so crippled the system as to render it incapable of agreeing on anything controversial.

Grievances large and small are inevitable. To rise above them for the common good requires humility and grace. The humility to accept you may be wrong or have in some way contributed to the breach. And the grace to acknowledge that harmony is far more beneficial and productive than strife.

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



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Point of View

# Will Democrats come to and confront Trump’s blowtorch politics? Or will they self-cannibalize and cede field to imperial outrage?

By PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

A Hobson’s choice is loosely defined as take it or leave it. What are President Trump and his simpering Senate sycophants, the Banana Republicans offering us as a choice? Take on their frontal assault on the Constitution—immolating separation of executive and legislative powers, Congressional oversight, an independent judiciary, and a free press. Or leave them alone to ensure that the Constitution is mere lofty words on musty parchment and nothing more than whatever the president and his minions say it is.

The Democrats? Their self-cannibalizing response offers strongly worded letters and lame subpoenas against the GOP’s blowtorch against Constitutional *rights*—not “norms,” a favorite, feckless term of both the press and Democrats. Or one can simply leave them alone to don sackcloth and ashes, the remains of American’s grand experiment with democracy, which is not to be confused with Democrats.

Because GOP members in the House and the Senate have collectively chosen to prostrate themselves before the altar of Donald Trump and because the Democrats on Capitol Hill shriek that we’re in the midst of a “Constitutional crisis” but are too divided to muster the will or the guts to confront it, the possibility that the nation stands on the dawn of an imperial presidency -now and future - doesn’t seem so far-fetched as it once did. It does not take a Constitutional expert to surmise that while the Founders did foresee potential presidential tyrants when they bestowed investigative and impeachment powers to the House and the Senate, Madison & Co. surely did not anticipate that a political party would support *any* deed of a president with a mindless, lock-step obeisance.

Buttressed by a team of propagandists and water-carriers that sadly includes a great many historically myopic Irish Americans named Fitzgerald, Conway, and Mulvaney, Trump will be taking his spectacle on the road to the Land of a Thousand Welcomes in early June. According to the *Irish Times* and other “fake media” such as, well, just about every news outlet not in the Fox and Sinclair orbit, the president might find his “thousand welcomes” in the Emerald

Isle somewhat less enthusiastic than those he gets from of his numerous Irish American supporters.

The president and Taoiseach Leo Varadkar will meet at Shannon Airport on June 5. The Trump administration denied, and the Irish government downplayed, a story that a snag as to a meeting site erupted when the Trump camp insisted that the two leaders sit down at Doonbeg, a golf club that Trump owns. Now that the spot for the meet and greet has been set, the *Irish Times* (May 23, 2019) addressed the visceral disdain may in the Republic evince toward the president: “The challenge facing the *Taoiseach* will be to find a way to have a reasonably amicable exchange with the US president while staking out a firm position on issues that directly concern Ireland and the EU.

“President Donald Trump’s visit...is probably the last thing the Government needs,” the paper wrote, “but [Varadkar] did issue the invitation and must deal with his guest as best he can. The ties that bind Ireland and the United States are so important for historic, cultural, and economic reasons that Varadkar had little option...”

Regarding the welcome Trump might encounter, the *Times* asserted that his “record at home and abroad will ensure that his visit to Co. Clare will generate protests. This was acknowledged by Varadkar, who remarked in his initial response to the visit that in a democracy protest ‘is allowed and is welcome.’ This statement of fact was misconstrued in some quarters as encouragement to protest but, one way or another, big protests can be expected. And that is good....when it comes to issues like free trade, climate change and the Iran nuclear deal, Varadkar will have to let the president know that this State takes a very different view to his... dislike for the EU and his sympathy for Britain’s Brexiteers...”

On the eve of the presidential visit, the ever-controversial and topical *Irish Times* columnist Fintan O’Toole weighed in on Joe Biden, the Irish American who he says “might” face off against the incumbent in 2020 (May 18, 2019). For the Trump-hating legions, sit down and brace yourselves. O’Toole asks and answers, “Who can beat Trump? Not Joe Biden.”

While noting that beating him at the ballot box is a goal that all the president’s detractors deem as non-

negotiable, O’Toole nonetheless assails what he sees as a pitfall of Biden’s assumed inevitability: He “seems to have the quality that more exciting candidates are said to lack: electability. What lies behind this assumption is an acceptance of identity politics. Trump won in large part because he animated the resentments of white voters, especially men. Therefore, the logic goes, the Democrats can beat him only if they have a candidate who does not make white men angry just because of who they are – in other words, the candidate to beat Trump must not be black, female or gay or (worse) any two of the above.”

Along with the “white voters, especially men,” O’Toole also targets the 52 percent of white women voters who cast their ballots for Trump in 2016 despite his indisputable misogyny in the Access Hollywood video and the numerous allegations of sexual assault against him.

O’Toole posits that Democrats betting that it’s Biden or bust—“even many progressives who think it appalling that good candidates should be ruled out on the basis of race, gender, or sexual orientation”—may be falling into a Trumpian trap. To quote the president, “We’ll see...”

If the Democrats tear each other apart in their zeal to unseat Trump rather than to show the spine to somehow hold him accountable for his assault on institutions that up till now have held the line, the party is likely finished. Conversely, if the president, Attorney General William Barr, and the GOP succeed in overturning the Affordable Care Act—or the word that must not be uttered, “Obamacare”—the House Republicans’ victory lap of June 2010 will likely end over history’s cliff in the November 2020 election.

If the Dems really want to win, each and every day between now and the election, they should ask one question of the president, Barr, Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell, and the sycophant Sen. Lindsey Graham: Where is your plan to replace the ACA, preserve coverage of pre-existing conditions, and prevent 20 million or more Americans from losing affordable healthcare?

To date, have you heard an honest answer? Of course not. Only silence, occasionally broken by bald-faced lies.

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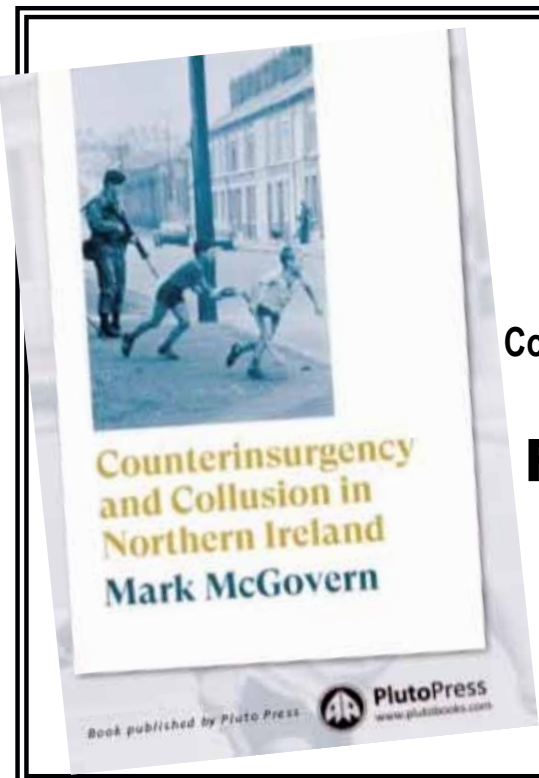
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# ‘Like much in Irish culture, this memorial marks profound suffering with remarkable beauty’

Following are excerpts from the prepared text for Mayor Martin Walsh’s remarks at the dedication of the Deer Island Great Hunger Memorial:

Thank you, Gene [O’Flaherty]; Cardinal [Sean] O’Malley and clergy; Ambassador [Ray] Flynn and Catherine; Consul General [Fionnuala] Quinlan, as well as your predecessors, who have all been supportive of this work; Executive Director Fred Laskey and everyone at the MWRA, past and present, who helped this project along; John McColgan, our City Archivist, for your thorough research and compelling relation of these events; members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, for supporting this project and traveling to be here today; and the Boston Currach Rowing Club for your participation.

I also want to acknowledge the many people over the years who have raised awareness of these events. It’s too many people to mention, but the late Dr. Bill O’Connell and Rita O’Connell deserve special recognition. They are smiling down on us today, I’m sure.

And to those who have worked hard, in recent years, to make this memorial a reality, we are grateful: Mark Porter, John Flaherty, Peter O’Malley, John Foley, and Ed Forry, among many others. I especially want to thank Michael Carney, who has been such a driving force.

President John F. Kennedy spoke of an “emerald thread that runs throughout the tapestry of [the Irish] past.” He defined this thread as: “the constancy, the endurance, the faith they displayed through endless centuries of foreign oppression [as] religious and civil rights were denied to them [and] their destruction by poverty, disease, and starvation was ignored by their conquerors.”

Deer Island has a place in this tapestry of endurance. The victims we remember today were far from home, but not yet attached to our immigrant community. So for them, it may have felt as if the “emerald thread” was broken. But today, in our prayers, our education, and our collective memory, through this powerful monument to their hopes and their hardships, we weave their thread back into the pattern.

Like much in Irish culture, this memorial marks profound suffering with remarkable beauty. The truth is, it’s unbearably sad to imagine the reality of what happened here. Children dying of fever in their mothers’ arms. Older people ending their lives thousands of miles from the only homes they’d ever known. Whole families isolated, bewildered, with no escape but to hold onto each other and hold onto their faith.

Their suffering was a product and an extension of the misery being inflicted on Ireland at the time. But it happened right here on Boston Harbor, within sight of the city that these families hoped and prayed would be their salvation.

Most of the time, the immigration story we tell is a story of triumph, of overcoming and succeeding. We are rightly proud of our parents and ancestors. But our city’s story and our country’s story is the story of those who were lost, as well. They took the hardest risks, under the worst conditions, and suffered the cruelest fates. All of us who are members of this Irish immigrant and Irish-American community must count them and honor them as

ancestors, to whom we owe a debt.

We believe with all our hearts that those who were lost here deserved a better fate. Their lives had as much value and meaning as anyone’s, and should never be forgotten. We indict those, across the ocean, who caused their suffering and who could have prevented it.

But as we mark their loss with a symbol of faith that transcends time, we have an opportunity to act on those values and relieve that suffering as it appears in our world today.

Echoes of the injustice that drove these Irish women, men, and children to our shores exist today, in the violence and poverty, often with roots in colonialism, that is forcing families to flee homes in parts of Africa, the Middle East, and Central America. So we can see the desperation of the Irish mother holding a hungry baby, in the Guatemalan mother holding a sick child in her arms today. We can see the fear and bewilderment of children held in quarantine, on our southern border today. We can see, in the face of every refugee, the humanity of the refugees we memorialize today.

Let us not be anything like those with power who ignored poverty, disease, and starvation in Ireland. Let us honor those who died here, by seeking to prevent those conditions wherever we can and by welcoming with compassion those who find their way to our shores and borders.

We are a country built not on an identity, but an idea: the idea that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are the rights of all people—no matter what their religion, their ethnicity, their resources, or their place of birth. These are the rights that these Irish victims were denied in their homeland. This is the idea they heard of and they hoped for as they sought safe harbor here in Boston. And this is the creed that the survivors lived by, as they built up our city and country like every immigrant before and after them.

This memorial honors the hopes of those who died. And it calls us to our duty to defend those hopes, and make them a reality here, and around the world, however we can.

This place also reminds us that the achievement of this idea is no easy task. The treatment of Native American people on this very island in the 1600s is a reminder. The prejudice that faced the Irish in our own city, at the time of the Great Hunger and beyond it, is a reminder. The enslavement of African-Americans, the Civil War and injustices that followed, and every act of discrimination that occurs today, are reminders.

It takes courage to live up to our principles. It takes work to put them into practice. It takes putting ourselves in others’ shoes, or lack of shoes, across languages, across skin colors, across religions, across time. It takes seeing our common humanity and dignity, despite whatever forces would separate us. That’s what we do today for these innocent victims, as we dedicate a worthy addition to our historic Harbor.

I want to thank, once again, everyone who has had a part in creating and blessing this Memorial. May all who see it remember those who were lost here, bear witness to their hope, faith, and endurance, and reflect on the meaning and value of their lives, then and now. May God hold them close and may God bless all of us with their memory.



Cardinal O’Malley addresses the gathering. Bill Brett photo

## Cardinal compares 1847 on Deer Island to the situation along our borders today

In giving his blessing at the inaugural ceremonies for the Great Hunger Memorial, Boston’s Cardinal Sean O’Malley compared the 19th-century Irish children who arrived on “orphan ships” to “those children at the borders of our country who are fleeing oppression and hunger, and whose parents are making a supreme sacrifice to save their lives and give them a new future.”

O’Malley said that Saturday’s somber remembrance was a reminder of “our interdependence and our interconnectedness, how we are connected to one

another and connected to the people that died on this island and were buried here.”

He said he hoped the recognition of those connections would open hearts, adding, “We pray that immigrants coming today will receive a welcome, a welcome from a people that have made that difficult journey and whose families have suffered, and who are open to being brothers and sisters to those who are arriving from every part of this globe,” a prayer that drew applause from the crowd.

## The O’Connells had a dream; many hands made it a reality

By Ed Forry  
BIR PUBLISHER

Anyone involved in Boston Irish events over the last three decades knew Bill O’Connell. The Dorchester-born podiatrist, one of five children of Irish parents, and his wife Rita (Layden) were beloved volunteers in all things Irish, from the AOH Plymouth chapter, the Corkmen and Lady’s Association, the Knights and Ladies of St. Finbarr, the Eire Society of Boston, and the Charitable Irish. And they helped found the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton.

When he first learned of the famine-era Irish who had been buried in a mass grave in Boston Harbor, he began raising funds to build a Famine Memorial on Deer Island.

As the 150th anniversary of Black 47 approached, well-funded famine projects in Cambridge and downtown Boston took precedence, dimming the doctor’s hopes for a famine memorial.

Together with stalwarts like Aisling Gallery’s Maureen and John Connelly, Margaret Stapleton, and Catherine Shannon, AOH and County Cork club members, and others, the O’Connells held a series of small fundraisers that kept the dream alive. But after Rita died in late 2012 and Bill passed away in January 2014, the stalled plans seemed to have become moot.

That spring, then-Consul General Michael Lonergan encouraged several people, including attorney John Foley and me, to revive the memorial project. Few records were available—no data base or specific plans and only about \$12,000, which was placed in the custodial care of the non-profit Irish Cultural Centre.



John Foley, left, with BIR publisher Ed Forry. BIR photo

At that point, John Foley and I set out to publicize the idea for a memorial, searching for anyone who could help make it happen. In 2017, Mike Carney, a Winthrop builder and contractor with Donegal roots, called John and said “I will get this done.” Together with two friends, Mark Porter and John Flaherty, they reached out to friends in the construction and building trades, and with support from Boston Mayor Walsh and his staff, they found a way to indeed “get it done.”

On Sat., May 25, 2019, Rita and Dr. Bill O’Connell’s dream became a reality.

For the names of the Irish buried on Deer island, see bostonirish.com.

## The Memorial was the O’Connell’s dream



At left, Dr. William O’Connell with Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny in a 2012 Boston visit. Above, Rita O’Connell.



Mayor Walsh, Msgr. Kevin O’Leary and Cardinal O’Malley listen to a presentation. Bill Brett photo



# They came to acknowledge those who didn't make it



From ceremony onlookers, above and below, heartfelt remembrances. All photos courtesy of Bill Brett



John McColgan delivers the Memorial Address.



Mairin Ui Cheide Keady delivers the National Anthems.



Michael Carney, a key Memorial backer reflects.



Martina Curtin, Msgr. Kevin O'Leary, Craig Curtin



The Boston Currach Rowing Club dropped a wreath

## Quarantined, They Died; Now, They are Remembered

(Continued from page 1) on the island at the city's expense. The event marked the completion of a decades-long effort to erect a memorial to those unfortunate immigrants that will be visible from virtually every point of the harbor's edge. As first conceived by the late Dr. Bill O'Connell and his late wife Rita O'Connell, the memorial was designed to stand as a poignant and dignified marker of what happened on the island some 170 years ago. As Rita O'Connell told the Boston Irish Reporter: "It's important we don't forget

the stories of people such as Patrick J. McCarthy, who lost his mother, father, and six siblings on Deer Island but went on to graduate from Harvard and become mayor of Providence." Saturday's dedication took place in front of the stone Celtic cross, which was cut by Rob Flynn, owner of Flynn Stone in Lakewood, Pennsylvania and put into place in mid-May on a promontory of Deer Island by crews who donated labor, materials, and heavy equipment. Among those who took up the cause for the memorial over the years include:

Mike Carney of Seacoast Contractors of Winthrop, Mark Porter, John Flaherty, stone mason Bernard Callaghan, Boston Sand and Gravel, Greenhills Bakery, members of the Teamsters union, and former Irish Consul Generals Michael Lonergan, Breandán O Caollaí, and Fionnuala Quinlan. The team completed the effort that had been nurtured for five years by immigration attorney John Philip Foley and Boston Irish Reporter publisher Ed Forry, who had worked together since 2014 to pick up where the O'Connells left off. Some of those pres-

ent, including Cardinal O'Malley in his invocation, drew parallels between the Irish refugees of 170 years ago and immigrants who come to the United States today. "I was thinking this morning, as I was sitting here...some of the [Irish] ships got turned away from Boston Harbor," Mayor Walsh, the son of Irish immigrants, said to reporters after the ceremony. "You think about the relevance of it today. People being turned away at the border, families being separated at the border. It's kind of history repeating itself."

Said Walsh during the ceremony: "Like much of Irish culture, this memorial marks profound suffering with remarkable beauty. The truth is, it's unbearably sad to imagine the reality of what happened right here and in Boston Harbor. Children dying of fever in their mothers' arms. Older people ending their lives thousands of miles from the only homes that they had ever known. Whole families isolated, bewildered, with no escape but to hold onto each other and to hold onto their faith." The cardinal compared the 19th-century Irish

children who arrived on "orphan ships," to "those children at the borders of our country, who are fleeing oppression and hunger." He added: "We pray that immigrants coming today will receive a welcome, a welcome from a people that have made that difficult journey and whose families have suffered, and who are open to being brothers and sisters to those who are arriving from every part of this globe." (A portfolio of photos from the dedication ceremony may be viewed online at [billbrett.com](http://billbrett.com))



DEER ISLAND MEMORIAL ADDRESS

Presented at the Deer Island Great Hunger Memorial dedication

May 25, 2019

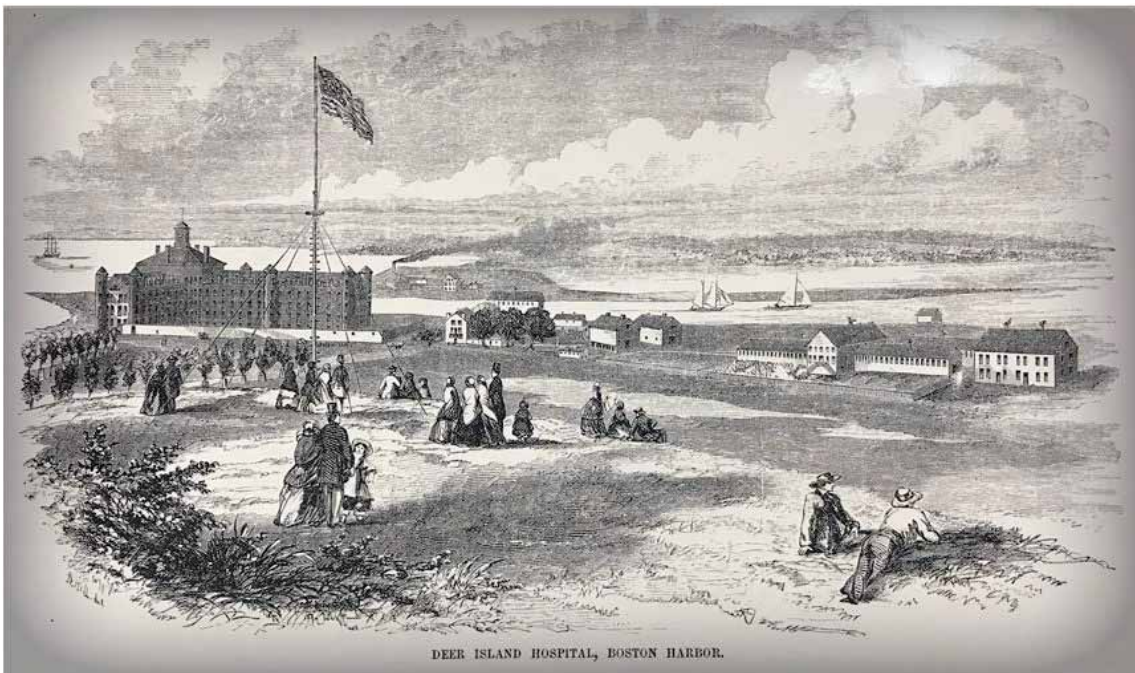
Copyright, John McColgan

*An Gorta Mor*, Ireland’s “Great Hunger”, saw an estimated 1.5 million people die of starvation and disease. Another two million emigrated. Many of these perished from the plagues they fled - thousands on the ocean journey, thousands more on North America’s shores, and thousands in quarantine, in places like Deer Island in Boston Harbor.

The causes of the catastrophe are enormously complex. But fundamentally they reside in colonialism. Ireland was England’s first colony. Expropriation of land and wealth by an aristocracy alien in race and religion bred misrule, endemic poverty, violence, and war lasting into recent times. The 1801 Act of Union was supposed to combine Ireland and Great Britain into a single body politic. But Ireland remained a de facto colony, an agricultural resource run for the benefit of English industry and commerce. Irish industry was nipped in the bud, leaving an expanding population without adequate subsistence or livelihood. Between 1815 and 1845, nearly a million people abandoned Ireland for North America, many thousands to Boston.

Then, in harvests from 1845 through 1851, an unknown fungus destroyed the only food source for millions. The Imperial government could have deployed its massive resources to prevent people from starving. *Laissez faire* ideology prevented it from doing so. It responded instead with measures that were ineffectual, wasteful, or downright harmful. Soup kitchens were closed because free food was regarded as a disincentive for starving people to work. Better to waste money on purposeless public works schemes. The burden of financing relief passed from central government to local Poor Law Unions, even though these local bodies were bankrupt. British officials in any case saw an upside to the Famine: reducing Ireland’s excessive population would bring needed reform to its agricultural economy. Non-intervention with the course of famine was reinforced by ethnic and religious prejudices popular in Britain. Lacking a mission focused on saving lives, British policy had the effect of profoundly escalating death and emigration.<sup>1</sup>

Boston felt the impact in 1847 when an unprecedented influx of Irish immigrants landed in the city. Hundreds, destitute and sick, had nowhere to turn for food and shelter but the House of Industry in South Boston. Part-homeless shelter, part-hospital, the House of Industry was the City’s workhouse and asylum for the poor. In April and May, 429 arriving refugees were admitted, many carrying, in the filthy rags they wore, lice bearing the highly contagious scourge of typhus. Eighty-six of them quickly died. The disease had spread easily in deplorable, crowded conditions aboard the “coffin ships” that brought them. The infection now spread among the institution’s regular inmates, nurses, attendants,



and officers.<sup>2</sup>

The spectre of what was happening alarmed Bostonians, and a burgeoning anti-immigrant nativism intensified. With typhus crippling the House of Industry, epidemic threatening the city, and refugees still flowing in, the City Aldermen and Common Council formed a special “Joint Alien Passengers Committee” to deal with the crisis. Faced with citizen disquiet and a fiscal conundrum, the Committee enforced laws requiring shipmasters to post indemnity bonds for support of foreign paupers. To address the public health emergency, it established a quarantine hospital on Deer Island for the care of sick indigent immigrants.

172 years ago today, May 25th, 1847, the committee appointed Dr. Joseph Moriarty as hospital Superintendent and Resident Physician. The hospital opened May 29th, the last Saturday of May. Committee members met on the island to oversee the launch of operations. Their meeting minutes record a unanimous decision to locate a burial ground “near the northwest side of the most northerly hill on the island.” James Turner, the new Hospital Steward, was also on the island. In the eight months of his employment Turner would bury 365 immigrants in that ground. Across the harbor, Captain Ellis, and First Mate Mr. Knell, sailed the sloop “Betsy Ransom”, on the first of countless journeys transporting the ill from Long Wharf to the island hospital. Anchored off the island’s southern point were the first two Atlantic vessels to land passengers at Deer Island quarantine: the barque “General Greene” from Cork with 95 passengers; the ship “Clairborne” from Liverpool, with 259 passengers. Calvin Bailey, City Inspector of Alien Passengers, declared eleven from the “Clairborne” indigent and secured bonds from the captain indemnifying the City for the cost of their care. The Port Physician, Jerome Von Crowninshield Smith, found two passengers from the “General Greene” and six from the “Clairborne” suffering from “malignant diseases”, and ordered

their transfer up-island to Dr. Moriarty. One of the six, Mary Connell, age 1, would die on 3 June, the first victim of the Great Hunger James Turner would bury on Deer Island.<sup>3</sup>

In the first four months the hospital admitted 1,779 patients. 1,175 were discharged; 214 died; thirteen were taken dead from ships.<sup>4</sup> Among these statistics were the McCarthy family from Sligo. Patrick and Alice, in their forties, with seven sons ranging from thirteen years to six months, arrived August 2nd aboard the “Iowa” out of Liverpool. Five-year-old Patrick later in life wrote of his family’s harrowing and tragic experience emigrating to Boston. On the eve of their departure, someone broke a hole in the thatch roof of their cottage and ran off with a large side of bacon meant to sustain the journey to America. Presumably saving himself from starvation, the thief deprived the family of the sustenance that may have avoided the deaths that robbed the boy of his parents and two siblings on Deer Island. Through the eyes of his five-year-old self, Patrick recalled the well-worn route of the Famine emigrant: the cattle boat to Liverpool - a cruel and galling symbol, played out a thousand times, of people and food exported on the same boat. Following the stay at Liverpool and the Atlantic journey, the family landed at Deer Island, where a large tent on the quarantine ground failed to shelter them from the rain. City death records reveal his three-year old brother Philip dying of typhus on the island August 9th; the infant, Peter, of a virulent diarrhea on September 2nd. On September 7th Patrick and his brother John were walking about the grounds when their father called to them from a window, in tears, that mother was dead. “A few days after this happened,” Patrick wrote, “I noticed a large striped plaid dress of my mother’s, hanging on a line out of doors, and stood looking at it for a long while. A woman came to take it away and I made a vigorous outcry of protest and was hustled off somewhere.” Six months later his father died at the hospital of a

fever relapse. After release from the island the orphans, sheltered and fed by relatives and Catholic charities, survived the streets of Boston, except younger brother James, taken by cholera at the Fort Hill Hospital in 1849. Such a childhood. Yet Patrick McCarthy would one day obtain a law degree from Harvard and be elected Mayor of Providence, Rhode Island.<sup>5</sup>

We’re all familiar with the cold welcome given the Irish by native Bostonians, the religious and racial prejudice, employment discrimination, the sometimes violent confrontations. Yet a closer look at the archives reveals that the host community was not altogether without compassion. In June 1847 the president of the Common Council reminded his colleagues of the virtue of caring for those in need regardless of who they were:

*“Remember,” said the Brahmin George Hillard, “that if these poor people had not thus taxed our benevolence they must have died. You will not, I am sure, be weary in well-doing, or refuse to feed from the crumbs of our abundance the starving poor, even though they be aliens to the soil. They are our brethren still. They have the claims of a common humanity, besides those of urgent need. We are men before we are Americans or Englishmen. They are as near to us as the faint and bleeding Jew was to the good Samaritan. The starving man is our neighbor and he that is in distress is a brother.”*<sup>6</sup>

It is in this spirit, I believe, that doctors and staff at Deer Island struggled to save the lives of Irish Famine victims charged to their care. Wherever in the world there were famine fever hospitals in 1847, doctors and medical staff were dying. On Deer Island they knew the dangers, yet were willing to risk health and life for humanity. In Dr. Moriarty’s case, the motivation may have run deeper. Moriarty was a Brahmin from Salem married to a grandniece of John Hancock. He didn’t need to take this job jeopardizing his life, his career, the happiness of his family. Why did he so earnestly seek the position? Might it have been because his

name was Moriarty? His great-grandfather was an immigrant from Tralee, who fitted out privateer vessels for Washington’s navy during the Revolution. Was it because of his Irish heritage he was now on Deer Island with a passion to care for the people of his forebears? Is this proposition supported by the fact that half the names on the staff were Irish? Whether it was for the Irish, or for the city, or for humanity, Joseph Moriarty, age 37, infected by the typhus, made the supreme sacrifice in December 1847, dying in the arms of his wife in the Hancock Mansion on Beacon Hill leaving her and three young children behind.<sup>7</sup>

There were others: the intrepid sailors, Captain Ellis and Mr. Knell, perishing from typhus contracted from patients in transit aboard the “Betsy Ransom”;<sup>8</sup> and the most well known Boston casualty of all, stricken with typhus, Captain Daniel Chandler, House of Industry Superintendent, War of 1812 veteran, and convert to Catholicism on his deathbed in June 1847. These were the first responders of Black 47 in Boston. They gave their lives for others in need, and deserve to be remembered.

Among Boston’s Famine immigrants themselves, mortality was vast. As inscribed in this powerful monument, 850 innocent people died and were buried on Deer Island between 1847 and 1850. How many more would perish in the island’s institutions in the years to come? How many more escaped death in Ireland only to die in the House of Industry, or the Fort Hill cholera hospital, or in the street? Or to perish of typhus or dysentery in the asylums and prisons and mental hospitals? Or succumb to tuberculosis or typhoid in the North End’s ramshackle tenements? Numbers cease to mean anything. The 850 souls on the island have become a poignant symbol of Famine era tribulation endured by the unnumbered thousands who suffered trauma, poverty, disease, and untimely death, ultimately thanks to a government in London, that placed political power and private profit over poor people.

The Deer Island Irish Memorial fulfils a years-long aspiration commemorating Boston’s Great Hunger fatalities. The Celtic Cross, an icon of Irish heritage, has signified, since ancient times, a place that is sacred. Victims of Ireland’s Great Hunger share this ground with peaceful Native Americans starved in confinement on the island during King Philip’s War of the 1670s. This Cross marks as sacred the earth of Deer Island holding remains that testify against colonialism, greed, economic exploitation and political repression that have inflicted - upon Ireland, Native Americans, and many another people down to the present - the tragedies of famine, war and forced exile.

John J. McColgan, Ph.D.  
Archivist, City of Boston  
25 May 2019

<sup>1</sup> Published research on the Famine is vast. In this summary analysis the author consulted Christine Kinealy, *Death Dealing Famine* (Pluto Press, London, Chicago, 1997); Kevin Kenny, *The American Irish: a History* (Longman, Essex, UK, New York, 2000); Kerby Miller, *Immigrants and Exiles* (Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, etc., 1985, paperback 1988).

<sup>2</sup> Annual Report of the Directors of the Houses of Industry and Reformation, April 1, 1848, City Document No. 17, (Eastburn Press, Boston, 1848), City of Boston Archives

<sup>3</sup> City Council Joint Committee on Alien Passengers records (hereafter noted as, “APC”); “Aliens Landing” passenger lists, City of Boston Archives.

<sup>4</sup> APC, patient registers.

<sup>5</sup> Autobiography of Patrick J. McCarthy ... Edited by his Daughter Mary Josephine Bannon (Providence Visitors Press, Providence, RI, 1927). Photocopy of relevant chapters kindly forwarded to author by Dan O’Neil of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, 10 January 2001. Patrick states his family was booked on the “Iowa”. State Senate Documents, 1848, No. 74 lists Alice and sons James and Philip as bonded passengers on the “Iowa”, arriving 2 August 1847. Death dates are found in City Archives list of Deer Island burials, 1847-1850, compiled in 1991 from City death registers by Ed Quill, City Archivist, 1989-1993.

<sup>6</sup> City Documents 1847, no. 26, “Resignation of Mr. Hillard as President of the Common Council”, City of Boston Archives

<sup>7</sup> APC. Genealogical information from George Andrews Moriarty, “The Moriarty Family of Salem, Mass”, New England Historical and Genealogical Register (NEHGS, Boston, 1947), courtesy Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, and New England Historical and Genealogical Society.

<sup>8</sup> APC.

<sup>9</sup> Op. cit. note 3. Chandler’s conversion is described in Bishop Fitzpatrick’s Diary for 11 June 1847, Boston Archdiocesan Archives.



BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett  
Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events


The Éire Society of Boston presented the 2019 Gold Medal award to Kathleen M. O'Toole, former Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety and Boston police commissioner, on Sat., April 27, in the Lighthouse ballroom at the Seaport Boston Hotel. The Gold Medal is awarded annually to a person or persons who exemplify the best of Irish culture and ideals. O'Toole was feted by some 200 guests, including two other Boston police commissioners, Bill Evans and his successor, William Gross. (BIR photos by Harry Brett and Margaret Brett Hastings).

1.) Kathleen O'Toole; 2.) Connolly Tolkiff, Brookline; Connie Koutoujian, Waltham; 3.) Ellen O'Toole, Weymouth, Margo Doyle, Weymouth; 4.) Pdraig O'Malley, Cambridge; Gladwin Gilman, Washington, DC; 5.) Paul McLaughlin, Hingham; Mark O'Toole, Las Vegas; 6.) Richard and Scotti Finnigan, Chatham; 7.) Meghan O'Toole, Seattle; Ed O'Toole, So. Boston; 8.) John F. Collins, Alexandria, VA; Janet Craven, Milton; 9.) Peggy Davis Mullen, Plymouth; Sue Donlan, W. Roxbury; Margaret Stapleton; Scituate; Neil Hurley, Somerville; 10.) Fr. Sean Connor, Boston Police Chaplain; Kate and Bill Nichtern, Hanover; 11.) Steve Burke, Dedham; Sandra Moody, Patrick King, So. Boston; 12.) Michael Sheehan, Easton; Pat Jennings, Westwood; Doc Langenderfer, Watertown; 13.) Boston Police Commissioner William Gross; Theresa and Jim Carmody, Milton.





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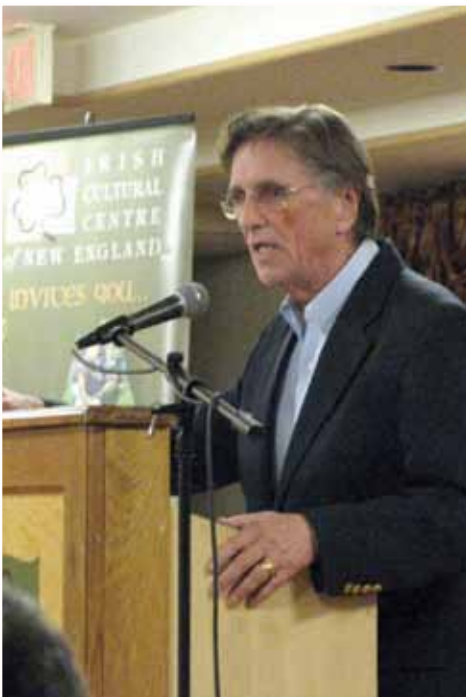
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Cultural Centre hears author speak  
about ‘An Irish Immigrant Story’

Jack Cashman, a retired business and public service professional, stopped by the Irish Cultural Centre of New England last month to talk about his recently published book, “An Irish Immigrant Story.”

In the book, Cashman talks of the challenges experienced by an immigrant family and its members’ collective dream for independence. He notes that he drew his inspiration from personal circumstances in delivering a message of understanding the lives of foreigners seeking refuge in a faraway land, notably, in his writing, “Johanna Cashman and John McCarthy, who, along with more than a million others, immigrated to America to escape a devastating famine, leaving behind family members who faced starvation to come to a land that would give them a new opportunity for a good life.” Which they found for themselves and their family.

“An Irish Immigrant Story,” issued by Page Publishing, is available at bookstores everywhere, or online at the Apple iTunes store, Amazon, Google Play, or Barnes and Noble.



Jack Cashman talks about his book.

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# For the Friel Sisters, music isn't all lessons and rehearsals; it's also about making new friends and finding inspiration

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

From a purely transportation standpoint, the Friel Sisters' recent stay in the Boston area had its difficulties: They arrived late for their sound check at one gig, and a few days before going back home to the UK, they learned that the airline on which their return flight was booked had gone under.

But pretty much everything else went swimmingly for the young Glasgow-based trio, which has drawn acclaim for its robust, wholehearted interpretation of traditional Irish music. The sisters – twins Sheila (uilleann pipes, flute, whistle) and Anna (flute, whistle) and younger sister Clare (fiddle) – performed at Boston College's Gaelic Roots series and The Burren, and appeared at a couple of WGBH-sponsored events leading up to their stint in this year's "A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn" production at the Cabot in Beverly and Harvard University's Sanders Theatre.

The Friels felt right at home during their time in Boston, with plenty of friends, fans, and other well-wishers accumulated from past visits in attendance at each event – as well as their parents, who were both along for part of the tour. Their connection to the area is further strengthened through their uncle (a former member of the band Simple Minds), who lives in Duxbury.

"Boston is such a welcoming, vibrant city, and is definitely special to us," said Clare, noting that Anna had gotten engaged during a previous stay in town. "There's great music here, and plenty of very familiar accents. It's a place where we can feel at home."

The sense of place is no small thing for the Friels. While they've always called Glasgow home, they also feel strongly rooted in their parents' native Donegal, the source of much of their musical development and activity, as is reflected by their unison style of singing. So while they have taken inspiration from the Irish folk revival of recent decades, the Friels maintain a deep awareness of, and respect for, the tradition of their ancestral home.

"For us, there's a feeling of having grown up in two places," Clare said. "We've lived in Glasgow all our lives – we absolutely love it – but we're also conscious of being part of the



The Friel Sisters – (L-R) Anna, Sheila and Clare – during their performance earlier this year at Boston College's Gaelic Roots series. Sean Smith photo

Irish diaspora, especially since we're so close to our family's original home. So we would go to Donegal, soak up all the music we could, and bring it back with us. I think that's made us hungrier: If we'd had the music around us all the time, things might have been different."

Still, the sisters' own family ties to the music – especially on their mother's side – helped enormously at the outset. As kids, they learned traditional songs like "P Stands for Paddy" from their mother and "Free and Easy" through their great-aunt – both of which remain in their repertoire – and Clare fondly recalls car rides or times at home spent listening to recordings of Planxty, The Bothy Band, De Dannan, and other performers who promoted modern innovation and creativity in their approach to traditional music.

It was musicians of that generation, contemporary-minded but keyed into the tradition, who helped guide and mentor the Friels in more direct ways after the sisters began playing the music themselves, crossing paths with the likes of Tommy Peoples, Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, Gabriel McKeon, Harry Bradley, and Catherine McEvoy, among others. Clare, Sheila, and Anna's education went beyond learning

notes and techniques; they discovered that music wasn't simply about lessons and rehearsals, but also making friends and finding inspiration.

The musicians they met, meanwhile, saw three youngsters who brought considerable talent and enthusiasm to their playing and nudged them toward further opportunities for growth. When Clare was not quite 13 and the twins were 15, they attended the Frankie Kennedy Winter Music School in Donegal – named for the late co-founder of renowned Donegal band Altan – and wound up at the after-party Altan co-founder Ní Mhaonaigh. A short time later, they got a call from Altan's agent inviting them to appear with the group at the Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow; also joining the band for the occasion were Mary Black and Paul Brady.

It was all very exciting – "We actually got a day off from school, too," recalled Clare – and the three practiced assiduously. But the prospect of performing in front of such a big audience "didn't faze us at all; we weren't nervous," she said. "I was just playing around with some kids backstage when the call came for us to go on."

The Friels returned the following year, this time sharing the stage with The Chieftains.

"From there on, we were meeting all these wonderful people, who gave us all kinds of encouragement and help, along with the others who had done so in the past," said Clare. "If you don't catch the bug from that, there's something wrong with you."

Needless to say, the sisters caught it, continuing their musical progress and burnishing their résumé as a performing group, appearing at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, the Willie Clancy Summer School, Celtic Fusion, and festivals across Europe, Asia and America – including the Catskill Irish Arts Week in New York. "It honestly didn't take much out of us," said Clare. "Playing concerts was never intense, didn't make us nervous – not like taking exams."

In 2014, eight years after their Celtic Connections debut, the Friels formally launched their first album, appropriately enough, at the last Frankie Kennedy School gathering. By then, the sisters had established themselves as a potent, up-and-coming force in Irish music, displaying a talent for ensemble arrangements to complement their instrumental prowess – a quality they showcased again on their second album, "Before the Sun," released in 2018.

"We'd long had the idea of recording an album,

but we wanted to think it through and be really ready," said Clare of the 2014 release. "Being able to do the recording at our grandmother's house in Donegal was so much fun and just worked out so well. We didn't think it would be any big deal, but we ended getting loads of gigs after that."

"A few years later, we felt it was time to go into the studio again. We had tons more sets, and our gigs were getting bigger and had so much energy, the CD didn't match what we were doing on stage."

Even with all the praise and appreciation for their instrumental ability, what captured the fancy of many listening ears was their unison singing, evoking the older, traditional style in an era where harmony has become the gold standard for Irish singers.

"We were always used to singing together, as well as playing together, as kids," said Clare. "Not that we didn't sing solo, like at feadh, but we always felt quite detached not being to able sing as three. We'd listen to harmonies, and we could certainly do them, but it just felt natural to us to sing in unison. When I hear unison singing, it's quite haunting, very powerful."

Unison singing suits the sisters for another reason, Clare added: "I tend to be sharper, Anna a little flat, and Sheila is in between.

So if we're off, we know it."

As they cultivated their musical lives, the Friels devoted themselves to other vocations: dentistry for the twins, pharmacology and biochemistry for Clare. "We were always encouraged to focus on what interested us, whether it was music, or the arts, or science," she said. "If you follow what you enjoy, it comes together."

Not that this dual existence has been without challenges, Clare added, especially when it comes to the job of managing the trio's musical enterprises. For a while, Sheila took time off from dentistry to handle things while Anna completed her training and Clare finished up her honors degree. Then about three years ago, the twins went into practice full-time and Clare took up the mantle. Just when she was beginning to think about going back into the sciences, Clare was selected as the 2018 TG4 Young Musician of the Year. And then there were more gigs, and the second album to put together. Her "other" professional plans remain on hold.

"I absolutely love what I'm doing, though," she said.

With all the people who have made a difference in their lives, Clare said it is, not surprisingly, the familial bond which has had the strongest influence. Sheila and Anna have that unique closeness often observed in twins, but Clare has never felt at a disadvantage because of it.

"I'm always respectful of them being twins. They have their own world – dentistry and flutes – and that's just understood. Being sisters, of course, we'll bicker, but then it's gone; there's no lingering hard feelings. Mom always made it clear right from the start: 'You're all sisters, and you have to treat one another that way.' I've never felt left out, and they've been so kind to me. They even call me 'the boss' because of me managing the band."

"The boss" and her sisters have been able to relax a little, even get in a trip to Donegal, since returning from the US. But summer, and its various festivals and other events, beckons and this month they'll be on the road again. Not that any of the Friels are complaining: Music's done quite a lot for them, after all – and many would say the opposite is also true.

For more about The Friel Sisters, see [frielmusic.com](http://frielmusic.com).

## A Bloomsday special is set at Irish Consulate in Boston

The Irish Network Boston will partner with the Consulate General of Ireland on Tues., June 18, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for a special evening celebrating Bloomsday.

Scenes from Ulysses will be brought to life by David Gullette, showcasing the wit and frivolity distinctive to Joyce's work.

Gullette is Professor Emeritus of English at Simmons College, where he taught Modern Irish Literature for many years, including a James Joyce course. He is also a poet, actor, and playwright, and Literary Director of the Poet's Theatre in Cambridge.

Light refreshments will be provided. The

Consulate General of Ireland is located in Copley Square, 535 Boylston Street, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02116. This event is free and open to the public, however space is limited and registration is required. Register online at [eventbrite.com/e/bloomsday-2019-tickets-623122](http://eventbrite.com/e/bloomsday-2019-tickets-623122).





# Mark Linehan is ‘Mame’s’ dashing Southern gentleman

By R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Reagle Music Theatre in Waltham is kicking off its summer season with the musical “Mame,” playing June 13 – June 23.

Mame Dennis, aka Auntie Mame, is an effervescent, uninhibited, single New Yorker who lives life to the fullest. It’s the 1920s and the world is Mame’s chic, bohemian playground.

However, her life is suddenly altered when she’s given the task of raising Patrick, her young nephew, left orphaned when his father dies suddenly.

The beloved 1966 musical has a score by Broadway legend Jerry Herman and features both the rousing title song and the hit ballad, “If He Walked Into My Life.”

Mark Linehan plays Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside, the dashing, wealthy, Southern gent who marries Mame - played by Leigh Barrett - bringing love to her life after the crash of 1929. (Linehan and Barrett both appeared in “Anything Goes” at Reagle last summer.)

The award-winning Linehan has performed in theaters across New England as an actor, dancer, and singer. He’s a lifelong student of the saxophone and piano, both jazz and classical, and also plays guitar and ukulele.

While he’s a favorite of audiences from Wheelock Family Theater to Greater Boston Stage Company and New Rep, he has also found time to appear on screen in “Shutter Island,” starring Leonardo DiCaprio, “Surrogates,” starring Bruce Willis, and the Boston-based comedy “Ted,” starring Mark Wahlberg.

In addition to serving as an on-camera historical expert for “Mysteries of the Museum” on The Travel Channel, he works year round as a costumed guide on Boston’s historic Freedom Trail.

We spoke recently at the end of his very busy workday. Here’s an edited look at our chat.

**BIR:** Auntie Mame is a charismatic character audiences just love?

**A:** Mame is a smart, independent, liberated woman . . . She has a lot of love to give. I think people can particularly identify with Mame. . . especially recently. We’ve had the financial crisis, we had the college debt crisis. It’s the story of someone living large and then losing everything and having to rebuild and maintain the connections that are important to them.

**BIR:** She attracts some eccentric characters.

**A:** She creates a family based on the people around her, whom she loves and who love her. It doesn’t matter to her what their situation is. It doesn’t matter to her if they’re related to her or not. Throughout life, all of us collect people who become part of our lives. That’s what a family is. A family is not a bunch of last names . . . For a show written in 1966, that’s a lesson that we can still afford to learn today. A family is love.

**BIR:** And there’s an interesting family coincidence to your playing Beau?

**A:** My grandfather was stationed in Korea with the Fisheries Department from 1959 to 1961, and the Americans on base did a community theater production of the play “Auntie Mame,” and I guess my grandfather played Beauregard, the role that I’m playing.

**BIR:** When you’re giving tours along the Freedom Trail, do you assume a specific role? Are you required to stay in character?

**A:** We do. We all take on the personas of different characters . . . but we can’t be completely in character, we can’t be reenactors. We’re interpreters. We walk through a modern city so we can’t really pretend its 1765 with cars whizzing by . . . People all the time ask me questions about who I really am, and I tell them. . . [You’ll see me] if you’re ever on Tremont Street, School Street, Washington, or Congress. . . [At 6-foot-4] I’m one of



Mark Linehan is Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside in “Mame,” at Reagle Music Theatre, June 13 - 23.  
Scott Nobles photo

the tallest people on the Freedom Trail. And I wear bright green, so I’m pretty easy to spot.

**BIR:** You’ve played a diverse list of characters from Professor Harold Hill to Gaston and George Bailey. Any dream roles to come?

**A:** I have been very lucky. My dream was always just to work . . . I’d be lying if I said I didn’t have a few dream roles on the bucket list. I’m slowly starting check them off. My biggest dream role was John Wilkes Booth in “Assassins” and I got to play that at New Rep about five years ago. Honestly, the only other role that intrigued me was Captain Von Trapp in “Sound of Music.” There was always something about him that I wanted to explore. People seem to think of him as this really stiff, wooden guy with no emotions, and I actually think of him as the opposite. He’s the guy who lost his wife. People always think of him as a distant father but first and foremost he’s a widower . . . He’s someone who loved his wife and lost her and it’s still fresh for him . . . And the other one is a completely different captain. I’ve always

wanted to take a stab at Captain Hook in “Peter Pan.” Absolutely over the top!

**BIR:** What was your first time on stage like?

**A:** My first year of high school I did “Little Shop of Horrors” at Natick High School and the bug bit me. I haven’t looked back since. I was originally one of the tinier roles in the show and then this kid quit and I ended up playing Mr. Mushnick. And that’s been a repeated occurrence in my career. Many of my best roles are because someone else quit . . . There’s a very good friend of mine, a very successful working actor, and he has a great phrase. “I don’t care if you call me first, second or seventh as long as you call me last” (*Laughter*).

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

•••

“Mame,” June 13 – 23, Reagle Music Theater, 617 Lexington Street, Waltham. Info: 781-891-5600, reagemusictheatre.org.

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THE BIR'S

CALENDAR OF IRISH CELTIC EVENTS

A look at some of this month's Irish/Celtic music-related doings in the area:

- The first week of June offers an opportunity to see a dynamic new Celtic band with ties to the Boston area – and to support a good cause – when **Fàrsan** comes to the Parish Center for the Arts in Westford on June 2 at 7:30 p.m. The quartet performs instrumental and vocal music and dance from Scotland and Cape Breton, marrying the traditions embodied by fiddle, pipes and whistle, and Gaelic-language songs, to contemporary-minded accompaniment and arrangements. The members are Boston-area native Katie McNally, who has become one of the highly regarded young fiddlers in the US; Neil Pearlman, known for his innovative, enervating piano and accordion accompaniment; Elias Alexander (pipes, whistle, percussion), a member of the Celtic-Afro-Caribbean fusion band Soulsha and an occasional resident of Boston; and Màiri Britton, an Edinburgh native now living in Nova Scotia who sings in the Gaelic tradition and shares step dancing duties with Pearlman.

Donations from the concert will go to the American Diabetes Association. Go to [facebook.com/events/2196252383745415](https://facebook.com/events/2196252383745415) for further details.

- It may not officially be a Bloomsday event, but the **Summer Céilí at The Milton Club** does happen to take place on June 16, so perhaps you can hold a thought or two for James Joyce in your heart as you make the trek out to the festivities – the club is located at 193 Central Ave. in Milton. The céilí runs from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and is hosted by Boston area dancers Kristen Kelly, Jackie O'Riley, and Kieran Jordan, with live music provided by uilleann piper Joey Abarta and friends. Admission is \$20, free for children under 12; and there will be a free beginner céilí dance lesson at 1:30 p.m.

- **The Glory Reel**, a trio of accomplished New England Irish musicians with a particular fondness for the traditions of North Connacht and Ulster, will launch its debut album of the same name at the Canadian American Club in Watertown on June 8 at 8 p.m. The members are Will Woodson (flute, uilleann pipes), who also plays in the trio Daymark; Chris “Junior” Stevens (piano, melodeon, button accordion), like Woodson a resident of Portland, and a co-founder of the acclaimed Maine band The Press Gang; and Caitlin Finley (fiddle), a mainstay of the Irish music scenes in Philadelphia, New York City and now Boston who has been a student of Rose Flanagan and Brian Conway.

For more information, see [facebook.com/events/2181122168855082](https://facebook.com/events/2181122168855082).

The Canadian American Club also will hold a concert and dance on June 15 with Cape Breton fiddle-piano duo **Ian MacDougall and Janine Randall**. More details at the Canadian American Club website [[canadianamericanclub.com](http://canadianamericanclub.com)].

- Nationally renowned Celtic rock band **Gaelic Storm** comes to The Cabot Theatre in Beverly on June 29 at 8 p.m. Although their legendary cameo appearance in the 1998 film “Titanic” is still recalled, the band – Steve Twigger, Patrick Murphy, Ryan Lacey, Pete Purvis, and Katie Grennan – has built its success through good old-fashioned work, touring as much as 125 days out of the year to perform its crowd-rousing mix of Celtic, country and rock/pop. With 13 albums to its credit, Gaelic Storm has regularly placed high in the Billboard World Music albums chart and appeared on the same bill with such acts as the Zac Brown Band, the Goo Goo Dolls, Emmylou Harris, and Lyle Lovett, and at various events and venues including the Boston Irish Festival, the Telluride Bluegrass Festival, and Milwaukee's Summerfest.

Tickets, information available at [thecabot.org](http://thecabot.org).

- The Burren Backroom schedule for the month kicks off with South Kerry-born singer **Clare Horgan** on June 2 at 4 p.m. Horgan has sung in a variety of genres, including jazz (which she studied at the University of Leeds), gospel, bluegrass, and swing, but has never strayed far from the tradition of her childhood, and current, home. Her most recent project involves delving into archival recordings of traditional seán-nos singing of her native Iveragh, and she has been granted funding for research and



New England trio The Glory Reel will hold a CD release concert June 8 at the Canadian American Club in Watertown. *Anna Colliton photo*

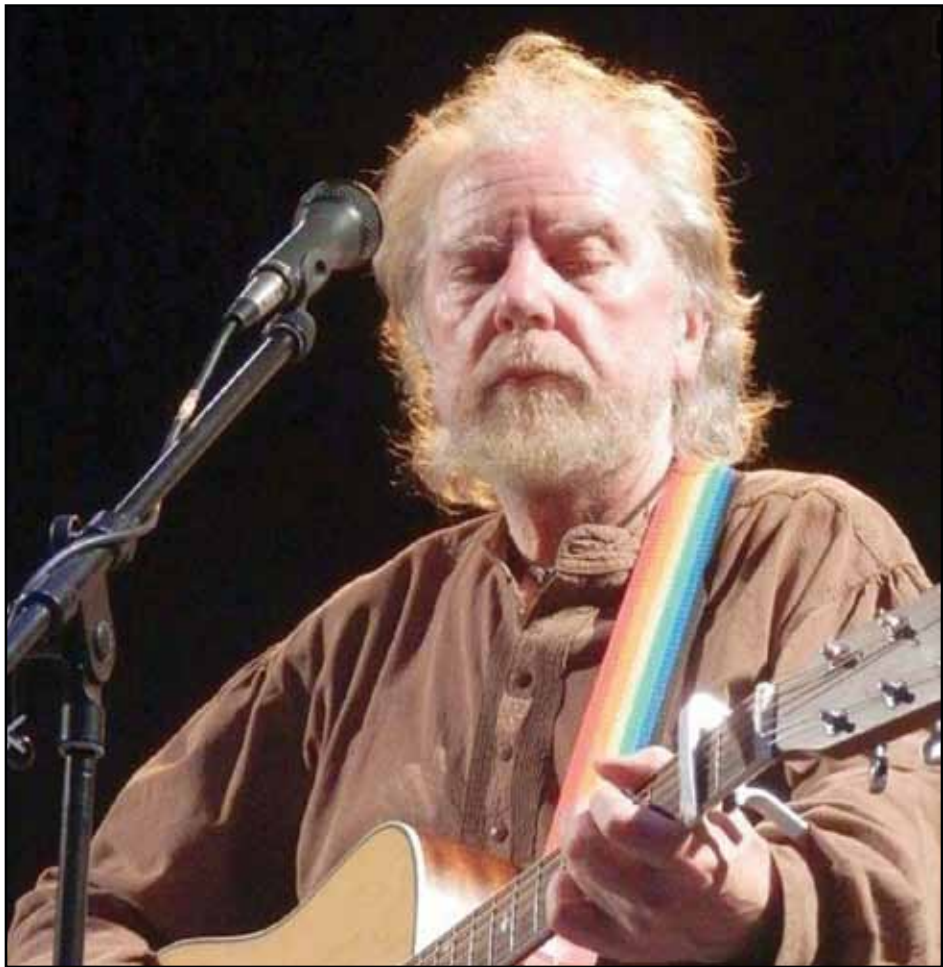
teaching activities related to preserving and passing on the music. Her two recordings showcase her wide-ranging musical interests: collaborations with British and Irish jazz musicians; covers of Pee Wee King and Redd Stewart's “The Tennessee Waltz,” Hank Williams’ “You Win Again” and George Gershwin’s “But Not for Me”; and traditional and contemporary Irish songs such as “An Leanbh Si (The Fairy Child),” Sigerson Clifford’s “Boys Of Barr Na Sraide” and “The Road from Killorglin to Cahersiveen.”

Uilleann piper and whistle player **Cillian Valley** will team with Worcester natives **David and Patrick Doocey** on June 5 at 7:30 p.m. Valley, who plays in super-group Lúnasa, has collaborated with performers such as fellow Lúnasan Kevin Crawford, Tim O'Brien, Mary Chapin Carpenter, and Bruce Springsteen and has recorded a solo album, “The Raven's Rock,” which included appearances by his brothers Niall and Caoimhin. David Doocey, winner of All-Ireland medals on both fiddle and concertina and the inaugural World Fleadh fiddle championship, has played in the band Gráda and with Mayo accordionist David Munnelly, while guitar-playing brother Patrick, also a member of Lúnasa, has recorded with Crawford and fiddler Dylan Foley as The Drunken Gaugers and toured with Irish-American singer-songwriter Ashley Davis.

**Dana Lyn and Kyle Sanna** bring their innovative project “The Coral Suite” to the Backroom on June 12 at 7:30 p.m. Fiddler-composer-arranger Lyn, who has played with traditional Irish musicians like Mick Moloney, Kevin Burke, and Martin Hayes, has a strong classical background, and guitarist Sanna has equally wide-ranging interests. “The Coral Suite” is a musical evocation of a coral reef and the diversity of life in its ecosystem, drawing on traditional and classical pieces as well as original works, and complemented by light boxes and projections featuring illustrations by Lyn.

The **New England Irish Harp Orchestra** appears on June 15 at 7 p.m. NEIHO is a multi-generational group of harpists who play – in various combinations as well as a full ensemble – Irish traditional tunes, slow airs and songs, and snippets from other music genres as well.

Making its Burren Backroom debut on June 19 at 7:30 p.m. will be young Connemara trio **HighTime**. Ciarán Bolger (vocals, guitar), Séamus Flaherty (vocals, harp, bodhran, dance) and Conall Flaherty (vocals, flute, whistle) bring together diverse elements in their sound, from sean-nos tunes to classic tunes of the Atlantic coast to traditional and



Tommy Sands, writer of landmark songs like “There Were Roses,” will be at The Burren Backroom on June 26.

contemporary folk songs animated by three-part harmony. HighTime released its first album, “Sunda,” last year [see this month's album reviews].

One of Ireland's most distinguished singer-songwriters and social activists, **Tommy Sands**, performs in the Backroom on June 26 at 7:30 p.m. A native of County Down with a rich family legacy of music, Sands played with siblings Ben, Colum, Eugene, and Anne as The Sands Family in the late 1960s, then began a solo career that saw him write songs decrying the violence of The Troubles and expressing hope for peace and fellowship, such as “There Were Roses” and “Your Daughters and Your Sons.” Praised by Nobel Poet laureate Seamus Heaney and folk music legend Pete Seeger, his compositions have been covered by Joan Baez, Kathy Mattea, The Dubliners, Frank Patterson, and Cara Dillon, among many others, and “There Were Roses” was translated into German and included in the English syllabus for German secondary schools. In 1986, Sands organized a “Citizen's Assembly” in Belfast that included many of Ulster's top artists and literary figures. He was named an honorary doctor of letters by

the University of Nevada for his work as musician and ambassador for peace and understanding.

Information on, and links to tickets for, Burren events available at [burren.com/music.html](http://burren.com/music.html).

- Fiddle music representing several traditions will be in the spotlight when Brookline's High Street Concert Series presents the duo of **Kyra Davies and Sean Smith** on June 14 at 8 p.m. Widely recognized for her work in contemporary classical music, Davies (fiddle and vocals) has become a devotee of traditional music from Ireland, Scotland, Shetland, and Cape Breton, with occasional excursions into Breton and Galician traditions as well, influenced by her years surrounded by the New England folk music scene. Smith (guitar, bouzouki, vocals) has been playing traditional folk music from England, Ireland and Scotland since high school. His instrumental style reflects contemporary fashions and tastes that have emerged in the past few decades and taken traditional music in new and innovative directions.

Tickets and other details at [highstreetconcertseries.org](http://highstreetconcertseries.org).



CD Reviews

By SEAN SMITH

**The Outside Track, “Rise Up”** • The pan-Celtic, intercontinental quintet is back with a new album, and another alteration to its lineup: Scotland’s Michael Ferrie has replaced German-Irish guitarist Cillian O’Dalaigh; this comes after Cork vocalist and flute/whistle player Teresa Horgan succeeded Canadian Norah Rendell on the band’s previous release, 2015’s “Light Up the Dark.” Long-time members Ailie Robertson (harp) and Fiona Black (accordion), both of Scotland, and fiddler Mairi Rankin – from one of Cape Breton’s most distinguished musical families – provide the continuity and institutional memory.



Whatever the changes, The Outside Track is as exceptional as ever in expressing, while simultaneously and seamlessly uniting, different strains of Celtic-related traditions. This is particularly evident in its instrumental repertoire of mainly modern compositions in the traditional style, plus several band originals. In the “Dark Reels” medley, replete with changeling rhythms and accents, Robertson’s deft playing leads her beguiling, Balkanesque “Craigard,” with flute and fiddle slowly rising to the fore; after a transitional passage, Black rides in – Ferrie and Horgan right there with her – to spearhead Lauren MacColl’s formidable “And Sheep Will Eat Men” before Robertson returns to guide another of her tunes, “Gaît Genouël’s Reel,” punctuated by Rankin’s outstanding break near the end. The endearing jig medley “Road to Rollo Bay,” with a lovely intro by Ferrie, is the titular tune by Prince

Edward Islander Shelly Campbell; Jenna Reid’s “Sarah-Jane” (a comely harp-flute duet at the outset); and, in a minor-key shift, Lúnasa uilleann piper Niall Vallely’s “Nina.” In contrast to the Celtic-polyglot character elsewhere, “The Silver Bullet” is solid Cape Breton, spotlighting Rankin’s energizing fiddle – matched note for note by Black and powered by Ferrie – on a pair of strathspeys “Shelly Campbell’s” (by Kinnon Beaton) and “MJ’s” (Wendy MacIsaac), concluding with a couple of brawny reels, the traditional “Miss Betty Ann Gordon” and Rosemary Poirier’s “The Silver Bullet.” (Stephen Henderson’s drums and Cormac Byrne’s bodhran and other percussion are a welcome presence throughout the album, especially on the instrumental sets.)

Where “Light Up the Dark” had a decided contemporary-folk quality to its songs, like the rural/blue-collar North American vibe of Nanci Griffith’s “Trouble in the Fields” and Lennie Gallant’s “Peter’s Dream,” “Rise Up” feels strongly rooted in traditional song, what with “Neillí Pluincéad (Eleanor Plunkett),” a setting of the poem and tune by O’Carolan, and an Americana-tinted “Sweet Lover of Mine,” Scots singer Emily Smith’s collation of versions of “Scarborough Fair.” Best of all are three time-honored ballads: “Banks of the Sweet Dundee,” and its nevertheless-she-persisted storyline; the super-natural “Wife of Usher’s Well”; and the chilling “Lady Diamond,” a tour-de-force for Horgan who, while cognizant of pop/modern influences, focuses like a laser on the conjoined potency of narrative and melody – and puts to shame the notion of trad songs being quaint, trivial affairs. [theoutsidetrack.com]

**HighTime, “Sunda”** • The youthful trio of Ciarán Bolger (vocals, guitar), Séamus Flaherty (vocals, harp, bodhran) and Conall Flaherty (vocals, flute, whistle) comes from Ardmore in Connemara, and boasts some substantial performance experience: Bolger has toured with the “Celtic Legends” international stage production, as has Conall Flaherty, who also appeared in another extravaganza, “Rhythm of the Dance”;

Conall’s brother Seamus, meanwhile, played with Cherish the Ladies two years ago at Celtic Connections and has been involved in other traveling shows.

This resumé suggests a certain savviness to HighTime’s approach, which brings together diverse elements in its sound, from sean-nos songs to classic tunes of the Irish Atlantic coast to traditional and contemporary folk songs animated by three-part harmony. Their renditions of the capstan sea shanty “South Australia” and “Fiddler’s Green,” by American singer-songwriter Tim O’Brien (not to be confused with the song of the same name by John Connolly), for instance, have a jaunty, latter-day ballad-group affect. But they achieve a different aesthetic elsewhere, especially on “Village of Cloch Bhui” – an elegantly crafted emigration song by Don Stiffe – which Bolger’s lead vocal imbues with equal parts reminiscence and resolve (and not a hint of mawkishness), and even more so on the hauntingly beautiful “An Tiarna Randall,” Séamus Flaherty demonstrating his command of the sean-nós (old style) singing tradition.

Similarly, their instrumental sets – the tracks all are titled in Gaelic – include old reliables like “Maid of Mt. Kisco,” “Monaghan Jig,” “Man of the House” and “Out on the Ocean,” yet there’s no question about the high level of musicianship, particularly on the part of the Flahertys: Séamus is in the spotlight on his own “Fad Saoil” as well as the first part of “An Maolín” while Conall powers through a set of reels – featuring Marcus Hernon’s vivacious “The Lively Wagtail” – on “Ífearnáin” with flute (Séamus shows his bodhran chops here) and in the latter part of “Iorras” on whistle. Bolger’s guitar is rock solid throughout, and rock-steady on the opening of “Iorras,” the aforementioned “Maid of Mt. Kisco.”

A quibble here or there: Their cover of Richard Thompson’s “Beeswing” (increasingly at risk of overexposure these days) is maybe a touch too brisk, which serves to lessen the song’s tender, reflective nature. And if you like sleeve notes, especially those that detail the contents of instrumental sets, they’re in short supply on “Sunda.” Hardly unforgivable offenses.

While the harp and flute’s centrality gives HighTime a deceptively ethereal, almost cryptic demeanor, there is nothing remote or inaccessible about their music. Quite the contrary. (You can judge for yourself if you catch them at The Burren Backroom series this month; see the June events round-up elsewhere.) [hightime.ie]

**Glenn & Ronan, “Horizon”** • Former University College Dublin students Glenn Murphy and Ronan Scolard have reaped the rewards of the digital age. Three years ago, their video medley of songs by Adele went viral, and shortly thereafter the international singer-songwriter star invited the duo on stage with her, amplifying a media frenzy that saw them land an appearance on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” and in other high-profile events.

As their debut album shows, their celebrity in the soft-pop music domain has merit: Both possess bracing yet tender voices that complement one another to perfection, all of which suits the unabashedly romantic content of their material. The songs on “Horizon,” half of which are Scolard or Murphy/Scolard originals, dwell a lot on the agonies and ecstasies of love and the grace of devotion: “I’ve been lost about a hundred million times/I’ve been searching for some freedom in my mind/Every day feels like a battle deep inside/Leavin’ all the love and innocence behind” (“Close My Eyes”); “I have loved and lost/Though it hurts/It’s better to have loved/And to lose it all and fall/Than to not have loved at all” (“Loved & Lost”); “When you’re scared/When you’re broken/I will care for you/My heart is open” (“Safe & Sound”).

Not exactly the stuff of Shakespearean sonnets, sure, but Murphy and Scolard deliver the songs with a healthily restrained earnestness that sometimes achieves an almost liturgical dimension (both had choir experience, after all, and were part of the Choral Scholars at UCD). Wisely, they avoid string sections and other facets of over-production, relying largely on guitar, keyboards and drums for backing. Altogether, it’s a pleasant if not especially memorable listening experience. Perhaps in the not-too-distant future, someone will do a viral video based on Glenn & Ronan songs, and complete the circle. [facebook.com/glennandronan]



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# ‘Slán’ to the iconic Green Briar, ‘Fáilte’ to the Burren’s new gig

(Continued from page 1) announced that The Burren in Somerville’s Davis Square would be its new location, effective May 13 – a week after the Briar shuttered for good.

Around the same time, the Boston Uilleann Pipers Club agreed to take the organizational reins for the Canadian American Club’s Irish session on the first Thursday of each month beginning in August.

No such good news came for the 14-year-old Harrington’s session, however; its final go-round was scheduled for May 22.

Greater Boston is justifiably hailed for its Irish session scene, where it’s often been possible to find a different session taking place somewhere any day of the week. But the Briar/Harrington’s/Canadian American Club news last month prompted reflection in the Irish music community on the mortality of sessions, no matter how popular and well-supported they may be.

Sessions come, and then go, for any number of reasons: Disagreements between the musicians and the venue owner on details like scheduling, stipends for the session leaders, or whether participants get complimentary food or drink. The owner decides the session isn’t financially viable, or that customers want some other kind of entertainment. The sessioneers feel the space isn’t suitable, or conclude it’s just too difficult for someone to organize and lead the event on a regular basis.

Even when things go smoothly, there is always the possibility of the host pub or restaurant going out of business, for whatever reason – which in fact had happened to the Briar session before, when it was housed at the Village Coach House in Brookline Village from the 1970s until late 1987 when the restaurant was sold.

But while it went on, the Briar had one of the key elements to what musicians say helps make a successful, thriving session: a pub/restaurant owner who – instead of viewing the session as a gimmick, or relatively low-cost entertainment that can be arbitrarily preempted or rescheduled – sees a means of building community and camaraderie. The session therefore is an integral part, rather than an appendage, of the host venue – as foundational a feature as the food served or the drinks poured.

“The O’Connor family was wonderful to us,” said the accordionist and co-organizer Tommy Sheridan of the Briar owners. “They were behind the session all the way; they felt it was important. And they trusted us to run things. It was a great arrangement.”

And having a Larry Reynolds to run things also went a long way to fulfilling the Briar’s promise, they add. “The fact that Larry and the CCE were associated with the session, and the way they went about running it,” said Cape Cod musician Edmund Robinson, a Briar regular from 1995-



Musicians of different generations were a common sight at the Green Briar session, particularly its “early” component.

Sean Smith photo

2008, “gave you the strong impression of people dedicated to preserving and sharing the music – all for the sheer joy of it.”

“I think it was the general atmosphere of the place – the openness, the quality of the people – that made the session work so well here,” said Sheridan. “There seemed to be a lot of players who liked challenging one another, in a positive way.”

At the penultimate Briar gathering on April 29, guitarist Elisabeth Carter of Waltham was among the musicians settling in for the “early” session, aimed at those less experienced in Irish music, or who simply prefer to play at a slower tempo.

“Larry was so welcoming, so warm,” she recalled. “It was very important to him that if you were new to the music, or to the area, you would feel at home. He’d invite you to lead a tune, if you wanted; if you didn’t that was fine, too. And if you came back the next time, he’d remember you.”

More and more musicians filtered in, and the “session room” was near capacity within an hour. At one point, there were three accordions, three concertinas, five bodhrans, a couple of guitars, a smattering of whistles and an ever-increasing number of fiddles. Reminiscences flowed, joyfully and lovingly, of memorable evenings and memorable individuals, some of them departed.

Besides Robinson, other former regulars attending the Briar final sessions included Janice Frishkopf of Belmont, who had often dropped by in the early 2000s. She marveled at the session’s durability: “Now there’s a whole new generation of musicians who have come here.”

Bob Coleman, who paused occasionally while playing his bodhran to pass out red licorice to friends, acquaintances, and strangers, recalled Reynolds’s willingness to try out an idea Coleman and his friends pitched him 18 years ago. “There were six of us, just kind of getting to know the music, and we enjoyed going to the Briar. But we didn’t know all the same tunes. So we went to Larry and said, ‘Could we come in early, so we could go over the tunes together?’ He thought it was a great idea.” Thus was born the “slow” session, which came to be known in more recent years as the “early” session, starting up at 7 and concluding around 9, when the “late” session would begin.

“To me, there were actually three components to the Briar session,” said Sheridan. “You’d have the early session, and then the ‘regular’ session would start up. But around 10:30, the crowd would get smaller, and we’d do stuff that was a little different. We’d get ‘instrument-specific,’ focus on tunes that were more oriented to accordion, or fiddle or pipes. People would bring tunes

from way back, tunes that everyone else didn’t mind sitting and listening to.”

On this night, as the early session went on and the room continued to fill, Carter, Robinson, and the other musicians played a set of reels including “The Wind That Shakes the Barley.” Someone started a four-part jig, “The Lark in the Morning,” and others joined in; if you listened closely, you noticed that many of the musicians weren’t just playing the same notes, but were in agreement about how to play them: which ones to emphasize, which ones to vary, how to end a phrase so as to give the tune some lift.

This wasn’t happenstance, but an outgrowth of the “Tune of the Month” tutorial program early-session regulars participate in; sheet music and a recording of the tune in question are shared so the musicians can practice at home. As Sheridan explained, learning a set of common tunes together via the same source can create a bond among the sessioneers while helping them appreciate the subtle nuances in Irish traditional music – like the differences between the version of “Lark in the Morning” they learn and others they might encounter.

Witnessing the development of formerly novice musicians at the Briar has been satisfying for Sheridan, who recounted how one fiddler, once too shy to sit in with others at the early session, even-

tually became confident enough to lead a set of reels. “We’ve created a monster,” Sheridan recalled, joking with another experienced musician as they witnessed the event.

The Briar’s reknown went well beyond Boston, or Massachusetts, or New England – or the US, for that matter. Session veterans reeled off names of notable Irish musicians who would stop by the Briar when their tour took the through town.

“A few of us started to make a list of everyone who had dropped in at the session over the years,” said Sheridan. “Trouble is, no matter how much time you spend doing that, and no matter how long the list gets, someone will say, ‘What about so-and-so?’ It just never ends.”

“But you know who really makes the session? It’s those people who come every week, or every two weeks, or once a month – whenever they can. Their contribution means so much.”

An O’Carolan tune, “Fanny Power,” signaled the end of the early session, and shortly thereafter the late session – taking place in the pub’s main room – was in full swing, a circle of some two-dozen musicians playing a considerably up-tempo medley of reels.

Coleman, still doling out red licorice, said he was “horrified” at the prospect of the Briar shuttering. Taking note of the packed house, he added, “Well, people will definitely now know what

they’ll be missing.”

Sheridan sounded an upbeat note about the session’s transition to The Burren, where the early session will be held in its Backroom starting at 6 p.m., the later session at 8:30 p.m. in the front. He expressed appreciation to Burren co-owner Tommy McCarthy for offering to take the session on, and to fiddler Helena Delaney, who has long hosted the pub’s Monday night session and will continue in that role.

“Tommy was very positive, and as for Helena, to have the opportunity to work with someone of that quality is something to look forward to,” he said. “People wondered about the logistics, but a lot of them have been saying ‘We’ll be there.’ So now it’s up to us, and I think we’ll make it work.”

Postscript: At the final Green Briar session on May 6, which was also packed, a photo of Larry Reynolds, fiddle in hand, was placed on one of the tables. The musicians ended the night with a reel in G, “The Galway Rambler,” one of Reynolds’ signature tunes.

A week later, the former Briar session – both early and late – had a splendid Burren debut, despite the chilly, damp weather, according to Sheridan: “three musicians deep” in the later session, and good spirits all around.

“If I do say so myself,” he said, “the music had great flow and lift.”



Traveling People

An Chuiirt Hotel is a special place in gorgeous Gweedore, Donegal



An Chuiirt Gweedore Court Hotel, in Gweedore, Co. Donegal, overlooks the Clady River, famed for its salmon fishing. Errigal Mountain is in the distance.

By JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Gweedore, in northern Co. Donegal, is probably not a location too many of us American travelers have discovered. Sadly, most visitors stop their northern trek in Donegal Town and that's a real pity because Gweedore is in a most beautiful part of this wild and wooly county.

The route to Gweedore from the south is circuitous and winds through colorful towns, lush hills, and emerald valleys. Once you arrive in Gweedore, there is much to do and see, thanks to its proximity to attractions such as Glenveagh National Park, Atlantic beaches and islands, nearby golf courses, fishing, and more.

A friend and I recently enjoyed a midweek stay at the historic An Chuiirt Gweedore Court Hotel and Spa in Gweedore. This storied 4-star hotel was originally purpose-built back in the 1830s by Lord George Hill, a local landowner, in the style of Scottish Highland hunting lodges. The design was geared to attract gentry who were visiting Donegal for fishing and hunting. The hotel stands in a stunning location on a main driving route, overlooking the Clady River, noted for its salmon fishing, with Errigal Mountain in the distance.

ONCE A  
COURTHOUSE

An Chuiirt operated as a hotel for more than 25 years before the government took over the building and turned it into a courthouse - thus its Irish name An Chuiirt, or "the court." The hotel is located in a Gaeltacht, one of a number of Irish-speaking areas primarily on the western edge of the country but also found in Meath, Cork, and Waterford. More than half the staff at An Chuiirt speak Irish.

By the 1960s, the court had closed and the building lay vacant until local resident Patrick Doherty and his family rescued the property in 1990 and set to work restoring it to its former glory. This summer, the Dohertys, who still own and run the hotel, will celebrate 20 years since An Chuiirt reopened.

General Manager Ricardo Freitas has been with the 68-bedroom hotel

for two years. Since he arrived, he has overseen a three-month closure of the building for development of the spa area, updating of bedrooms, the restaurant and dining room and additional training of staff members. The work raised standards, he said, while maintaining the Irish welcome. And, we did feel so welcomed by all the staff at An Chuiirt, from the general manager on down.

The hotel caters to some 30 wedding parties per year and, Freitas said, for every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through September, it is completely booked. But if you happen to be in that area of Donegal midweek, An Chuiirt would be a great choice for accommodation.

Bedrooms there are spacious and decorated with elegant, comfortable antique beds and other furniture. A welcoming basket of fresh fruit - or chocolates - greets the visitor. My friend likes a bathtub and I prefer a shower. Each of our spotless bedrooms was en suite with modern bathrooms that offered a shower over the tub so we were both happy.

EXCEPTIONAL  
CUISINE

Even if there were no other reason to visit An Chuiirt, the outstanding cuisine in the dining room would make dinner well worth a stop. I ordered that evening's cod special and my friend had risotto with sea bass - both were absolutely delicious, beautifully prepared and presented. And, as an aside, the bar offers 52 types of gin. "We are very passionate about our beverages," Freitas said.

Drinks are served with paper straws, a nod to the ecology and environment. "These are small things," he said referring to the straws, "but they have a huge impact."

Freitas is currently working with Aer Lingus to create a midweek offer for customers to fly from Dublin to Donegal airport for dinner at the hotel, an overnight stay, spa treatment, and short flight back to Dublin the next morning. Aer Lingus already flies the route from Dublin to Donegal three times a day, year round, and Loganair flies from Glasgow to Donegal airport daily. The hotel can arrange to collect

clients or they can rent cars at the airport.

Behind the hotel - but also on the 100-acre estate - is the Errigal View Pet Farm with an interesting assortment of animals from raccoons to emus, rabbits, and wallabies. There is also an infant play area there and a 9-hole pitch and putt.

An Chuiirt recently joined a group called Original Irish Hotels (originalirishhotels.com), a collection of 59 locally run traditional and boutique hotels, castles, manors, and country houses. Freitas said, "It's a nice group to be part of and these hotels try to help one another."

For more information on An Chuiirt, email: info@gweedorecourthotel.com or visit the website, gweedorecourthotel.com.

JOHN MOLLOY  
WOOLLENS

Heading south again after our nice stay at An Chuiirt, we passed through the towns of Crolly, Dungloe, Maas, and stopped in Ardara at the John Molloy Woollen Mills on the N56 road.

It was so nice to see that, like An Chuiirt, this business is also family-run. We were greeted by managing director Michael Molloy, his wife and daughter, and learned that the Molloy family has been involved in the textile industry since the mid-19th century. Donegal tweed is produced there in the family's factory and the traditional Irish Aran Fishermen's sweaters are still hand knit in homes across Co. Donegal, and sold at Molloy's.

The store offers a variety of men's and women's clothing, traditional and contemporary. There is ample parking, free factory tours, tourist information, Irish crafts, tea/coffee, wifi, as well as the woolen goods.

For more information, visit johnmolloy.com.

STAR WARS

Who doesn't know at least something about the Star Wars films? While they may not have been your favorites, they surely did appeal to the folks in Malin Head, Co. Donegal, where scenes from "The Last Jedi" were filmed.

The film and its characters appealed so much to local residents that they renamed the R242



An Chuiirt Gweedore Court Hotel in Co. Donegal. Judy Enright photos



Comfortable antique bed in one of the bedrooms at An Chuiirt Gweedore Court Hotel in Gweedore, Co. Donegal.



House beside the road to Gweedore in Co. Donegal. Judy Enright photos

road R2D2 highway, and installed the appropriate signage.

MUSIC EVENTS

There are a number of outdoor events planned for music lovers this summer. Be sure to check ahead as many sell out nearly overnight. Some of the concerts listed this summer are:

- Forbidden Fruit Festival, June 1-3, Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin, Irish and international acts, non camping, see: forbiddenfruit.ie for more;
- Malahide Castle concerts, June 7-22, Dublin, ticketmaster.ie, include The Cure on June 8; Mumford & Sons, 14 and 15, George Ezra, June 21, and Lana Del Rey, the 22nd.
- Fleetwood Mac, June

13, RDS, Dublin, ticketmaster.ie;

- Bon Jovi, June 16, RDS, Dublin, ticketmaster.ie;
- Sea Sessions, June 21-23, Bundoran, Co. Donegal, see seasessions.com for more.

- Kaleidoscope, June 28-30 at Russborough Estate, Co. Wicklow, see kaleidoscopecfestival.ie for more.

ALCOCK & BROWN

From June 11-16, Clifden, Co. Galway, will celebrate the centenary of the first transatlantic flight in 1919 when a Vickers-Vimy biplane crash-landed behind the Marconi wireless station in the Derrigimlagh bog.

On board were two British airmen, Captain John Alcock (pilot), and Lt. Arthur Whitten Brown

(navigator). The plane had taken off from Lester's Field in St John's, Newfoundland, at 4:12 p.m. (GMT) the previous day and arrived at Derrigimlagh, Clifden, at 8:40 a.m. (GMT) on Sun., June 15. The distance covered was a little less than 1,900 miles and flight time was 16 hours and 28 minutes.

Events are planned from June 11-16, including field trips, guided tours, talks, a boat regatta, and much more. See: alcockandbrown100.com for more.

SUMMERTIME

Summer is a great time to visit Ireland. Attractions, many of which closed for the winter, have reopened and are ready to greet visitors. Enjoy Ireland whenever and wherever you go.



Immigration Q&A

Conditional permanent residence: taking a look at the crucial next steps

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

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

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

Birth certificates of any children born of the relationship, showing the applicant and spouse as the parents; copies of federal and state tax returns with the “married filing jointly” filing status; evidence of joint checking, savings, or other accounts or assets (certificates of deposit, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, retirement accounts, pension plans, etc.), or joint obligations on any loans; photo ID cards (such as driver’s licenses, school IDs, or amended passports) showing the couple’s joint address; an apartment lease or a letter from the landlord indicating that both spouses live at the apartment, or copies of rent receipts showing both parties’ names.

Also, house or condominium deeds or mortgage documents showing joint tenancy and obligation; credit cards showing both spouses’ names on the accounts; documents from an employer showing a change in records to reflect the spouse’s new marital status or showing designation of the spouse as the person to be notified in event of accident, sickness, or other emergency; evidence of life insurance policies where one spouse is named as the beneficiary of the other; evidence of one spouse’s medical or health insurance plan that has coverage for the other spouse; copies of gas, electric, telephone, cable, and other utility bills showing both parties’ names (or at least the same mailing address); evidence of joint ownership of an automobile (title, insurance, registration, financing). If one spouse owns the car, show at least that the other is covered as a driver on the insurance policy.


Also, evidence of vacations and other trips taken together, including airline tickets and hotel bills; evidence of major purchases made together, such as computers, audio equipment, television, refrigerator, washer, dryer etc., including any financing documents; photographs that show both spouses together with family and friends; two sworn affidavits from people who know the spouses as a married couple and who can briefly describe their relationship with them. These can be relatives, close friends, employers and others, preferably US citizens.

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

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

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

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



# IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

**An agency accredited by US Department of Justice**

One State Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02109 (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655  
Website: [iiicenter.org](http://iiicenter.org) Email: [immigration@iiicenter.org](mailto:immigration@iiicenter.org)

Caitlin McGarry loves Boston and its ‘strong Irish Vibe’

At Ulster University, Caitlin McGarry has been studying toward a degree in Communications, Advertising, and Marketing. For her third-year placement, Caitlin found a truly perfect fit as a media planning intern with Norbella, a position that aligns perfectly with her degree and that directly incorporates many aspects of her studies. “I will definitely return to Ireland with a whole new and improved skill set,” is her confident appraisal of the benefits of her internship.

Caitlin loves the variety of daily work at Norbella and will benefit tremen-

dously from exposure to different aspects of media in a professional and innovative setting. Moreover, Norbella’s dedication to social responsibility has really struck a chord with Caitlin, who, with other Norbella employees and interns, has volunteered at homeless shelters and charities across the city.

When Caitlin is not working or volunteering, she is making the most of a place that she has simply fallen in love with – the beautiful city of Boston. She enjoys walking through the Public Garden, Back Bay and Cambridge. As she landed

in Boston at the start of July 2018, Caitlin arrived just in time to celebrate the Fourth of July, spending the day at the beach and watching fireworks.

“I came to Boston during a great year for sports” Caitlin said. She has attended college basketball games, baseball games, and the Irish hurling matches at Fenway Park in November. She was impressed by how the city was so full of life following Boston victories at the World Series and the Super Bowl.

Although she is very far from home, Caitlin has embraced Boston’s welcoming



Caitlin enjoying one of her many trips across America’s picturesque northeast.

spirit: “I think people here are very welcoming to Irish people in general. No wonder, as everyone loves to claim their Irish roots!” As is the case with so many J-1 exchange visitors, Caitlin’s year in Boston has been an unforgettable experience. We wish her all the best as she finishes up her placement year and as she returns home to finish her degree!

The many sides of self-care

By RACHEL REISMAN

Mental health matters! Spring is the season each year when we remind ourselves that our mental health mat-

Matters of Substance

ters to ourselves, to our friends and family, and in our workplaces. This year’s theme is “for mind for body” as it’s all interconnected; our emotional and brain health affects

our bodies, and vice versa. We must take care of our moods, our minds and our relationships the same way we attend to our bodies, our bones, and our teeth! It’s just as valid and just as necessary.

Sometimes it’s easy, often it’s not, and that doesn’t mean you’re doing it wrong, just that you’re on the right track. At the IIIC, we are here to help you find what you need to cope, manage, and feel better and to provide you with the support and care we all need to preserve ourselves along the way.

In addition to therapy, medication, AA and other services that many of us seek out, all of us need to develop our particular box or brand of ‘self-care’ tools and routine that work for our own daily life. Self-care is something we’ve heard a lot about over the past few years, and while it’s being touted to sell everything from candles and wine to spa days and Vegas trips, it’s really about the simple and quiet ways we learn to listen to ourselves, to live in the moment, and be aware. It can cost nothing and should be tailored to you.

Whenever I meet with a client, no matter how much they are struggling in a given moment, critical questions are: “What brings you pleasure? Where do you find fun?” The pleasurable side of self-care includes things such as reading, laughing with friends, being a part of the GAA, Netflix binges, taking those candle-lit baths, or fishing. It is important, and when someone can no longer find this in his or her life, we know the suffering is deep.

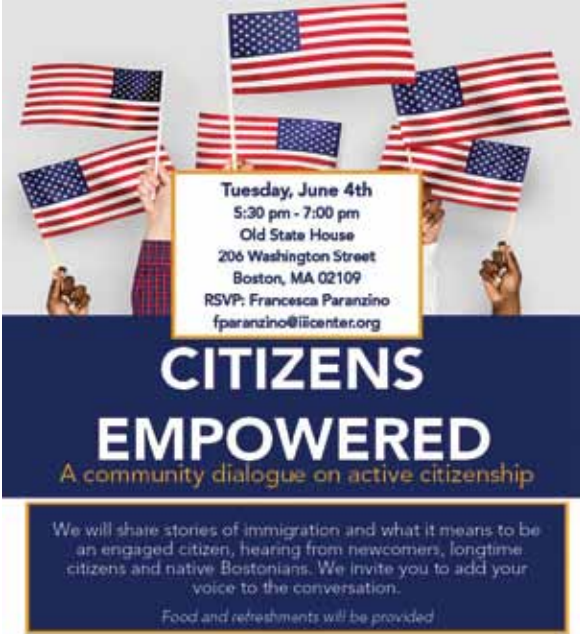
Self-care is also self-preservation and the stuff we find harder to do. This side of the coin is everything from loving yourself and having compassion for yourself, to asking for help, following through with medical tests, and facing hard realities. As Lizzo, the powerful performer, writes: “Self-care has to be rooted in self-

preservation” and “I don’t think self-love is a choice, I think it’s a decision that has to be made for survival.” As Mawiyah Patten notes “self-care can be completely terrible” as it’s acknowledging our shame, our vulnerabilities, our limits. However, as anyone who forges down this honest path, who gets quiet and listens to themselves every day, faces their doubt and fears, the self-care pay-off is bigger and better.

So remember, anything and anyway that enables you to quiet the distractions and hear your own thoughts, to feel the strengths and pains in your body, and that helps ease the buzz of worry in your mind is good self-care. You don’t need a fancy yoga class or a juicer, just a place to sit, breathe, and reflect. It can be at your desk, during a walk, while you drive. The sound of the sea can speak to us of our sadness and soothe us, too. During a run we might acknowledge the grief we carry. And then, make that dental appointment, have that hard conversation you’ve been putting off, and rest your sore back. Call or email us at any point along the way, as a big part of self-care is not going it alone and hearing your thoughts out loud.

Rachel Reisman, LICSW, is a member of the staff at the Irish International Immigrant Center. [rreisman@iiicenter.org](mailto:rreisman@iiicenter.org)

PS: See our Wellness FB page and watch our video about Wellness Services at the IIIC!



**Tuesday, June 4th**  
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm  
Old State House  
206 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
RSVP: [Francesca.Paranzino@iiicenter.org](mailto:Francesca.Paranzino@iiicenter.org)

## CITIZENS EMPOWERED

A community dialogue on active citizenship

We will share stories of immigration and what it means to be an engaged citizen, hearing from newcomers, longtime citizens and native Bostonians. We invite you to add your voice to the conversation.

Food and refreshments will be provided



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The Irish International Immigrant Center’s immigration attorneys and social workers are available for all immigrants during this time of uncertainty and concern in our community. We are closely following the changes in immigration policies, and are available for confidential, legal consultations, and case representation. At weekly legal clinics, you can receive a free and confidential consultation with staff and volunteer attorneys. For information, or if you or anyone you know would like to speak to an immigration attorney, please call us at (617) 542-7654.

Upcoming Clinic Schedule

Clinics are in the evening – please do not arrive more than 30 minutes before the clinic begins for registration.

Downtown Boston

IIIC, One State Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston MA 02109  
Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00pm  
Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

South Boston

South Boston Labouré Center 275 West Broadway South Boston, 02127  
Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

Citizenship Clinics

IIIC, One State Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston MA 02109  
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# IRISH FOR PRIDE



Saturday, June 8 | 12pm  
Check in at Copley Square

We encourage and invite all to join us as we march under one banner with fellow Irish organizations and friends. For more information contact [Fparanzino@iiicenter.org](mailto:Fparanzino@iiicenter.org)

Free spaces can be reserved at our “Irish for Pride” Eventbrite page.





# HAPPENINGS

## JUNE 2019

**Sat., June 1** – The Irish Music Club, 410 Quincy Ave., Braintree will conduct its monthly dance. Music by the Andy Healy band from 7-11 pm. Complimentary coffee, tea, and pastries. Admission is \$10. For additional information call Anna at 617-696-6007.

**Sun., June 2** – The Irish Social club in West Roxbury features “Erin’s Melody” for its dance. 7-10 p.m.

**Fri., June 7** – The SMA - African Mission

Fathers - will hold their annual benefit dance at the Irish Social club in West Roxbury. Dancing from 7-11 p.m. to the music of “Erin’s Melody”. Great raffle prizes. The Kenyan Choir and the Harney Academy of Dancers will entertain. For additional information, contact Fr. Brendan Darcy at 781-326-3288.

**Sat., June 8** – The Knights and Ladies of St. Finbarr-Cork club will hold their monthly dance at the Knights of Co-

lumbus hall, 15 Winslow Street in Arlington. Denis Curtin’s band will provide the music for dancing. As always, complimentary coffee, tea, and delicious home baked Irish bread and pastries. Proceeds donated to the Irish Pastoral Centre. For additional information, contact President Mary Tannian at 978-664-4652.

**Sun., June 9** – The Irish Social club in West Roxbury will have the “Silver Spears” playing for its dance night. 7-10 p.m.

**Sat., June 15** – The Norwood club will not have a dance this month.

**Sun., June 16** – The Irish Social club will feature John Connors and the

Irish Express playing at its dance night. 7-10 p.m.

**Sun., June 23** – The Irish Social club will host “Erin’s Melody” in playing for its evening dance. 7-10 p.m.

**Sun., June 23** – The “Mighty Quinn” fund raiser is at Florian Hall from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Tues., June 25** – The Irish Pastoral Centre will have its annual BBQ at noon. For information, call 617-265-5300.

**Sun., June 30** – The Irish Social club will feature Mossie Coughlin playing for its evening dance. 7-10 p.m.

*Listings provided to BIR, courtesy Richard Archer.*

**TIME TO TEE IT UP**  
**The Irish Pastoral Centre’s Annual Golf Tournament** is set for Mon., June 10, at the George Wright Golf Course in Hyde Park. Registration at 7:30 a.m., tee off at 8. Dinner to follow at the clubhouse in Hyde Park. There will be awards for closest to the pin and longest drive for men and women, and a raffle for valuable prizes. Cost, which includes golf, cart, green fees, awards and dinner is \$150 per golfer; dinner without golf \$35. Hole sponsorships available at \$100, and donations appreciated. Send checks payable to the Irish Pastoral Centre, 15 Rita Road, Dorchester Ma 02124. For more information, call 617-265-5300, or go online to ipcboston.org. The Sligo Association of

Boston (SAofB) will host its 13th Annual Golf Tournament on Fri., June 7, at the Brookmeadow Country Club in Canton. Registration is at 1 p.m., then a shotgun start at 2:30. Dinner and awards after golf at the club. Cost of the golf tournament and dinner is \$125. Dinner only, \$25. The cost to sponsor a hole is \$100. To play or make your own foursome, send check payable to the Sligo Association of Boston, and mail to Will Colleary, 5 Anchorage Drive, Wareham 02571. More information, Ray McVeigh at 617-293-4069 or Kevin Johnston, president, at 617-908-2050, or kevin-johnston176@yahoo.com. Proceeds will be used to finance three \$1,000 scholarships for children or grandchildren of SAofB members.

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