

# SEPTEMBER SOUNDS: THE CONCERT SCENE



Gaelic Storm performs at Boston's Wilbur Theater on September 12.

## Heatons, McEvoy, Gaelic Storm top lineup

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Performances by Boston/New England acts Matt and Shannon Heaton, Lissa Schneckenburger and Annalivia, the return of popular Celtic rockers Gaelic Storm, and rare appearances by Connie Dover, Eleanor McEvoy, and The Waterboys highlight Irish/Celtic concerts in the Boston area this month.

The Heatons' "Back to School" concert on Sept. 17 in Harvard Square's Club Passim combines, in typical fashion, traditional songs with whimsy. The husband-and-wife duo will perform selections from their still-in-information CD project, "Tell You in Earnest," which Shannon describes as "all-dialogue ballads – narratives and stories that are each like a two-person play." Playing on the beginning-of-school-year theme, the Heatons will add a pedagogical dimension to the proceedings.

"We'll set it up like a classroom, with a school bell, school supplies and a whiteboard," explains Shannon. "And each song will be used for a different subject, from math to English to driver's ed, and we'll figure out what we've all learned together."

There's a more meaningful aspect to the show, though, she adds. "The folk tradition is so much bigger, so much older than us, and yet it remains relevant. We're focusing on the notion that ballads can teach us some universal, enduring lessons, and we in turn can teach other in this community. A song like 'The Cruel Salt Sea,' for example, is basically a lesson in self-defense for women.

"So in some ways the show will be a bit tongue-in-cheek, but in a mindful, (Continued on page 15)



Matt and Shannon Heaton will hold their own version of "Back to School Night" at Club Passim on September 17.



Singer-songwriter Eleanor McEvoy, who recently released her 10th album, plays at The Burren on September 15.

## Looking at the All-Ireland Fleadh in a new light

By SUSAN GEDUTIS LINDSAY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

While her Irish music colleagues were still coming down from the high of the Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann in Derry this August, the author and occasional BIR contributor Susan Gedutis Lindsay was drawing her own conclusions about traditional music and innovation over a newspaper and coffee in a Kuala Lumpur hotel.

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, and HONG KONG – In August, the Malaysian Ministry of Education announced its Education Blueprint (2013-2025), a plan built upon six attributes, one of which is national identity. Earlier in the week, while in Malaysia on an educational/business visit with the Berklee College of Music, I sat beside Tuan Haji Zainudin

Abas, Malaysia's Director of the Department of Curriculum and Arts, at a press conference luncheon at the International College of Music. In informal conversation, he pondered one of his charges under this new plan. He wondered aloud, "How can Malaysia establish formal performance and learning benchmarks

(Continued on page 13)



Jane Richard is dancing again See Page 7

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# Irish sessions

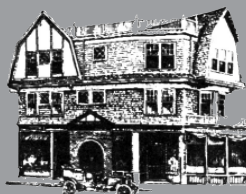
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## Commentary

# Immigrants and citizenship: History gives us the real story

By REV. JOHN MCCARTHY  
AND SEAN JOSEPH CONROY

IRISH PASTORAL CENTRE OF BOSTON

Hardships of the immigration system burden far too many in our community and undocumented immigrants are especially affected. Optimists by nature, hard-working in deed, and almost always supportive of those in need, most immigrants reflect American ideals to a tee. Those who are undocumented are no different in their contribution to our country.

Though they are a complement to our native workforce, Congressional inaction has meant that these immigrant families will continue to work and live in legal limbo. It's time to relate the positive intentions of immigrants long dead to the ones that are today forced to live in the shadows.

The high profile examples of successful immigrants are countless, as are the number of jobs created by their innovative thinking. Immigrants started 25 percent of the highest-growing companies between 1990 and 2005. All immigrants, like their native counterparts, also go on to pay taxes, win military honors, and further culture – helping to invest in our country's vibrancy.

If your ancestors had come to America and faced current immigration law, they would have been rendered undocumented and ripe for exploitation, and the subsequent loss of their work ethic, valuable ideas, and future

generations would have made contemporary American life unimaginable. The pain inflicted by Congressional lethargy on families and businesses affects all of us, now and will continue to do so in the future.

As we return (hopefully) refreshed from summer and Congress (with any luck) decides to end its yearlong recess, let the reality of the current situation become apparent. It's time for the House of Representatives to take meaningful steps toward recognizing immigrant populations as a vital part of our economy, shared history, and long-term success. To continue to ignore this section of society and deny them equal footing under the law will be a categorical mistake. Immigrants who pay fees, taxes owed, and a fine, while meeting certain conditions – like a clean legal record, for one – should be allowed a path to citizenship.

Industries that rely on seasonal and high-tech workers alike have joined in the chorus calling for reform. Getting America back to business has made unlikely partnerships between tech frontiersmen and Catholic bishops across the country. It's clear that foreign ideas and individuals, when given the opportunity to be cultivated in the United States, can lead to the advancement of all within our borders. Never before have we so strongly neglected our immigrant past; we must face this rejection as a great challenge to our societal and economic fabric: troublesome, but able to be overcome.



Rev John McCarthy speaking on July 10 at a sparsely attended information session at St. Brendan's Hall that was sponsored by the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform.

While the Massachusetts delegation in Congress generally supports the efforts to improve our immigration system, they could be more vocal and collaborative with GOP colleagues. Call their offices today and insist that they get back to work as bi-partisan legislators, helping to create a bridge for the undocumented – today's image of the American-immigrant story.

## UMass Boston to honor Brett with dedicated chair; disability efforts cited

UMass Boston has announced the creation of a chair in Disability and Workforce Development that will be named in honor of Jim Brett, President and CEO of the New England Council and a former member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, from Dorchester.

A longtime civic leader, and an advocate for people with intellectual disabilities, his board service includes the chairmanship of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities and the Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Intellectual Disabilities. Brett was also recently appointed president of the board of directors for the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health. His humanitarian work has been recognized by a number of organizations.

On Mon., Sept. 16, the university will host a gala to help endow the James T. Brett Chair in Disability and Workforce Development, the nation's only such-endowed chair, which will provide leadership for research, training, and technical assistance to enhance workforce participation and social inclusion for people with disabilities.

Fifteen percent of the world's population, and one in five Americans, are people with disabilities. With the help

of effective job matching and other resources, many – if not most – persons with disabilities are able to enter and remain in the workforce. For these people, employment provides a path out of poverty, and more importantly, a way to develop self-worth, gain respect in the community, and contribute to the economy.

The Brett Chair will expand Massachusetts's commitment to inclusion. It will take advantage of the state's unique connections between industries, such as health care and technology, to facilitate new collaborations developed by UMass Boston's inclusion-related research.

The Gala is being co-hosted by Jack Connors of Hill Holliday, Patricia Jacobs of AT&T-New England, and Joseph Nolan of NSTAR.

"Jim Brett's life of service has been world-class," Connors said. "The Brett Chair will be a fitting reflection of Jim's tireless work to create economic opportunity and a more equitable society for people with disabilities."

To learn more about the Brett announcement, contact UMass Boston Vice Chancellor Gina Cappello at 617-287-5335.



## 'Boston Irish Honors' for: Senate President Murray, Mulligan family, and the late Atty. John P. Driscoll

The Boston Irish Reporter, the region's leading chronicler of all things Irish-American, will host "Boston Irish Honors 2013," its fourth annual celebratory luncheon on Fri., Oct. 25, at 11:45 a.m. in the main ballroom of Boston's Seaport Hotel.

BIR publisher Ed Forry has announced the 2013 honorees are: Senate President Therese Murray, Robert A. Mulligan, Gerald T. Mulligan & family; and John P. Driscoll, Jr. (posthumously.)

"The Boston Irish Reporter is one of the region's few remaining family-owned and-operated publications," Forry said. "The luncheon is an annual anniversary event in support of the Irish Reporter. In celebration of our own cultural heritage, the newspaper will make presentations to exemplary Boston Irish individuals and families who share our common roots in Boston and Ireland, to honor their special achievements in business and public service."

An event committee now in formation will be chaired by Edmund Murphy, vice president, Putnam Investments. Committee Members include: Breandán O Caollaí, Consul General of Ireland; Robert E. Sheridan, Founding Event Chair; James T Brett, William M. Bulger, James Carmody, John T. Carroll Della O'Flaherty Costello, Steve Costello. Jay Curley, Brendan Feeney, Dick Flavin, John Philip Foley, Maureen Forry Sorrell, Sen. Linda Dorcea Forry, William Forry, Anne Geraghty, Dave Greaney, Edris Kelley, William F. Kennedy, Rev. Thomas B. Kennedy, Paul LaCamera, Mimi LaCamera, Barbara M. Langis, Rep. Mike Moran, Jim O'Brien, Matthew Power, Gil Sullivan, Robert White, and W. Paul White,

More information on sponsorship and ticket sales is available at [bostonirish.com](http://bostonirish.com), email [honors@bostonirish.com](mailto:honors@bostonirish.com), or call 6167-436-1222.

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# Presenting ‘just the place to spend the night’

By JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

What’s a holiday in Ireland without splurging now and again? Isn’t that how some of your best memories are made? If you seek comfort, elegance, world-class service and hospitality, beautiful surroundings, and delicious meals, you simply can not do better than to check in at the four-star Gregan’s Castle Hotel, Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare, in the heart of the magnificent Burren.

Occasionally, a traveler will say accommodation is not all that important. “It’s just a place to spend the night,” they say. Well, that’s true enough for many places.

But Gregan’s is hardly “just a place to spend the night!” It’s a place to relax, savor every elegant touch, enjoy a drink or superb lunch in the comfortable Corkscrew Bar, make a reservation for afternoon tea (daily from 2:30 to 4:30), enjoy a sumptuous dinner in a dining room with floor-to-ceiling windows that frame views of beautifully-maintained gardens, two resident donkeys, and the rocky reaches of the Burren.

This is unparalleled graciousness and luxury but without the slightest trace of the pompous attitudes too often prevalent in some other high-end establishments. Owners Simon Haden and his wife, Frederieke McMurray (a Connemara lass), couldn’t be more welcoming or more gracious in making visitors feel at home. The older and younger Haden couples – Simon’s parents previously operated Gregan’s – have clearly worked very hard to create a glorious country house hotel and they have won many prestigious awards for their efforts.

The colors, fabrics, fascinating art and artifacts that grace the halls and rooms are thanks to the talented Frederieke who, according to Simon, has completely updated interiors since they took over the hotel from his parents 11 years ago. Each of the 21 bedrooms and suites has been individually decorated with extraordinary attention to detail. A few of those special rooms even open onto their own private gardens.

LUNCH

We stopped by Gregan’s this spring, enjoyed Chef David Hurley’s excellent fresh seafood luncheon entree (delicious and



Beautifully-maintained gardens around Gregan’s Hotel in the Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare, invite guests to stroll the grounds and admire plantings and the Burren backdrop. Below, left: A four-poster canopied bed and a door to an outside, private garden are highlights of this room at Gregan’s Castle in Co. Clare, at the foot of Corkscrew Hill in the Burren. Below, right: A comfortable, large sitting room at Gregan’s Castle Hotel in Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare.

Judy Enright photos



perfectly prepared) and toured the hotel with Simon, who pointed out its numerous attributes, including one we especially loved – the lack of television sets! A single one sat at the bottom of the West Wing stairs in an out-of-the-way alcove – no doubt for those suffering from withdrawal. There are no TVs in the bedrooms or elsewhere to ruin the ambience. Residents mingle, chat, walk the grounds, relish the peace and quiet, and appreciate their lovely surroundings – as they should.

Gregan’s is not a “castle” in the Ashford or Dromoland sense of the word, but more of a manor house. Simon explained that there really is a “Gregan’s Castle,” a 1500s tower house across the road that is only open to visitors in May and June.

There is much history associated with Gregan’s,

which was built at the base of Corkscrew Hill in the 1750s as a country home by the O’Loughlins, who were known as “Princes of the Burren.” O’Loughlins married Martyns of Galway and the last family member, Frank Martyn, lived at Gregan’s until his death in 1957. He was a Justice of the Peace and also ran a large farm and orchard, growing enough apples to send to Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, for pressing into cider. (The popular Irish cider, Bulmer’s, is still made near Clonmel today.)

Frank also welcomed occasional visitors into his six or seven guest rooms. Over the years, according to Simon, Gregan’s guests included C.S. Lewis, and J.R.R. Tolkien, who reportedly was inspired by the rocky Burren when writing “The Lord of the Rings.”

While we don’t totally



believe every TripAdvisor posting on the internet, it is often interesting to read reviews of places to see how visitors, especially Americans, react to Irish experiences.

One visitor this past summer – from Vermont – wrote: “When I was at Gregan’s, the gardens were gorgeous and the view down to Galway Bay took my breath away. I love that they are environmentally conscious and that the food is mostly local and often organic. But best of all is what the chef does with that food. The only thing better than its exquisite presentation was the taste. Fabulous! The staff was extremely gracious and accommodating. I loved every minute.”

That review is really pretty typical of what reviewers say on TripAdvisor about Gregan’s and speaks well for the accomplishments of the Haden family and their staff. If you plan to visit Clare, do visit [gregans.ie](http://gregans.ie) and learn more about this outstanding hotel. Non-residents are welcome for meals but be sure to call ahead for reservations.

ACTIVITIES

There is much to do in Co. Clare. Aillwee Cave is nearby and it’s a fun day out to visit the cave, birds of prey center, shows, and a gift shop that features its own cheeses. Also nearby are the Cliffs of Moher, the Burren Centre in Kilfenora, and the Burren Perfumery near Carran (sometimes spelled Car-

ron.)

There is lots of good food around the area, too. We enjoyed lunch at Cassidy’s Pub ([cassidyspub.com](http://cassidyspub.com)) in Carran as well as dinners in Doolin (Roadford House, McDermott’s Pub, O’Connors Pub, and Cullinan’s). L’Arco Italian Restaurant in Ballyvaughan is reputed to be excellent (we haven’t been yet) but we’ve enjoyed very good crepes there at the Soda Parlour and lunches at The Tea Junction and Monks Pub.

Every Sunday from May to October, there’s a fun Burren Crafts fair in the village hall from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free and the hall is filled with local, handmade products. Be sure to look for Janis James’s Celtic Caprine Creation’s goat milk soap. It’s a great gift to take home and small enough to fit into your suitcase.

There are many locations around the Burren where you can sign up for guided walking/information tours or catch a ferry to the Aran Islands from Doolin, the seaside town noted for its traditional Irish music.

Head south and you can take a 20-minute ferry ride from Killimer across the Shannon River to Tarbert, Co. Kerry (see [shannonferries.com](http://shannonferries.com) for more and get a 10 percent discount for buying tickets online), or take a two-hour boat ride from Carrigaholt (Loop Head Peninsula) with eco-certified tour operators to learn about the 160 Bottle-nose Dolphins that live in

the Shannon Estuary, a European Union “Special Area of Conservation” (see [dolphinwatch.ie](http://dolphinwatch.ie) for more). Be sure to check with Dolphinwatch (call 065-905-8156) before you go as times change according to sea conditions.

Dolphin watching is also available from Kilrush Creek Marina aboard the MV Dolphin Discovery or visit Scattery Island and its round tower, ruins, and a lighthouse and gun battery dating from the Napoleonic era (discover-dolphins.ie).

These are just a few opportunities available to visitors and there are so, so many more. Be sure to check the Bord Failte (Tourism Ireland) office in the area to find out what’s going on during your trip or visit [discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com) online. Another great website for activities is [culturefox.ie](http://culturefox.ie)

Co. Clare is close to Shannon Airport, so it’s especially handy for those who are arriving or about to leave.

HAPPENINGS

From Aug. 30-Sept. 1, Electric Picnic will celebrate its 10th year at Stradbally, Co. Laois, with performers such as Sensational Space Shifters, Ellie Goulding, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, Little Green Cars, Miles Kane, and many more. See [electricpicnic.ie](http://electricpicnic.ie) for information.

Many events are held during the year at the Glasnevin Museum in the Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin. Until Sept. 15, the Glasnevin Trust will have a series of re-enactments and orations of famous Irish patriots. There are also tours, a museum store, café, genealogical research options, and more. Check out [glasnevincemetery.ie](http://glasnevincemetery.ie) for information.


Guided Heritage Cycling Tours run from Lismore to Kilkenny. More information from cyclingholidays.ie. The next Three-Coast Bicycle Tour is scheduled for Sept. 15. Visit the website for information. Day tours around the country are available from Paddywagon Tours, Lower Gardiner St., Dublin ([paddywagontours.com](http://paddywagontours.com)).

Cruises from Lough Gill, Co. Sligo, on the Rose of Innisfree boat run through October. Food and beverages are available and the boat is wheelchair accessible. See [roseofinnisfree.com](http://roseofinnisfree.com) for more. The company also offers bus tours of Yeats Country.

KIDS

For kids, there are lots of fun things to do all over Ireland. How about a day at the Moher Hill Open Farm and Leisure Park in Liscannor, Co. Clare ([moherfarm.com](http://moherfarm.com)) or at Rathbeggan Lakes Heritage and Adventure Park ([rathbegganlakes.com](http://rathbegganlakes.com)), Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath. The Tayto Park ([taytopark.ie](http://taytopark.ie)), in Kilbrew, Ashbourne, Co. Meath, sounds like fun, too.

Enjoy Ireland and all the activities there wherever and whenever you choose to visit.



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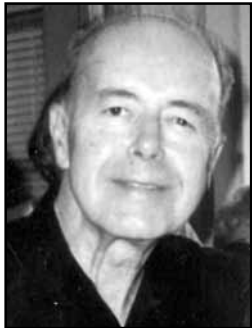
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# Boston Irish Reporter’s Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

**Irish Deaths Abroad Will Be Recognized** – How hard is it to get a death certificate when an Irish citizen dies in Ireland? The quick answer is that it is easy: a doctor, and a coroner in some instances, signs off and a proof of death is formally issued. However, if you are an Irish citizen who dies abroad, say in the US, historically there has been no legally mandated process to recognize and register the death of Irish citizens abroad. That lack of process will soon be a relic of the past when the



Bill O'Donnell

Irish parliament, Dail Eireann, completes passage of legislation this year that will remedy this long-standing omission. The making of this new law is the result of the efforts of a Galway couple, **Liam and Yvonne O'Reilly**, whose son **Keith** died tragically in Chicago four years ago. The couple were shocked when they were unable to register Keith's death in Ireland, so they decided to do something about it.

Spurred by the efforts of the Galway legislative contingent and by Galway Mayor **Padraig Conneely** working with the Irish Minister of Social Protection, a proposal was drafted that has the necessary Dail votes to become law before the end of the year. Soon the death of any Irish person who dies while abroad will be registered in Ireland and a death certificate will be produced.

**Kerry Goes Upscale With Vogue Fashion Spread** –If you bring together world famous photographer **Annie Leibovitz**, the glorious Kerry countryside, and an array of beautiful models and handsome Hollywood actors, you're sure to have a winner. And the September issue of *Vogue* magazine is for certain a winner. Leibovitz, celebrated for her photos in *Rolling Stone*, *Vanity Fair*, and, since 1983, in *Vogue* is arguably the best-known living photographer. The Irish fashion "shoot" features the Polish-born international model **Daria Werbowy**, who lives part of the year in West Cork.

Much of the scenic background framing the beautiful people in stunning clothes was shot in and around the Killarney Lakes region. **Alison Metcalfe**, Ireland's North America chief for Tourism Ireland, was reportedly awed by the Irish landscape, saying, "Publicity is a very powerful tool in marketing the island of Ireland and with American *Vogue* having more than 11 million readers, this type of positive exposure is invaluable." Hey, we've known that for years.

**McConville Family Looks To A Civil Suit** –Discouraged by the failure of officials after 40 years to expose and try her killers, the family of the murdered Belfast mother of 10, **Jean McConville**, reportedly is seriously considering mounting a civil legal action. There are reports, too, of a secret benefactor offering to underwrite a civil court action. The identity of the benefactor is unknown and many surmise that the funding may originate with anti-Republican elements, likely British, who would very much like to see Sinn Fein leader **Gerry Adams** as the target of such a lawsuit. Adams has consistently denied any involvement in the McConville killing, and further denies that he was a member of the IRA at any time.

A successful civil action targeting Adams and other former IRA operatives would have no criminal finding; a civil action relies on less stringent evidence rules, using grounds of "probability" rather than the "beyond a reasonable doubt" threshold in criminal cases.

If a civil lawsuit is brought against Adams or others it is likely that the tapes of the Boston College Project, especially those of **Delours Price** and **Brendan Hughes**, could become part of the civil action. It's a messy situation and a long way from being over for the McConville family, Gerry Adams, and the Republican movement.

**Foreign Affairs' Sean Donlon in Summer School History Lesson** – A former Irish Ambassador to the United States and chief officer of Ireland's Foreign Affairs Department, **Sean Donlon** was one of the "best and brightest" in that department. He was a point man in many of the decisions in the 1980s and 1990s leading up to the Good Friday Agreement.

Donlon, speaking recently at the Parnell Summer School in Wicklow, confirmed what had been widely rumored around the time the US State Department issued a visa to Gerry Adams in 1994 – that there was broad disagreement on issuing the visa that included an adamant British Prime Minister **John Major**, who never forgave President **Bill Clinton** for pulling rank on State and agreeing to the Adams visa. As a matter of fact, Major and the British were described as "incandescent with rage," with the prime minister, Donlon says, refusing to take phone calls from President Clinton for weeks.

Donlon also revealed that **Ted Kennedy** was initially opposed to the Adams visa because he had lost two brothers to violence. **John Hume**, relates Donlon, convinced Ambassador **Jean Kennedy Smith** that the visa was crucial, and she advocated for it when speaking to her brother. The Irish diplomats who supported issuing the visa, knowing the State Department would side with the British, then intensified lobbying in Washington and Ted Kennedy, the National Security Agency, and the Clinton White House came together and a pathway to peace opened up.

**Derry Celebration Attracts Over 400,000** – Four times the number of residents who live in Derry came to the historic walled city for the national Fleadh, or fesh, and gave themselves and the hundreds of thousands who participated a cultural shot in the arm. Derry, the European

City of Culture for 2013, has had a spectacular summer, and morale in the "town we knew so well" is sky high.

Throughout the street violence and protests that overwhelmed much of Belfast for weeks, Derry was quiet and civil, aware that the recent Apprentice Boys of Derry march and the city's festivities had effectively joined the varying communities in a meaningful cultural embrace from the Bog Side to the Waterside. Loyalist flute bands, the Police Service Pipe Band, a "Riverside" troupe, etc. played in venues heedless of sectarian boundaries while some 20,000 musicians turned the city into a music-filled wonderland.

Relevant or not, it should be noted that Derry has an 80-20 Catholic majority while factious Belfast, with its "peace walls" and interface pressure points, is a city where zero-sum rival end games are the order of the day. But Derry, for the moment and this unforgettable summer, is something to behold, and if I may be forgiven saying so, a city to be emulated.

Ireland can do with more of that.

**Providence Bishop Admits He's a Republican** – One of the biggest fakes among northeast Catholic clergy is undoubtedly Bishop **Thomas Tobin** of Providence, RI, who, while whacking gays and same-sex marriage with vitriol to spare for years now, can tell a group of young Republicans that "the Catholic Church has respect, love, and pastoral concerns for our brothers and sisters who have same-sex attraction. I sincerely pray for God's blessings upon them, that they will enjoy much health, happiness and peace." Whowee squared!!

Aside from the vicious anti-gay campaign he has led, we finally have some idea that this ambitious "beam-me-up bishop" is dysfunctional and confused because he is one of New England's vanishing tribe, a Republican out of the closet. Tobin has not simply castigated gays he has also added (in a Christian way, of course) a warning to Catholics not to attend same- sex marriages ceremonies. This is the same bushwah that canon-challenged clerics used to frighten naive youngsters and others about attending non-Catholic church services. BTW, how is that ancient dictum doing these days?

The Catholic Church has been in the bag to the Republican Party since at least **George W. Bush** (yes, the same guy who took us into a needless, evil war) virtually forced his way into see a sickly **John Paul II** at the Vatican in search of an enhanced Catholic vote. Which, sadly, he got.

**Mary Robinson in a Reflective Mood** – The former Irish President and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and, earlier, a member of the Irish Senate and a internationally known lawyer and legal scholar, spoke candidly in a rare interview on BBC Radio about her presidency, her doubts about taking that job, her tiffs with Irish Prime Minister **Charles Haughey**, and about her shyness and the solitude she faced at points in her career.

Mrs. Robinson initially shied away from running for president, believing it to be largely a ceremonial post. But after looking closely at the Irish Constitution she realized a president could do much more. She spoke about the opposition she encountered as the first female president of Ireland, some from Haughey, who she claimed tried to rein her in. In her first meeting as president with Haughey he had copies of legal opinions in hand and argued that she was doing more than the Constitution called for. Soon Haughey realized he was being undone and threw the legal papers on the floor, saying "Ah, that's lawyers – you get what you pay for." "After that, Robinson said, I didn't have a problem."

On the European Union, Robinson says "I think Ireland [being in the EU] has gained a great deal.

Asked to select some musical CDs that she might take to a desert island, Robinson's final choice was a popular favorite, "The Parting Glass" by **Tommie Makem and Liam Clancy**, to which she added the expression "Bas in Eireann," suggesting a wish to die in Ireland.

Robinson, who published her memoirs this year – "Everybody Matters: My Life Giving Voice" – still has issues with her Catholic Church. "I had been thinking for a long time about the paternalistic and authoritarian natures of the way the church operated, particularly in Ireland at the time. All of that I was questioning."

**Your Final Departure, Streamed and Online** – It is hardly a groundswell at this point, but there is an incipient practice in Ireland by some funeral homes to provide condensed funerals online or streaming, especially for emigrants who live a continent away but would, through the wonders of technology, want to participate. Cork funeral director **John Keohane** says some funeral parlors are increasingly hiring video producers to record funerals and make them available, live or on tape ,to loved ones thousands of miles away.

Keohane says it makes sense. "In light of emigration and the growth in technology, Skyping and the like, it seems a way to go." The recording of funerals, notes the *Irish Examiner*, presages other changes. Rather than the Rosary, a wake and a three-day service, there is a slow shift to quicker, condensed services and a return to personal eulogies that have often been criticized by some clergy.

We may be entering an era of TV services that allow

people to "attend" funerals from the comfort of their smart phone or laptop. That has also been reported happening, even in YouTube modes, in some Dublin parishes and a Cork city parish. Is this one answer to cluster parishes?

**Sean Hannity Could Be a Media Casualty** –According to Media Matters, the liberal scold that regularly monitors Fox News and many of the right-wing radio lie factories, the fact-challenged Hannity career might be in jeopardy if Cumulus Media (which also carries **Rush Limbaugh** with Hannity on radio) decides to jettison smarmy Sean.

On television, there are rampant rumors that not only is Seanie's radio career in trouble but also that Fox News could just be lifting him from his 9 p.m. weekday TV slot in favor of **Megyn Kelly**. And why not? She has better pins than Sean. But the real problem is that we older folks, alas, are deserting Hannity in large numbers and Megyn is the cavalry to the rescue. We'll see what **Roger Ailes's** Spin Central churns out.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

The pols wouldn't honor Knock Airport founder **Mon-signor James Horan** by naming the airport after him two years ago, so the airport in May erected a memorial sculpture to this great man. ... **Gerry Adams**, the Louth TD, has complained to the Dail Chairman that deputies were in the members' bar between votes, citing "declining standards of behavior of Ireland's elected

Representatives." ... Finally, after several years of **Sean Fitzpatrick** soaking up the friendly sun in Spain, the former chairman of the AI Bank will stand trial for secretly borrowing (and not repaying) \$180 million. ... Another incompetent, David Drumm, the frmer CEO of Anglo Irish Bank, had been in Boston running a business until recently when the Bay State closed his Delta Corporate Finance for failure to file. ... A few years ago, South Africa's **Nelson Mandela** admitted to a room full of Irish heavies that, unlike the IRA, he would not have handed over weapons for decommissioning. ... BC grads do well away from the classroom. **Matt Ryan**, Atlanta Falcon quarterback, just signed a contract extension worth \$103 million. ... Former US senator and peace-maker **George Mitchell** turned 80 last month; may his years and tribe increase. ... **Scott Brown** was supposed to bring his message to Iowa. He forgot his message but told the traveling media anyway he would not be running for governor of Massachusetts next year. ... Some of the Kennedy haters have been taking pot shots at **Caroline Kennedy's** upcoming appointment to be US ambassador to Japan. An aging **Mike Mansfield** (retired US Senate majority leader) took the Tokyo post in the 1960s and was the most popular envoy there in decades. ... In case you missed it, the newest Rose of Tralee is Texas Rose **Haley O'Sullivan**, the first US winner in six years.

## RANDOM CLIPPINGS

The chairman of the Northern Ireland Police Federation, **Terry Spence**, says that the violence in the North today is at the same level they had back in the 1990s. ... Boston mayoral candidate **Marty Walsh** found a Spanish interpreter in Boston. Not unusual but he is from RosMuc in Connemara and a UMass grad who is fluent in Spanish ... The Cong, Co. Mayo, "Quiet Man" festival (Oct. 4-6) is seeking a lookalike for **Barry Fitzgerald**, who was the matchmaker in the **O'Hara-Wayne** movie ... **Van Morrison**, 68, a Belfast native, will receive the Freedom of Belfast to be awarded early in 2014 ... Fox Entertainment has pulled out of participation in a projected mini-series on **Hillary Clinton** that NBC plans to broadcast. The Republicans are screaming, and if I were Hillary, I would threaten to sue over the production. Anyone who has seen some of the turgid, fact-dysfunctional TV mini-series on public figures like the Kennedys, et al, knows they are vapid, mindless, and over-burdened with fake and bad made-up dialogue ... Before the RUC-PSNI reorganizaiton, there were 12,500 police, now there is barely 7,000. Maybe the North should look southward as thousands line up to join the Garda in the Republic

Ryanair's announced policy goal is to keep raising its fees for un-checked luggage until flyers stop bringing it aboard ... Ireland has just announced that it has secured full market access to China for its salmon exports after four years of negotiations ... Killarney

Mayor **Paddy Courtney** is urging young drivers to "adopt" a pensioner in isolated areas to help them get to the pubs, bingo, and so forth. A good idea to help overcome the solitude of rural seniors and cut

back on driving under. Good Man Paddy ... The Irish are being warned to look out for scam artists who are preying on emigrants headed to Australia and other places. *Do not* pay money for jobs or housing

until you know it's a legitimate government agency. Fake websites are also exploiting potential travelers ... If you haven't noticed, Europe's worst recession since the 1970s is over, say the experts ... Political situations can change in a day but **Peter Robinson**, the North's first Minister is in a grim log roll with his party, the DUP, over his reversal on the Maze Museum issue. The former DUP leader is on some shaky ground and could be in deep survival trouble. A weak bench may yet save him.

WHERE IN THE WORLD CAN YOU FIND NEWS  
ABOUT OURSELVES & OUR TOWN  
[WWW.BOSTONIRISH.COM](http://WWW.BOSTONIRISH.COM)





# Nothing is free – not even the news

By Ed Forry

The news last month that the principal owner of Boston's major league baseball team (the one and only) has agreed to a deal to become the principal owner of Boston's largest (and best) daily newspaper was met with only mild surprise among the populace.

The sale of the *Boston Globe* to Red Sox owner John Henry by the *New York Times* came at a hugely reduced price – The Globe last was sold in 1993 for \$1.1 billion; the selling price in 2013 has been put in the \$70 million range, and that includes all the newspaper's Morrissey Boulevard real estate, its websites, and the Worcester Telegram as well. A Bonwit Teller legacy property is sold at Filene's Basement prices!

These clearly are not booming times for print journalism. Last year, *Boston Herald* owner Pat Purcell decamped from his Harrison Avenue campus for rented space off D Street in South Boston, and a developer is now tearing down the Herald's old printing plant to make room for a huge new housing and retail development. All across the country, daily city newspapers have been downsizing, cutting back on reporters and photographers, some even eschewing daily journalism for a schedule than can be described as "every so often."

According to Northeastern University journalism professor Dan Kennedy, the Boston dailies' paid circulation figures for print editions in March 2013 showed the weekday *Globe* at 172,048, and Sundays at 343,194. Weekdays, the Herald circulation is at 95,929 and on Sundays the paper sells 73,043 copies. Kennedy added that the *Globe* has had some success in selling digital subscriptions, resulting in its online subscriptions helping to stabilize its circulation.

In Ireland, where countrywide newspapers have competed successfully for many years, the changes are dramatic. An online news source, Greenslade Blog, paints a grim picture of the press scene across the island: In the first six months of this year, *The Irish Times* lost 9 percent of its circulation, with an average daily sale down to 84,201 copies; its main competitor, the *Irish Independent*, fared a little better, falling 3.9 percent in the first half of 2013, with an average daily sale of 121,120 – but 15,000 of those copies are bulk sales, sold to hotels and airlines at drastically lower prices. The third-place Irish national daily title, the Cork-based *Examiner*, lost a further 5.8 percent of its sale year-on-year, with a six-month average sale of 37,897; in Northern Ireland, circulation of the *Belfast Telegraph* was down 8.6 percent from last year, and now sells fewer than 40,000 daily, while giving away 8,500 copies. Sales of the *Irish News* dropped just 3 percent, and now claims to be the North's largest paid circulation at 40,842.

To the average news consumer, the change in fortune for the newspapers might seem insignificant, since the growth of the internet has created a boom in the creation of new sources of information. The so-called blogosphere is busting with all sorts of commentators and "breaking news" sites, and almost everyone with an e-mail address is bombarded with a daily array of news and opinion that for the most part is un-sourced, and often unwanted. The real problem is that when people use the new social media to pass along alleged news items, the question remains: Who or what is the real source of the information, and what hidden agenda is in play? The diminution of what has been known as the mainstream media has created a dangerous slope, as more and more people rely on free news sites. But in the news business, as in life, nothing comes free, without a price. Caveat emptor – buyer beware – is the old phrase. You get what you pay for.



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# Self-destruction reigns in Belfast; government can't control mayhem

By Joe Leary

SPECIAL TO THE BIR

On Friday night, Aug. 9, more than 1,000 rioting Unionist/Loyalist supporters attacked Belfast police while protesting a Sinn Fein parade memorializing the martial law internment of 342 Catholic Nationalists and Republicans by British soldiers 42 years ago to the day. The Sinn Fein parade was rerouted to avoid direct trouble between the two sides.

Several cars were set on fire, storefronts were destroyed, and 56 policemen were injured. All this in the center of the city showing a world audience once again that Belfast is still a very troubled area, and in the process discouraging tourists and businessmen from coming to the city.



Joe Leary

The police were shocked at the intensity of the violence and the number of their injured. The next day, an emotionally angry Police Chief of Northern Ireland, Matt Baggott, called it "mindless anarchy" and promised that many would be sent to jail.

A few days earlier, the newly installed Sinn Fein mayor of Belfast, Mairtin O'Muilleoir, was attacked and jostled by many of the same radicals for having the effrontery to attend an opening of a park in the

mostly Protestant Unionist Woodvale section of Belfast. The mayor's Sinn Fein membership was unacceptable to the attackers. O'Muilleoir, trying to be of service, was reaching out to the entire community, surely a worthy ecumenical exercise.

Both incidents were sad reminders that Unionist Protestants, led by thugs who are known locally known as "Head Bangers," feel they can use unlawful violence to protest any threat they see to their fading supremacy.

Former Bostonian Frank Costello, who has been living in Belfast for many years now and is considered an expert on Northern Ireland's difficulties, had this to say: "When the mayor as first citizen of any city trying to present itself to the wider world as first class and a destination for tourism and as a sound place for investment is attacked by a mob in the course of doing civic duty at a public park that in itself is appalling. For it to happen in Belfast at a time when healing, not more division and violence, are needed is especially unhelpful."

Costello went on to say, "The attack on over 50 officers giving their best efforts to keep the peace deserves more than condemnation from elected officials but also a serious response that sends a message to the mobs behind these attacks that they will receive serious penalties for their behavior, which, again, creates an image of lawlessness that is anything but helpful to any community trying to build hope and opportunity."

According to the Irish Voice newspaper in New York,

## Off the Bench

# RIP Democracy; it worked, for a while

By James W. Dolan

SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Democracy has failed. Despite all the promise it demonstrated early on, like all other forms of governance it ultimately relies on flawed human beings to set aside self interest and act for the common good.



James W. Dolan

It seemed to work for a while, but lately the glue that held the process together has hardened into cement. Money, greed, power, and political survival at all costs are toxic lubricants in a system that depends for success on good will, understanding, compromise, wisdom, and, occasionally, self sacrifice.

Unfortunately, as has happened so often in history, these qualities have been unable to withstand the corrupting forces that undermine a balance that rests on a fulcrum of trust, respect, and general welfare.

The "darker angels of our being" appear in control of the apparatus of government. They seem intent upon using any tactic, no matter how destructive, to achieve their goals. Burning the village to save it seems acceptable.

The Founding Fathers were sensitive to human failings and sought to counter such impulses with a system of checks and balances. This assumed there would be enough virtuous members to counteract the inevitable weaknesses of those less gifted. It worked for a time until self interest, greed, and narcissism undermined the system.

Checks and balances have today been replaced with hit and run, slash and burn, suspicion and animosity, and my way or the highway, all of which flourish in

there are 2,300 Unionist-Loyalist marches across Northern Ireland each year, most of them celebrating a Protestant victory of some sort over the Catholics hundreds of years ago. The Nationalist-Republican community hold 70 marches in the same period, most of them in remembrance of their struggles over the last 60 years. In addition to the vast differences in numbers of marches, another main difference is that while the Nationalist-Republican parades are contained within their own communities, an increasing number of Unionist-Loyalist marches are parading into Catholic areas led by loud Lambeg drums with derogatory signs and anti-Catholic chanting.

A backdrop to all of this is that the Protestant community is desperately trying to push back reality in the face of a surging Catholic population. The fact that the Catholics will soon be in the majority and controlling local governments is very hard for the Protestants to accept. And that is certainly understandable after being in charge for nearly 100 years. No one recognizes this more than current Catholic leaders.

Northern Ireland Catholic-Nationalist political leaders frequently advise Irish Americans to reach out to the Protestant community in the North by funding Protestant schools and organizations.

Unfortunately, radical elements within the Unionist-Loyalists like the Orange Order and certain paramilitary groups absolutely refuse any accommodation and continue to riot whenever there is an opportunity.

Business, educational, and political leaders in both London and Northern Ireland seem powerless to prevent or even reduce the unlawful rioting, attacks on police, and destruction of property. Perhaps the greatest damage is being done to Northern Ireland's reputation as a place to visit or do business. Untold moneys have been spent to make Belfast a beautiful and attractive destination for visitors and industries alike. Which it is. But it is the rioting and constant disorder that the world remembers.

The Internments of August 1971

After a summer of violence in 1971, Northern Ireland Prime Minister Brian Faulkner, in consultation with British Prime Minister Edward Heath, authorized internment, i.e., prison without trial, which began on the night of August 9.

The British army arrested 342 Catholics and no Protestants over the next two days. Due to imperfect Army intelligence, many innocent people who had nothing to do with the violence were arrested while most of the protest leaders were able to escape. Over the next two days, 25 people died as many houses were burned and Belfast exploded in fury.

Along with "Bloody Sunday" in Derry, which happened early he next year, the internment policy resulted in thousands of men and women joining the provisional IRA.

Over the next four years 1,981 people were arrested, 1,874 of them Catholics before internment ended in 1975. It did nothing to quell the violence.

the absence of good will. In this atmosphere, checks become gridlock and balance a trampoline.

In theory, competing interests are supposed to come together in a spirit of compromise in which each side understands, even acknowledges, the merits of opposing views. Out of this process, aptly compared to a sausage factory, there was to emerge a product that was edible and nutritious. Not to everybody's liking, but something that would sustain the general welfare.

Does the system have the capacity to self correct? With all its imperfections, can checks and balances ultimately overcome the divisiveness that now makes divided government unworkable?

In my lifetime, I have been disappointed by the two institutions I most respected in my youth. The Catholic Church and the government of the United States were beacons of hope in an often turbulent world.

The degree to which original sin (human weakness) affected the church was a shock. Less so, was its manifestation in government. If the church could not better withstand these corrupting influences, how could we expect government to do so?

A self-indulgent culture makes it increasingly difficult to promote virtues of self-sacrifice, discipline, tolerance, and generosity. Good, well intentioned, God-fearing people fail to see that hostility toward the poor, immigrants or gays, and the promotion of unregulated gun ownership is uncharitable – a rejection of love – the most important virtue and the one from which all others flow.

I only hope it will not take some terrible tragedy to bring us back to a greater realization of our obligations as human beings to one another. Pope Francis is addressing these concerns as is President Obama. The great paradox is that the Republican Party, which tends to see itself as the party of true believers, seems unable to make the connection between spiritual values and public policy.

Love thy neighbor ends at the house next door.



# Post-Whitey: A lingering cacophony of media myth, frenzy, fact, and fiction

By PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

It's "ovah." Or is it? James "Whitey" Bulger finally stood trial and received a long-belated, long-deserved verdict. One can only hope that his victims' families received at least some scant measure of solace, courtesy of a jury that had to endure not only graphic, horrific testimony and grisly crime-scene photos, but also a sorry cast of prosecution witnesses as vile as the gangster on trial.

Sorry, in another way, were members of the print, broadcast, and online media who breathlessly and embarrassingly strained to turn Whitey's trial into a "real-life" version of "The Departed," "The Sopranos," and "Boardwalk Empire" combined.

Was it only my mind and ears that were filled somewhere between bemusement and amusement as local reporters and columnists went Hollywood with the "Towniest" of Townie accents for a national audience eager for some real-life version of the aforementioned "The Departed?" I don't believe I'm alone in still wondering how several well-known *Boston Globe* and *Boston Herald* reporters and columnists were ostensibly providing "objective" live coverage of the trial while hawking their Whitey-and-his-minions "nonfiction" books in front of every camera they could find – and they found plenty. When, too, did objective reportage blend with daily, impossible-to-miss "Whitey-book" ads in writers' own newspapers?

From inside the proceedings at the Moakley Courthouse – admittedly a fitting location – the very turf that Whitey and his gang that could shoot all too straight once ruled – some reporters' and commentators' desire for the "Towniest-of-Townies" title percolated and boiled over daily in blogs that read

like bad crime-noir.

If one needs additional proof of how hard local and national media strained to turn Whitey's trial into a made-for-Hollywood drama, one need look no farther than the Robert Duvall sightings in and around the courtroom scene. Reporters giddily speculated on which of the myriad Whitey scripts in the cinematic pipeline Duvall might be involved in. After all, gushed one star-struck local television reporter, Duvall even looks like Whitey today. I'm sure the actor would be thrilled with *that* nugget.

Thankfully, some of what was actually unfolding in the courtroom served to expose just how absurd so much of the coverage was. If anyone still held to the myth that Whitey Bulger was some sort of Robin Hood figure who admittedly made a lucrative living in organized crime, but kept the streets of Southie safe from drugs and "outsiders" and killed or shook down only those in the same business as he was, the trial testimony eviscerated that myth. Of course, it is still a safe bet that when the Whitey biopics hit the market, the lead character will be a tough and ruthless hood with some semblance of a conscience and a heart and a huge dose of cinematic charisma, even an antihero of sorts. It won't matter to screenwriters, directors, and producers that the just-convicted Bulger represents something far less complex.

Then there's the matter of William Bulger and his treatment by the media. Over the years, rumors, innuendo, and street talk from so-called insiders from the media and both sides of the law have swirled around the brothers' relationship. From intellectually lazy incarnations of Cain and Abel by writers to the legions of politicians and reporters who butted heads with the

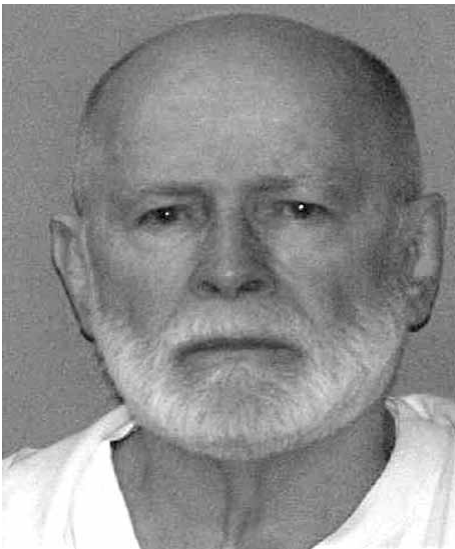
ex-Senate president and generally came up short, the bromide that Bill Bulger's power resided in the dark presence of his brother's threats and protection took hold for many locals. It didn't, and it doesn't seem to register with haters of all things Bulger that despite the relentless efforts of Bill Bulger's many foes, no one has ever shown, let alone proven, that they were anything except brothers.

Unless I've missed something, Bill Bulger was in no way associated with his brother's crimes. Of course, to listen to some in the media, innuendo means more than fact.

Opined one of those high on the list of those who swallow whole Howie Carr's Brothers Bulger "thesis/shtick," MSNBC's and Dorchester's Lawrence O'Donnell: "And so the story of the Bulger brothers ends with Billy and Whitey together again with nothing left to lose because Whitey, the cowardly punk with a gun, the murderer, the rat, lost it all for himself and his little brother Billy. And they should always be remembered in Southie and everywhere else as the losers that they are."

O'Donnell based those words on the fact that at a Congressional hearing in the years after Whitey fled Boston, Bill Bulger took the Fifth when questioned about knowledge of his brother's whereabouts. Like it or not, Bill Bulger was within his rights when he said before the House Committee on Government Reform in 2002, "One of the Fifth Amendment's basic functions is to protect innocent men who might be ensnared by ambiguous circumstances. I find myself in one of those circumstances."

What O'Donnell and others conveniently overlooked is that they expected Bulger to do the FBI's job and that members of that self-same FBI were as crooked and corrupt as James Whitey



James "Whitey" Bulger

Bulger.

In the closing days of the trial, Whitey refused to testify and dishonestly – big surprise there – labeled the proceedings a "sham" because he was barred by US District Court Judge Denise J. Casper from introducing a reputed immunity deal he had allegedly struck with the late former US Attorney Jeremiah O'Sullivan in exchange for "protecting" Sullivan from "the Mafia."

Patricia Donahue, widowed by Bulger and his gang, yelled, "You're a coward!" Unlike O'Donnell, Carr, and others, however, she explained her outburst by expressing her anger that Whitey would not reveal more about the FBI's complicity in his crimes. She personally and viscerally understood what was missing in large part from the proceedings: "I wanted to hear about all the government corruption. I'm very disappointed in this trial."

I'm just wondering one more thing: What happens now to Howie Carr's all-Bulgers-all-the-time career path? Guess he can again summon the Kennedys from the bullpen.

## The Richard family: Back home, and healing together

*The Richard family released a statement last month on the four-month anniversary of the Patriot's Day bombing at the Boston Marathon. The family also released an image of seven-year-old Jane Richard, who is now using a prosthetic limb. The statement follows in its entirety:*

"Today marks four months since our family, and indeed our community were savagely and cowardly attacked for reasons we remain at a loss to understand. While we have made progress with our physical injuries, the emotional pain seems every bit as new as it was four months ago.

"An hour doesn't go by that we don't feel the agony of Martin's death and the senseless way it came about. The pain is constant and even the sweetest moments can become heartbreaking when we are struck by the realization that "Martin would have loved this..."

"But it is not all heartbreak for our family, as we are making progress on this long, difficult and painful road forward. After three months in hospitals and hundreds of hours of physical therapy and other work at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Jane was discharged a

few weeks ago. That night was the first time any of us slept at home in our own beds since before the bombings. We left home together on April 15th, and we were determined that none of us would sleep at home until all of us could do so. As so many things have been, returning home without Martin certainly made that important milestone bittersweet, but we know he was with us, as he is every moment of every day.

"Jane continues to be an incredible source of inspiration - and exhaustion. The loss of her leg has not slowed her one bit, or deterred her in any way. As we knew she would, when we finally returned home, Jane walked into the house with the aid of her crutches, but under her own power. She has since received her prosthetic leg. And while she is getting more comfortable with it, she is also limited with how much she can wear it at any one time. When she is able to have it on, she struts around on it with great pride and a total sense of accomplishment. Her strength, balance and comfort with the leg improve every day. Watching her dance with her new leg, which has her weight primarily on the other leg, is absolutely priceless.

"As for the rest of us, we are still dealing with our injuries and their impact on our lives. But we are also making progress, and just like Jane, we each endure the occasional setback here and there along the way.

"Henry has continued to be strong, attentive and protective of all of us. He has also managed to be busy this summer, having attended a few cool overnight camps and occasionally sneaking away to spend time with close friends.

"Henry and Jane both look forward to getting back to school in a few weeks. Bill and Denise look forward to their return to school as well. The change in schedule will permit us to both look back on the thousands of loving and generous gestures sent our way since this nightmare began, and also start to look forward. We hope to honor Martin's memory in a meaningful and impactful way, and this fall we intend to start exploring ways to do that.



The Richard family – whose eight-year-old son Martin was killed in the Patriot's Day bombing at the Boston Marathon – last month released this photo of seven-year-old Jane Richard, who is now using a prosthesis to replace part of her left leg, which she lost in the attack. Photo courtesy Richard family



Henry, Jane, Denise, Bill, and Martin Richard. Photo courtesy Martin Family

"Throughout all that has happened, we have worked hard to maintain our bond as a family. With the love and support of

family and friends, including those who were total strangers just four months ago, we feel like we are succeeding."



IMMIGRATION Q & A

# Marriage fraud: A big mistake

**Q.** *I have heard that some people who are undocumented receive legal permanent residence based on a marriage to a US citizen that isn't really genuine, and that there is a good chance that the US immigration authorities will not catch on. Is this true?*

**A.** Anyone considering a green card application based on a fraudulent marriage needs to think again. This is a serious federal offense, and it is vigorously prosecuted by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the US Department of Justice.

ICE regularly announces, as part of its enforcement efforts such as "Operation Honeymoon's Over" and "Operation Knot So Fast," the arrest and federal prosecution of people for committing marriage fraud and related offenses. Generally this involves schemes whereby the conspirators collect substantial fees to arrange sham marriages between US citizens and undocumented immigrants and file fraudulent applications for legal permanent residence. But it also would cover a situation where a US citizen agrees to marry an undocumented person and file a fraudulent application, just as a "favor." These offenses carry stiff penalties: up to five years imprisonment for each charge, plus a fine of up to \$250,000. In addition, the undocumented immigrants involved face removal from the US and a bar on re-entry.

When an immigrant applies to adjust status to that of permanent resident based on marriage to a US citizen, the couple is interviewed by an experienced US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officer before a decision is made. These interviews focus on questions designed to elicit information about whether the marriage is genuine. The couple also must present extensive documentation of the marriage relationship – birth certificates of any children born to the marriage, joint financial information such as tax returns, leases, and bank accounts, photos, and the like. An applicant does not stand a good chance of surviving this level of scrutiny if the marriage is a sham.

Applicants with a genuine marriage, on the other hand, have nothing to fear from USCIS in the interview, which will be quite brief and conducted in a respectful, professional manner. In fact, we at IIIC meet with couples prior to the interview to discuss the process and ensure that their documentation is adequate. They go to their interviews fully prepared and accompanied by a member of our legal staff.

For a free, confidential consultation about marriage-based adjustment of status or any other aspect of immigration law, visit one of our legal clinics advertised in the Boston Irish Reporter.

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

# IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

An agency accredited by US Department of Justice



100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110  
Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655  
Website: [iiicenter.org](http://iiicenter.org) Email: [immigration@iiicenter.org](mailto:immigration@iiicenter.org)



Wider Horizons and ESOL students show their enthusiasm.

**Take Action to Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform Today!** – The US Senate recently passed its version of a Bill for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. It is therefore now up to the House of Representatives to pass immigration reform. This is a critical time in US history for millions of immigrant families, and for the flow of future immigrants. We urge you to e-mail or call the Speaker of the House, Representative John Boehner, and Majority Leader, Representative Eric Cantor, to voice your support for comprehensive immigration reform. Contact information and additional details can be found on our website at [www.iiicenter.org](http://www.iiicenter.org). Follow the link on our home page at 'The Time Is Now: Please Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform Today!'.

**New Citizenship Application on the Way** – Earlier this year, US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) proposed a new Application for Naturalization to replace the current N-400 form. The most striking change is the more than doubling of the number of pages of the form from ten to twenty-one pages. In addition to the added pages, the proposed application also asks many more specific questions including a few vague ones such as "Were you ever involved in any way with...badly hurting, or trying to hurt, a person on purpose." Unless the answer is an unqualified "no"

you are required to submit a written explanation, on an additional sheet, and provide evidence to support your answer.

USCIS has not yet announced when the final version of the form will become effective. But, if you are currently a Lawful Permanent Resident and eligible to file for US citizenship, it would be prudent to begin the process as soon as possible. Why put off until tomorrow what you can more easily accomplish today?

For information about getting started, call the Irish International Immigrant Center at 617-542-7654, Ext. 15.

## Irish Trainees share their stories with ESOL students

**By ANN-MARIE BYRNE**  
Last month, young adults from our Wider Horizons program, which brings young adults between the ages of 18 and 28 from Ireland to Boston and places them in six-week community service internships throughout the city, had the unique opportunity to take part in a conversation class with our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students here at the IIIC. The goal of this class is to bring together individuals who are hoping to practice their English language skills with native speakers together in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

The Wider Horizons participants, Stephen, Claire, Aine, and Ronan, volunteered for the evening and proved to be the

key to making the class a big success and demonstrated enthusiasm, patience and interest while sharing their stories with fellow newcomers to the United States. While the ESOL students loved having the chance to meet the Wider Horizons folks and hear about their experience of the United States, the Wider Horizons benefited from the stories that the students shared of their journey to the United States.

Both groups of people enjoyed the experience of sharing their individual stories and chatted about the excitement of life in Boston, coming to a new country, family, hobbies, customs, traditions, and even pets! Everyone left in high spirits and are looking forward to participating in the class again next week.

**Big thank you to the LEP summer volunteers** – The IIIC, which began 24 years ago as a group of volunteers, continues its work today in that same tradition and

this summer, the Learning Exchange Program team was lucky to be joined with two brilliant volunteers.

Chelsea Reilly traveled to Boston this summer from Galway to visit family and was introduced to the IIIC by her cousin, Darren Geraghty, who volunteered with us last summer. She helped out with the J-1 summer and Wider Horizons programs, sharing her unique perspective from home with staff and Irish visitors to the Center. "The atmosphere is very nice [at the IIIC]. It's so welcoming," she said. Chelsea returns to Ireland this week and hopes to start her studies at the University of Limerick in the fall.

Mairead Kiernan is a native of Massachusetts, who is studying economics and French at Tulane University in New Orleans. Mairead worked with our J-1 Irish Work and Travel participants on their job search and was a huge help to our department assisting these graduates. She will now travel abroad to spend her fall semester studying in Paris. "I really have enjoyed working here. A lot of people trust you to do contribute to the Center's work and it made me feel more confident in myself," Mairead said.

We really appreciate all of the hard work of these two young ladies. They have been such an asset to the LEP department and we wish them all the best in the future.

As our current volunteers finish their time with us, the IIIC will be looking to fill their shoes in order to support the work of the Center's staff. If you are interested in volunteering with the IIIC, please visit our website at [iiicenter.org/volunteer-intern](http://iiicenter.org/volunteer-intern).

# Matters Of Substance

## ‘Steps to a World Without Suicide’

**By DANIELLE OWEN  
IIIC STAFF**

During one of our QPR suicide prevention workshops, I'm often asked if I can imagine a world where suicide doesn't exist. Is it really possible?

When I think of how to approach this question, I tend to look at other leading public health concerns like smoking, TB, polio and the flu virus. The approach that health services and the government take with these issues is one of education and practical suggestions (based on medical research) to empower communities to protect themselves and their families.

These approaches have met with a significant amount of success. I feel that we, too can be part of a similar campaign, here in Massachusetts and Ireland, to reduce and eventually eliminate suicide in



our own community, one step at a time.

What does a world without suicide look like?

- It is a world where people who are suffering, who are in a great deal of emotional and psychological pain or struggle with addiction, know where to go to get help.
- Friends and family know the clues of this emotional pain (behavioral, verbal, situational) that can lead to suicide and have phone numbers and

(Continued next page)



IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER


*Together for Hope.*

**Walking to support Suicide Prevention.**

The IIIC's Wellness services has spent the last 9 years working to prevent suicide within our Greater Boston community. With this issue extremely close to our hearts, the IIIC is proud to invite you to join our team 'IIIC - Together for Hope' and walk with us to raise awareness of this worrying trend!


**Out of the DARKNESS**  
COMMUNITY WALKS  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2013 at 9:00AM  
ARTESANI PARK, BRIGHTON, MA

 The 3-5 mile walk is hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). All proceeds from the walk will go to AFSP.

To join the IIIC team, please visit [AFSP.org](http://AFSP.org) or call Ciara Lavery at 617.542.7654 ext. 32 for complete details.

The Green Briar Pub will be our gracious host for light food and refreshments for all our walkers and their families following the walk.



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The Irish International Immigrant Center provides free legal support and representation to the Irish immigrant community. Weekly legal clinics are held throughout the Greater Boston area, where you can receive a free and confidential consultation with our staff and volunteer pro bono attorneys.

For support or information, call us at (617) 542-7654.

**Upcoming Clinic Schedule**

**Tuesday, September 3rd**

IIIC, 100 Franklin St., Downtown Boston

**Monday, September 9th at 6:30pm**

The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton

**Tuesday, September 17th**

IIIC, 100 Franklin St., Downtown Boston

**Wednesday, September 25th at 6:30pm**

St. Mark's Parish, 1725 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester

Phone: 617.542.7654 | Fax: 617.542.7655 | [www.iiicenter.org](http://www.iiicenter.org)



OUT OF IRELAND



Ireland's Robert Heffernan after his win in the men's 50 kilometer race walk at the World Athletics Championships in the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow on Aug. 14.

AP photo

Gold for Corkman walker

Rob Heffernan, a native of Cork, won the gold medal in the men's 50K walk in Moscow's World Athletic Competition last month with a time of 3 hours, 37 minutes, and 56 seconds, a full minute

ahead of the second-place finisher.

The win makes up for Heffernan's disappointment in the 2012, London Olympics, where he finished in fourth place. He is only the third Irish

athlete to win a gold medal at a World Athletics championships, joining Sonia O'Sullivan and Eamonn Coughlin in collecting a first-place prize.

—ASSOCIATEDPRESS

If you enter the US, you've probably been 'inspected?'

**Q.** I was filling out an application form for US Citizenship and Immigration Services, and there was a question asking whether I had been "inspected" by an immigration officer when I last entered the US. Like every other time, I just got off the plane, stood in line, showed my passport and had it stamped, had my fingerprints taken, answered a few questions, and was on my way. Doesn't "inspection" mean something more elaborate than that?

**A.** You were in fact inspected by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The process you described is what some 98 percent of visitors to the US experience. It is officially known as "primary inspection" and is the routine treatment that visitors receive. The remaining

roughly 2 percent are subjected to what is known as "secondary inspection." This is what happens when the CBP officer at the primary inspection point thinks there may be a problem with the admissibility of the visitor, based on incomplete travel documents, a name match with a government law enforcement database, or the like. In addition, a small number of visitors are selected randomly for secondary inspection.

With secondary inspection, the visitor is taken to an area separate from the primary inspection area, sometimes a private room, and questioned and possibly searched. (This is probably what most people think of when they hear the word "inspection.") Usually the officers conducting the secondary inspections

are more experienced than those at the primary inspection desks. After the secondary inspection, some 90 percent of those involved are, in fact, admitted to the United States.

So remember: Any travelers coming through US ports of entry in the normal way, with no problems, have in fact been "inspected" by immigration authorities.

CBP has a fact sheet on the inspection process and the reasons for it. It points out that travelers who believe that they have been mistreated by CBP, or delayed or denied entry for an inappropriate reason, may file a report online at [dhs.gov/trip](http://dhs.gov/trip). We suggest that anyone contemplating filing such a report contact us first to determine whether doing so makes sense in a particular case.

More information on the inspection process and the functions of CBP can be found on its web site, [CBP.gov](http://CBP.gov).

For a free, confidential consultation about this or any other aspect of immigration law, visit one of our legal clinics advertised each month in the *Boston Irish Reporter*.

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

'Steps to a World Without Suicide'

(Continued from page 8) websites to connect their loved one to help.

- We use terms and language about suicide and emotional pain that clearly send a message to loved ones that "we don't judge" and will gladly help if asked.

- Those who are considering suicide as a way to stop their pain don't fear being judged for having these thoughts and so reach out for the help that's all around them.

- A world without suicide is one that remembers those we have lost to suicide and takes steps to make sure that funds are available to provide

services that help ensure it doesn't happen again.

What steps can we take?

1: Put these numbers in your wallet, purse or smart phone! The Samaritans Helplines (24 hours) 617-247-0220/1-508-875-4500; The Irish Pastoral Centre (Fr. John McCarthy) 617-265-5300; IIIC's Danielle Owen (617-542-7654, Ext.14).

2: Attend one of our QPR Suicide Prevention Community Gatekeeper trainings, where you will learn the key signs that someone you care about may be considering suicide. We will talk about the practical skills that

help you to ask the (Q)uestion, (P)ersuade them to not harm themselves and how to (R)efer them to the help they need.

3. Register to walk or donate to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention "Out of the Darkness" Walk and/or attend our event following this walk at the Green Briar Pub in Brighton on Oct. 12. (All funds donated go to the work of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (Boston Chapter).

You can you help us take steps toward this world without suicide. Call Ciara at 617-542-7654, Ext. 32, for more information

about all our events leading up to the AFSP "Out of the Darkness" Walk on Oct. 12 or to register/ find out more about our upcoming QPR Suicide Prevention Workshops. Call Danielle at 617-542-7654, Ext.14, if you or someone you know may be considering suicide, for support and practical suggestions to get the help that's needed.

A world without suicide is possible, one step at a time. Let us help! IIIC – Together For Hope.

*Danielle Owen is the IIIC's Director of Wellness & Education Services.*

### It's a Dance Party!

Join us for an evening of music and dance to Kick off your weekend!



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Put on your dancing shoes and join us at the Malden Irish American Club with Rod Stewart impersonator Rick Larrimore for an evening of fun to benefit the work of the Irish International Immigrant Center!

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Jim Brett has devoted his life to this principle, recognizing that people with disabilities have important contributions to make to our communities and our economy.

The University of Massachusetts Boston shares Jim’s mission to ensure that all of us play a role. We are establishing the James T. Brett Chair in Disability and Workforce Development—the nation’s first endowed chair in the field—in our School for Global Inclusion and Social Development to help achieve this shared goal.

Join us as we honor Jim and celebrate this new initiative.



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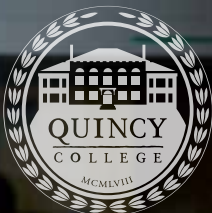
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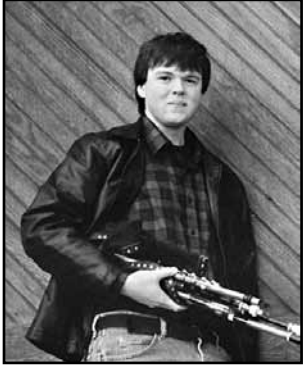


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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

**BOSTON IRISH ARTS,  
ENTERTAINMENT,  
TRAVEL & MORE**



**Uilleann piper Torrin Ryan, a winner in the recent All-Ireland Fleadh, is a regular performer and session player in Eastern Massachusetts.**

## All-Ireland first for Attleboro's Torrin Ryan

Attleboro native Torrin Ryan took first place in the over-18 uilleann pipes slow-air competition at the recent All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil held in Derry, Northern Ireland. Ryan also finished third in the uilleann pipes competition.

A former student of Patrick Hutchinson in Boston's Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Music School, Ryan performs regularly with the bands Core 4 and NÓIR and plays frequently at sessions in Eastern Massachusetts.

Ironically, Ryan had been more confident about his performance in the solo dance music competition than in the slow airs. "I felt as if I had done well. Nomishaps, and a difficult section of notes in the B part of 'The Scholar' had gone off without a hitch. But in the slow air competition, I actually felt as if there was no chance for me, as I had stopped mid-A part of 'The Bright Lady' and had to restart the air. I had begun to mistake it for a part of 'The Dark Slender Boy,' which I had just played.

"I didn't think I had a chance at placing, even though the rest of the airs went off well, just due to

(Continued on page 16)

## Masterly with the fiddle and violin, Sheila Falls 'never stops learning'

### Next stop in a busy life: Teaching at Boston College

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The way Sheila Falls sees it, playing Irish fiddle and classical violin doesn't have to be an either/or proposition.

For a goodly part of her life, Falls — a Rhode Island native now living in North Attleborough — has happily engaged in both pursuits, reaping considerable achievements and prestige in the process: winning an All-Ireland Fiddle Championship at age 15 (the first New Englander to do so, in fact) and three North American Fiddle Championships; attending the renowned Tanglewood Music Center on a fellowship; playing with such legendary Boston-area Irish musicians as Seamus Connolly, Larry Reynolds, Joe Derane, and Joe Joyce; and performing and touring extensively with the New World Symphony and conductor Michael Tilson Thomas.

"Irish music feeds my soul," says Falls, who also has regularly appeared in the Boston area as part of the folk fiddle ensemble Childsplay. "I can't tell you what happens when I walk into a place where people are playing jigs and reels and hornpipes, and I sit down and join them — and before I know it, hours have gone by. I've felt nourished by the music and the musicians.

"But there's something about classical music, like when you're being conducted by Leonard Bernstein at Tanglewood, or playing a Mahler symphony. Such a great sound, so magical — and there's a challenge to classical that is very satisfying.

"They are two different sides that can be tricky to balance, but I wouldn't

have it any other way."

This month sees a new chapter — or perhaps "movement" is a more appropriate term — in Falls's musical life, as she formally joins the Boston College faculty, teaching part-time in the Music Department and as part of the university's Center for Irish Programs. She'll continue her duties as an instructor of music in performance at Wheaton College, where she also directs the college's World Music Ensemble.

There's plenty of comforting familiarity with the newness. Falls taught at the local Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann School of Music (which she helped start) when it was hosted at BC. And more importantly, she will be reunited with her first fiddle teacher and mentor, Seamus Connolly, who is Sullivan Artist in Residence in Irish Music and director of Irish music programs at BC.

Connolly is more than a little happy about the prospect. "Sheila is not only a great player, she's a great teacher as well. That's very important to what we do here at Boston College, because we're dealing with students from literally all over the world, with varying degrees of experience in Irish music. Sheila is someone who can definitely help them along the path."

Falls's expertise in classical music will be another asset, Connolly adds: "Irish Programs and the Music Department have been working much closer these last few years, and Sheila — by being proficient in both Irish and classical music — will definitely encourage this trend. She will benefit



**Sheila Falls has joined the faculty at Boston College, where she will work with her mentor Seamus Connolly, who is director of BC's Irish music programs.**

both departments."

"It's really coming back full circle," says Falls, who began learning fiddle from Connolly when she was eight. "I'm looking forward to working with Seamus. That's a very valuable connection for me; I'm always thinking of those who taught and inspired me, and I'm glad to try and do the same for others."

Coming from a family with a strong legacy of Irish music, it was hardly surprising that Falls became involved herself. She started Irish dance as a five-year-old, and within a couple of years was picking out on fiddle the tunes she was hearing out on the floor ("I'd play something and ask, 'What's that one?' and my folks would say, 'It's the set dance you learned the other week.'").

But Falls's mother decided early on that her daughter would take clas-

sical violin, for which Falls is ever grateful. "She felt classical was a better way for me to get the basics, to give myself a foundation in music. I'm really thankful for that, because unless you're someone like a Seamus Connolly and teach yourself, it's rare to have the technique right there."

Even as she continued her classical lessons, though, Falls — who would end up attending the New England Conservatory of Music — was progressing rapidly with fiddle, and by age 10 was playing comfortably at the local Comhaltas gatherings. She would travel to Connolly's place in Wattertown and spend three to four hours not only playing but also listening — to the many recordings Connolly had in his possession, and to Connolly himself as he talked about the music and the people who played it.

"This wasn't just fiddle lessons, it was an education," she says. "Seamus taught me more than the tunes: He gave me the background, the whole picture. And that's how I teach now."

"I can still see Sheila as a young girl, sitting with headphones on while she listened to music and played along," recalls Connolly fondly. "She was one of those students who, after you showed her once, she had it after that — it got to the point where you say, 'What else can I teach you?' But she was very willing to listen to me talk about the older musicians, and interested to hear about what makes the music the music. That's very important, because you just can't truly appreciate Irish music without knowing how people lived it."

Listening to old recordings also helped shape Falls's views on teaching. (Continued on page 16)

## Communicating outside the circle in "Tribes"

BY R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Whether it's family or church or the clique we cluster with at the office, we all belong to one group or another that imposes its own rules and rituals upon us. That's the concept at the very heart of "Tribes," Nina Raine's acclaimed dark comedy that won the 2012 Drama Desk Award for Best New Play.

Having had its world premiere at London's Royal Court Theater in 2010, "Tribes" takes a look at Billy, a young deaf man from a Jewish family who's described as having been "raised inside the

unrepentantly politically incorrect cocoon of his parent's house. He has adapted brilliantly to his hearing family's unconventional ways, but they've never bothered to return the favor." When he begins a relationship with a hearing woman who was born to deaf parents and is now going deaf herself, he not only rocks the boat but he also sees just how silent his own annoyingly academic family has been to his needs.

SpeakEasy Stage Company is kicking off its fall season with "Tribes," as directed by M. Bevin O'Gara, who scored a major success last season



at SpeakEasy with "Clybourne Park." Tracing her own family's roots back to Cork and Sligo, Bevin is a Long Island transplant who earned her BFA in Theatre Studies at Boston University.

"Tribes" is "really about that 'insular-ness' that any group's people can create. Whether that's the deaf community or a family. This family has sort of put up these walls around each other. They're very insulated — not isolated; it's insulation — from anything that is other than them."

— BEVIN O'GARA

As a student, she interned at The Huntington Theatre, where she now serves as associate producer.

Among her many credits, she has directed productions at New Rep, Company One, Central

Square Theatre, Boston Playwrights' Theatre and the Williamstown Theatre Festival Workshop. We spoke recently prior to rehearsals. Here's an edited look at our conversation.

**BIR:** Boston is quite a diverse theater town, isn't it.

**BO:** I love this community. I love the people who are here. There's such a list of actors, of designers, of companies that I am really dying to work with. Each year that list seems to grow.

**BIR:** "Tribes" is about a deaf character, but this isn't the first time you've directed within so specific a topic.

**BO:** I did a play called "Love Person" a couple of years ago with Company One, which was performed in sign language, English, e-mail and Sanskrit — four different languages at (different) points in the play. It had one deaf actress, who had an interpreter. I became very friendly with my lighting designer, who is deaf and (I became) very involved within the deaf community.

**BIR:** So did Paul Digneault (Artistic Director at SpeakEasy) add "Tribes" to his season with you in mind?

**BIR:** I was actually very surprised when Paul of-

(Continued on page 15)



# Looking at the All-Ireland Fleadh in a new light, and asking where the innovators sit at the seisiún

(Continued from page 1) in the study of its native traditional music?"

May I humbly suggest: Look no further than Ireland, Minister. Therein may lie your answer.

Today in Malaysia, school music educators, depending on their location, may teach both traditional music and/or Western European music. Malaysia has a lively marching band scene and several universities at which students can study music, and traditional Malaysian music is also practiced actively throughout the nation. Still, as yet, there is no governing body to oversee standards within its traditional music.

Worldwide, there is a centuries-long example of the teaching and learning of Western music, not to mention conservatories on every continent whose curriculum is similar, by and large, regardless of country. Aspiring musicians study theory and harmony, musical analysis and music history, Bach and Beethoven, counterpoint and serialism. They master their instruments using methods tested and proven through centuries of study. Pianists have Hanon; violinists have Suzuki. What do traditional musicians have?

In Malaysia right now, nothing, it seems, at least not from the government. But it appears that the Ministry of Education is interested in establishing benchmarks in Malaysian traditional music similar to those used in the study of Western European music. This would help the national board measure the performance of both students and teachers of traditional Malaysian music, and it may also serve the greater nationalistic purpose of legitimizing traditional Malaysian music and culture as the country establishes its unique identity in the wake of several centuries of British rule.

How familiar this sounds, yes? Sixty years ago, policymakers in an Ireland only recently liberated from centuries of British rule faced a similar challenge. They had been stunted on the world stage by centuries of colonialism that had denied the country its ability to establish a national identity. Fully aware of the implications of culture on national identity and political strength at the dawn of its nationhood in the early 20th century, Ireland's first taoiseach, Éamon De Valera, set national identity on a pedestal beside politics as he crafted an independent government. De Valera saw religion and language as dual crucibles, but many in Ireland still looked to Europe and America for the coveted essence of modernity. As they did so, traditional music and arts began to wane and a small group of pipers in Mullingar began to wring their hands. By the late 1940s, it appeared that traditional music was in decline.

In 1951, these musi-

cians convened a summit of sorts, and together, they founded two efforts that today are the hallmarks of Irish traditional music: first, an organization that was to become Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and, second, the annual festival, the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, which literally translates to "Society of the Musicians of Ireland," was founded to promote Irish music and dance in all its forms worldwide, and to foster and promote the language. Over time, Comhaltas established the Scrúda Ceol Tire, a graded system of 12 progressive exams utilizing teachers certified in a national diploma course to teach Irish traditional music.

Every year, students gather for the Fleadh Cheoil to compete for the All-Ireland, a coveted title that rewards musicians who best represent the performance standards set by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. Sixty years later, branches of Comhaltas have been formed in every county in Ireland and in 15 countries and 4 continents. These branches host concerts, offer courses, and sponsor sessions in their local communities, ensuring that the Irish diaspora remains as connected to the traditional ethos and style as it is "back home."

The standards set by Comhaltas have played a pivotal role in the survival of Irish traditional music. Setting standards and awarding achievements for exemplary performance has helped to protect the purity of the central canon, the most traditional aspect of the music, from outside influences. It has also helped to elevate and legitimize the traditional style of teaching, which to some might appear old fashioned. In most cases, worldwide, traditional musics—often also referred to as "folk" musics—are taught and learned through the oral tradition, by ear, directly from teacher to student, with no notation to intervene. Like countless traditional music styles, native Irish music was most often taught in a close master/student "apprenticeship" in which the master is the arbiter who ensures strict adherence to the conventions of performance technique and repertoire. Though many continue to learn in the "old way," over time Comhaltas has established schools, courses, and books that suggest a central repertoire and approach.

If we allow a whiff of Western European musical colonialism to waft in, we may notice that once a music can be written down and learned according to notated, articulated performance standards, it advances its position on the world stage. Dress it up and you can take it anywhere. Do you question this? Well, take seven brilliant traditional musicians, add tuxedos, take them away from the hob, put them on a stage, and



Berklee faculty members sat down for dinner with faculty members from the International College of Music, Kuala Lumpur. The author is fourth from bottom at right, Prince Charles Alexander is far right.

voilà: a contract with National Public Radio and a CD/DVD that will be given away to wealthy arts patrons during the next fund drive. This is no longer your granny's kitchen, lads.

In Irish music this attempt at standardization and this glorification of "model" representation of the Comhaltas standard has led some Irish musicians to complain of conservatism and "Machiavellian" tactics in the Ivory Tower of Irish music. Many resent the control that Comhaltas exerts over Irish music as a whole, its perceived role in the dissolution of regional accents in music, and its apparent institutionalized denial of outside influences. Maybe. Maybe not.

But let us remember why Comhaltas was formed in the first place and celebrate its immense successes: It has managed to bring Irish traditional music from the hearth to the world stage and it has helped the music to survive intact, despite the relentless pounding of newer influences, particularly in popular music.

Still, we must leave room for innovation. Prince Charles Alexander, a Berklee professor, music producer/recording engineer, and two-time Grammy winner, was also in Malaysia on the Berklee trip this week. Prince Charles is a thought leader in the world of music innovation, and he came to Malaysia to speak with music educators and young music teachers about music production and innovation. Specifically, he wanted to encourage young Malaysian musicians to explore how they might fuse traditional musical sounds with modern innovations like hip-hop as a way to help bring the nation into the future. He suggests that within every tradition, we should create an "innova-

tion zone" where visionaries can create something that is informed but also innovative—evolutionary but also revolutionary—without fear of retribution from the guardians of the tradition.

Interesting. What would happen to the popularity of Irish traditional music worldwide if we decided we wanted our music to reach not just thousands but millions? What would happen if we sampled a fragment of a concertina riff and gave it a hip-hop beat? (Is there a doctor in the house! Bring your man Paddy here some smelling salts.) What if we allowed ourselves to act on this question, "What if?"

I hear you: The rhythm of traditional music is part of what defines it, not just the melodies. And nothing will ever replace the sound of a fiddle and a concertina together in a quiet room, jigs and reels wielded with the same skill Leonardo used when he painted the Sistine Chapel. If we remove that rhythm and that spirit, do we still have that music? If we only sample two bars out of a

tune's typical 16, do we still have the Irish thing? Or do we have something else? And if so, is that ok? Is there room for that? To be fair, some exceptionally talented musicians have attempted to explore that question in their music—Kíla, Damien Dempsey, and Michael McGoldrick's *Wired* project come to mind—but as yet, the attempts are limited and not genre changing. And perhaps that is as it should be. But it would also be a pity if the vast majority of young Irish people felt that the traditional music was not relevant to their experiences.

What, then, of this national identity? Comhaltas may yet have more to offer. Malaysia can look to Comhaltas as an example of a successful method to standardize, protect, and preserve its traditional music. But to help restore its national identity and to help it emerge on the world stage, it may need more than preservation. It may also need to leave the doors open to "non-members"... to fuse what

is most sacred and most essential to its tradition with outside influences. From here, a unique and modern national identity may emerge along the continuum of its own rich history.

If we wish to use music to nation build, we must think differently. If we forge radical, disruptive innovation, we are not selling out. We are buying in. We must celebrate all that Comhaltas has done and will continue to do, but also leave room at the table for the innovators. A culture that wishes to move forward cannot do so by looking back—but a thriving nation will never create a sustainable identity if it leaves the past entirely behind.

Susan Gedutis Lindsay is Associate Director for Instructional Design at Berklee College of Music in Boston and author of "See You at the Hall: Boston's Golden Era of Irish Music and Dance" (University Press of New England, 2004). She plays Irish traditional music on flute, whistle, and (gasp!) saxophone.



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CD Reviews

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Edel Fox & Neill Byrne, “The Sunny Banks”•

The 1978 Noel Hill and Tony Linnane album set a pretty high standard for post-folk revival concertina-fiddle duos in terms of virtuosity, material and sheer moxie, plus the fact that the two were so young at the time of its release. The question with “Sunny Banks” is



not so much whether it meets the Hill-Linnane standard as it is whether it sets one of its own, and there’s ample justification for the latter. Yeah, it’s that good.

If you were lucky enough to see Fox and Byrne during their swing last month through New England (including

at The Burren), then you can appreciate all the fuss being made about this pair. Thoroughly steeped in the tradition, Fox (from Miltown Malbay in Clare) and Byrne (Waterford City) have that ability found in world-class musicians to go beyond technique and mechanics – and they have quite a lot going for them there – and home in on the grace and beauty of the music they play.

The 16-track album clocks in at an hour – 60 minutes that seem to fly by, on wings of strings and free reeds. Fox and Byrne each take a solo track, and the remaining 14 feature the two playing in nearly seamless, sublime unison. There’s little in the way of arrangements: It’s all Fox and Byrne all the time, with the very able guitar and bouzouki accompaniment of Caoimhín Ó Fearghail (like Fox, a TG4 Young Musician of the Year – and he’s an uilleann piper and flute player to boot) and occasional appearances by Richie Lyons on bodhran. Fox, incidentally, plays a C#/G# concertina, which necessitates Byrne to tune up his fiddle by a half-step; it makes for a subtly but unmistakably brighter sound.

A few highlights: “Jocelyn’s Jig,” a composition by renowned former Boston fiddler Tommy Peoples, with characteristic steep climbs and descents, followed by a pair of delightful tunes associated with accordionist Finbarr Dwyer, “Ahern’s Egg” (which he composed) and the sweetly dexterous “Poirt Chúil Aodha”; also from the Peoples repertoire, the charming barn dance “Kitty O’Neill’s,” which seems to have both a slide and hornpipe living inside it and is chock full of mood-altering twists in the melody; a set of reels that kicks off with Leitrim fiddler Joe Liddy’s “The Humours of Nickey,” which has a nifty, circuitous A part to it (Ó Fearghail’s guitar contributes some lovely coloring here), and segues into Paddy O’Brien’s “The Penny Candle” before closing out with another Liddy tune, “Joey’s Delight”; a stirring, almost plaintive Scottish retreat march, “Lochanside,” written by John McLellan, who was honored for rallying the troops with his pipes during a battle in the Boer War; and another splendid

trio of jigs, whose titles alone are impressive (“The Hill of Bruff/The One That Was Lost/Australian Waters”), and are intelligently arrayed together.

By the way, Fox and Byrne, while a bit older than Hill and Linnane when they made that aforementioned recording, are quite youthful and will no doubt follow this album up with numerous others. They’ll have quite a standard to meet.

**The Paul McKenna Band, “Elements”**• It’s the third release for this Scottish band, which is built around the majestic vocals of lead singer/guitarist/songwriter McKenna, whose voice sounds unmistakably influenced by pop music but is perfectly well-suited to a contemporary and traditional folk repertoire that includes his own compositions and others by his band members. McKenna’s band lost dynamic fiddler Ruairidh Macmillan, but former Malinky member Mike Vass



is a more-than-adequate successor, working just fine with mainstays Sean Gray (flute, whistles), David McNee (bouzouki, tenor guitar) and Ewan Baird (bodhran, percussion).

What marks this album are some particularly shrewd, perhaps even bold, choices of material. Four of the songs have a pedigree that inevitably invite

comparisons to highly regarded past renditions, but McKenna and company don’t seem daunted at all, and invest each with their own personality. One is “Cold Missouri Waters,” James Keelaghan’s moving account of the 1949 Mann Gulch wildfire from the viewpoint of a haunted survivor (the song also was covered to great effect by the trio of Richard Shindell, Dar Williams and Lucy Kaplansky on their “Cry Cry Cry” album): Hearing McKenna sing it, soulfully and in his Scottish burr, illuminates the universality in the song, about the lingering impact of split-second choices made in life-or-death situations. The band also has a go at “Ruins By the Shore,” an original by legendary English folk singer Nic Jones; the backing vocals by McNee, Gray, and Baird on the chorus, besides being gorgeous, lend a touching solidarity to this meditation on the ephemerality and fragility of humankind.

Somewhat less successful is “Indiana,” the Andy Mitchell composition made famous by Patrick Street, and Andy Irvine in particular. McKenna captures the mix of regret and resolve in the song, which is (literally) a reverse on the conventional immigration theme, but their arrangement has a plodding, rockish-type beat to it that doesn’t really work. The 18th-century Irish political ballad “Michael Hayes,” on the other hand, is a rip-roaring success: Planxty (with that Andy Irvine fellow again) gave it a gradual unfolding, and thrilling, build-up in their version to match the thrill-of-the-chase narrative, but there’s an enthralling energy in the McKenna Band’s approach that suits the suspense very well.

Baird, it must be said, shows a considerable deftness in his accompaniment throughout, especially another traditional number, the rakish Irish-laborer-under-duress yarn “Mickey Dam” (which also showcases the agility of Gray and Vass). He seems to have a sense of where to locate the pulse in a song, or to help quicken it.

Besides an instrumental track of tunes penned by Gray and Vass, respectively, there are three band originals: McKenna’s “Mother Nature” and his co-written “Lonely Man,” and McNee’s “Take Your Time.” The pop influence runs strong among these, but that doesn’t detract from their compelling character and the concerns expressed in each: the taking of stock near life’s end in “Lonely Man,” the need for humanity to heed warning signs in the Karine Polwartesque “Mother Nature,” or the virtues of introspection versus impulse in “Take Your Time” (with electric guitar-like solos by Jarlath Henderson’s uilleann pipes).

This is one tight-playing unit, with plenty of traits to please traditional and contemporary tastes. And McKenna has a voice you just can’t ignore – that’s elementary.

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# SEPTEMBER SOUNDS: THE CONCERT SCENE

(Continued from page 1)

thoughtful, and conversational way. We want people to consider what's in these songs, and to be engaged in them, and to share what they hear and think."

In fact, the "Tell Me in Earnest" project has a story all its own. The Heaton's are set to launch a crowd-sourcing effort that will enable them to formally launch the CD next year in Thailand, with 10 percent of the funds going to support a music and dance program at Mercy Centre, a Bangkok-based foundation that helps orphans, street children, and other youngsters in need.

Thailand occupies a special place in Shannon's life and memory; she traces the beginnings of her musical career there, and it is the home of many of her key mentors and dear friends.

"My first year in college, I went on a scholarship and lived in Thailand, and I got in with the Thai trad music crowd. It was much like any trad music community: dedicated to learning something that's bigger and older than you are, and where people help each other to learn and grow. I saw the parallels with the Irish music community, and so I was inspired to seek out and be involved in that part of traditional music.

"So, going to Thailand will be a homecoming, in which Matt and I will give a concert to traditional musicians there. And it also will help support programs that give children access to programs in music and dance – things that transcend us all."

Also at Club Passim this month will be fiddler/vocalist Lissa Schneckenburger and Celtic-Americana band Annalivia, who will share a bill on Sept. 5 at 8 p.m. Schneckenburger has performed with Childsplay and fiddle trio Halali, and has been a mainstay on the New England contra dance circuit, but also is known for her singing of traditional and contemporary material. Annalivia – Liz Simmons (guitar, vocals), Flynn Cohen (guitar, mandolin, vocals) and Bronwyn Keith-Hynes (fiddle, vocals) – blends music from Irish, Scottish, English and American traditions with solid musicianship and an innovative approach.

And on Sept. 22, Club Passim will host former Scartaglen vocalist Connie Dover, acclaimed for her exploration of the interplay between Celtic and American musical styles, who will perform with cowboy singer/musician Skip Gorman.

[See [passim.org](http://passim.org) for information on these and other events.]

\* \* \*

Eleanor McEvoy, who plays at The Burren in Somerville's Davis Square on Sept. 15, is one of Ireland's leading singer-songwriters, with 10 albums to her credit (her latest, "If You Leave," was released this past spring) and several honors from *Irish Music Magazine* and *Hi-Fi+ Magazine*, among others. Her music also has been featured in TV and films, including "Some Mother's Son," HBO's "Six Feet Under" and ABC's "Clueless."

Perhaps her most celebrated and enduring creation, though, was something she never expected to become a hit. During 1992, while she was a member of Mary



**The Waterboys, led by singer-guitarist Mike Scott, will make their first Boston appearance in some years on September 19 at the Wilbur Theater.**

*Steve Gullick photo*

Black's touring band, she began working on a song in her little bedsit in Dublin – "I'd been feeling low for a while," she recalls, "and the song came out of that." The chorus of the song went:

"My heart is low, my heart is so low

As only a woman's heart can be

As only a woman's, as only a woman's

As only a woman's heart can know"

When Black heard her perform the song, she invited McEvoy to contribute it to an album of Irish female singers that Black was recording along with Dolores Keane, Sharon Shannon, Frances Black, and Maura O'Connell. "A Woman's Heart" not only wound up as the album's title, it was released as a single; the album went on to become the best-selling Irish record of all time.

As McEvoy sees it, the success of "A Woman's Heart" was the culmination of several factors, many of them well beyond the realm of music. "Ireland was a very different country 21 years ago," she explains. "When I went to college, contraception was illegal and divorce didn't exist. Within my lifetime – up until 1975 – a woman working for the civil service had to give up her job when she got married. Up until the mid-1970s women were not allowed to sit on juries.

"This was the law of the land. Women really weren't regarded as being equals. So I think this image of six fairly strong-minded women coming together made an impact on people; they hadn't really seen anything like this before. Add to this the quality of the songs, various musicians who played on the various tracks, the strong team around Dara Records at the time, and then the song itself, which seemed to capture people's hearts."

But McEvoy can't be defined by one album, let alone one song. Browse through YouTube, for instance, and you'll see clips of her playing a very dynamic violin with a rock band, or belting out a bluesy-sounding number with a guitar accompaniment to match, or singing in an arresting folk-rock-pop style that few can pull off with any conviction.

"I had an extraordinary amount of musical influences surrounding me as a child," she says. "I grew up on the north



**Connie Dover will perform with Skip Gorman on September 22 at Harvard Square's Club Passim.**

*Gehrig Fry photo*

side of Dublin in a household that was both profoundly religious and strangely bohemian. The house was full of musical instruments and religious iconography. My father would listen to Wagner and Mahler, my sister loved Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, and Leonard Cohen. My brother played electric guitar and listened to Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin and my mother listened to the national radio station.

"I think I learned early on that good music is good music regardless of the genre, so I never really had that musical snobbery that can be found in some niche artists."

At The Burren, McEvoy will present selections from "If You Leave..." which comprises eight originals and four covers, including "Lift the Wings" from "Riverdance" and "True Colors," popularized by Cyndie Lauper. The album's title, she says, offers a clue to the guiding vision behind it.

"Departure, in all its forms, was foremost in my mind as I went into the studio. I'm seeing people leave Ireland again in droves, so emigration was on my brain. I had also been listening to a lot of early Rolling Stones, Beatles and Beach Boys as I was writing the album. I'd read an article on Brian Jones that had an effect on me, this also fed into the theme of departure – both his departure from the Stones and his tragic death."

McEvoy, however, is upbeat about some new arrivals: the emerging generation of performers in Irish music, especially females – including Mary Black's daughter, Róisín O (who performed at The Burren this summer). To be sure, they face their share of issues – trying to make a living in the wake of the Great Recession, and in a rapidly evolving music industry – but also claim some advantages that McEvoy and her contemporaries didn't have when they were in a similar stage of their careers.

"It's fantastic to see the next generation coming through now. I guess for people like Róisín there's a wealth of knowledge about the business in their families. They don't have far to go for advice about the industry. That was probably the biggest hurdle for me, literally not knowing

where to go or how to start.

"The other big difference is that a lot of the new crew write their own material now. Back then, that wasn't the done thing. The amount of people who asked me who wrote 'A Woman's Heart' and literally wouldn't believe me when I said I'd written it myself was staggering. I used to get asked 'Who helps you write the songs?' Extraordinary."

[See [burren.com](http://burren.com) for details on the concert and other information.]

\* \* \*

Rollicking, often incorrigible Gaelic Storm plays at Boston's Wilbur Theater on Sept. 12, having released their 10th album – recorded over the course of a week in a Chesapeake Bay boathouse. The quintet has regularly placed at number one 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.

One week later at the Wilbur will see the first Boston performance in some years by The Waterboys, who will feature selections from their most recent album, "An Appointment with Mr. Yeats." Led by singer-guitarist Mike Scott, the band – first formed in 1983 – drew plaudits for its folk-rock sounds and the literary and spiritual dimensions in its songs, many of them written, co-written or adapted by Scott. After releasing six albums, including the highly acclaimed "Fisherman's Blues," the band went on hiatus for several years in the 1990s before being resurrected by Scott.

"An Appointment with Mr. Yeats," the band's 10th album, consists of 14 songs inspired by the poetry of William Butler Yeats. In a press release, Scott described his interest in Yeats and the great poet's legacy: "I love the way Yeats' poems lend themselves to music. But I also like Yeats as a guy – a dandified, opinionated, larger-than-life character. I feel a kinship to him. My purpose isn't to treat Yeats as a museum piece, but to connect with the soul of the poems – as they appear to me – then go wherever the music in my head suggests, and that means some surprising places."

The CD had its American release earlier this year, marked by a concert in New York City's Town Hall.

[Ticket information and other details are available at [thewilburtheater.com](http://thewilburtheater.com)]

Meanwhile, area Celtic Thunder fans can look forward to getting their October off to a fine start: The famed Irish vocal super-group, known for its specials on PBS, will come to Boston's Orpheum Theater on October 1. Their 10th album, "Mythology," was released earlier this year, in tandem with a DVD, with such songs as "Carrickfergus," "The Isle of Inisfree," "Scarlet Ribbons," "Katie," "Carolina Rua," "Now We Free," "The Boys are Back in Town," "The Star of the County Down" and "The Rocky Road to Dublin." [For more information, see [orpheum-theater.com/orpheum\\_theater\\_boston.php](http://orpheum-theater.com/orpheum_theater_boston.php).]

## Communicating outside the circle in "Tribes"



(Continued from page 12)

ferred it to me. I knew how much he loved the play and I thought he was really going to want to do it himself. But he knew that I had that background . . . and he asked me, based on that background, to be involved in the show . . . I saw the very, very first preview of the show in New York and just absolutely fell in love with it. I couldn't have been happier when he asked

me to do it.

**BIR:** "Tribes" shows, in a rather commanding way, how quarantined people can become.

**BO:** It's really about that "insular-ness" that any group's people can create. Whether that's the deaf community or a family. This family has sort of put up these walls around each other. They're very insulated – not isolated, it's insulation – from anything that is other than them.

**BIR:** And the family becomes seriously threatened when Billy finds a connection beyond their ranks.

**BO:** That's really where the title comes from – the idea of territoriality of people. When the deaf son starts a relationship outside of the family, the oldest brother becomes completely territorial

about his brother. Why does one person have to displace someone else from your life, and how that becomes ruinous to a clan or a group of people when someone on the outside infiltrates.

**BIR:** And Billy is not presented as a sweet cliché by the playwright.

**BO:** Exactly. That's one of the most beautifully crafted things about the play. That's how everyone sees him – he's the sweet one that the whole family loves. But ultimately, what you learn in the end of the play is that he's just as self-absorbed, or self motivated, as the rest of the family. And [that] deaf people can be anything – can be everything. That's one of the important things that the play is really saying.

**BIR:** As in the Broadway production, the actor

playing Billy at Speak-Easy is deaf himself.

**BO:** James Caverly – he just graduated from Gallaudet University, which is the big university for the deaf community. So he's fluent in sign. And then [Erica Spyres] the young girl who's playing opposite him as the woman going deaf is actually learning sign this summer . . . She also has to learn piano for this part. So she's busy [laughs].

**BIR:** I understand you spent quite a bit of time at the Gaiety Theatre of Dublin when you were in college.

**BO:** Yes. They do this really incredible summer program where college kids from America come over for two months. Basically it's scene study. You're spending most of your mornings either in scene study class or in

an Irish literature class . . . reading plays, learning about all the Irish playwrights, and then you spend the afternoon doing cultural visits . . . then in the evenings go see a show . . . it was really intensive.

**BIR:** Was there time to do a little independent exploring?

**BO:** I chose to stay there for about a week and a half after, and my father came over and we did a whole tour. We did the ring of Kerry and went down to Cork and then back up to Dublin. I took a trip myself up to Belfast just to see as much as I could while I was over there. I see a lot of theater, but I've never seen quite as much theater as I did in (my) time there.

**BIR:** After "Tribes," you're next assignment is directing Melinda Lo-

pez's new play, "Becoming Cuba," at the Huntington.

**BO:** One of my first big, professional breaks was her production of "Gary" at Boston Playwrights Theatre . . . ["Becoming Cuba"] is such a beautiful play and a really interesting story. It's the right time to be telling it and the right time for me, I guess . . . I've got a good year.

*R. J. Donovan is Editor and Publisher of [onstageboston.com](http://onstageboston.com).*

\*\*\*

"Tribes," from Speak-Easy Stage Company, Sept. 13-Oct. 12 at the Calderwood Pavilion, 539 Tremont Street in Boston. (ASL-interpreted performances on Oct. 6 & 11.) Info: 617-933-8600 or [speakeasystage.com](http://speakeasystage.com).





Sheila Falls: “Irish music feeds my soul. I can’t tell you what happens when I walk into a place where people are playing jigs and reels and hornpipes, and I sit down and join them – and before I know it, hours have gone by. I’ve felt nourished by the music and the musicians.”

# Masterly with the fiddle and violin, Sheila Falls ‘never stops learning’

(Continued from page 12) and learning, music. “When you listen to those musicians, they’ve got the rhythm, and that’s the key. Rhythm is inside us: When we walk or talk, we have rhythm. How do you sing ‘Happy Birthday’ or recite your ABCs? It’s rhythm – it helps us memorize. That’s what you have to get in touch with.”

As a young adult, Falls cultivated an active musical schedule, in both the classical and Irish domains. “My job at one point was to play every feis between here and New York, and beyond,” she quips. “But I would have classical gigs, too. I’d try to space things out a little, but occasionally there’d be an overlap, where I would maybe play classical one night and Irish the next morning. That could get difficult – I’d find myself fighting with my muscle memory.”

As she settled into marriage and family life, Falls found it necessary, and desirable, to

bring some stability to her life: Teaching — at the Comhaltas Music School, Wheaton and, eventually, at home — was a natural solution, sometimes bringing about other kinds of musical opportunities in the process.

In one of her Comhaltas classes, “I must’ve said something about looking for a new fiddle,” recalls Falls. Then she discovered one of her students was Cambridge violinmaker Bob Childs, and the two struck up a fiddle-for-lessons bargain.

Having a Childs fiddle meant Falls was a ripe candidate for Childsplay, the all-star ensemble featuring Boston-area fiddlers and Childs clients like Laurel Martin, Hanneke Cassel, Amanda Cavanaugh, Katie McNally, Mark Simos, and Mary Lea — some of whom, like Falls, had classical backgrounds and experience. She has appeared on three of the group’s CDs, including its new release, “As the Crow Flies,” and on both Childsplay

DVDs (the second is being released this month).

“I think Childsplay is a good mid-way point between classical and Celtic,” says Falls, who will perform with the ensemble during its annual slate of performances this December. “It’s pretty intense, learning all these arrangements in the week leading up to the tour and playing different genres — Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, Scandinavian, old-timey. But the relationships you form are so special, especially given that we’re united by one ‘voice’ — the voice that comes from Bob’s violins.”

“That’s what I’ve loved about having music in my life: You just never stop learning. I’ve learned from playing with Seamus, from being at Tanglewood, performing with the New World Symphony and Childsplay, working at Wheaton — and I have no doubt I’ll learn from teaching at Boston College, too.”

## An All-Ireland first for Attleboro’s Ryan in uilleann pipes

(Continued from page 12) tended in 2009 when it this mistake. Naturally because of this, I was quite surprised when I’d been announced as first place.”

This was Ryan’s second visit to the All-Ireland Fleadh, which he at-

tended in 2009 when it took place in Tullamore. Because of Derry’s size, he found the fleadh more “spread out” and less easy to navigate in finding concerts and other events. But he certainly enjoyed

the overall experience, sometimes in unexpected ways.

“A couple of friends and I took a day trip to the Giant’s Causeway one of the days we were down, and we accidentally took

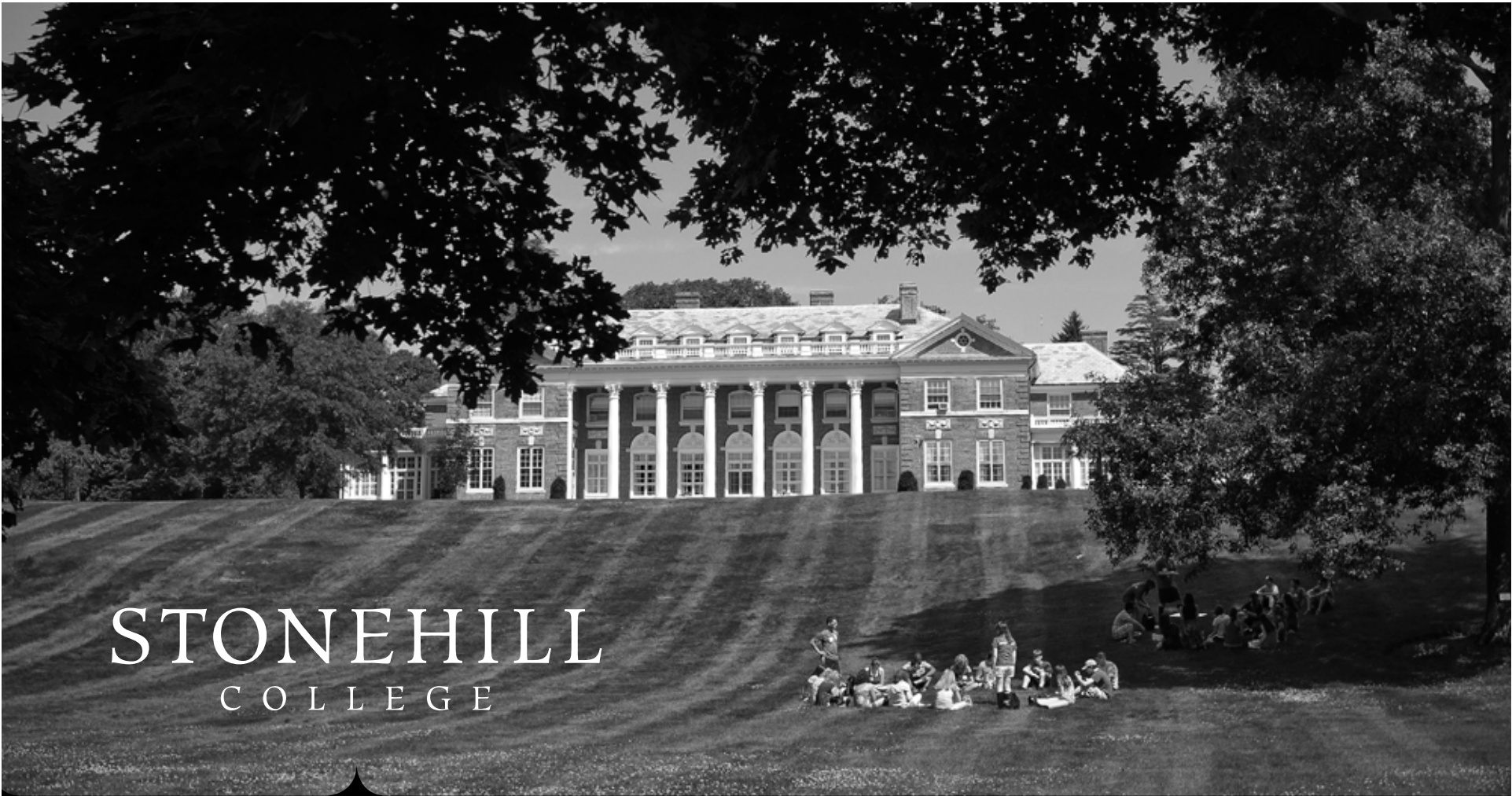
a high path that led well past the Causeway itself. Once we came to an intersection that had the opportunity to go down to the Causeway, we decided to instead keep going to another formation known

as “The Amphitheater.” I’m very thankful we kept walking to it, because it is definitely one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen.

“We hear a lot about the competitions that ev-

erybody makes their way over to Ireland for, but the real beauty is in the people you meet, the sights you see, and the tunes you play with others.”

– SEAN SMITH



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# BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

*Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events*

The Irish Cultural Centre in Canton is home to the North East Division of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA.) With more than 45 teams registered in the Boston area, summer weekends are busy with up to ten games being played in one day. Season finales were held on August 25, and the results are: Senior Football Final- Aidan McAnespies 0-10 Connemara Gaels 2-9; Senior Hurling Final: Tipperary 2-19 Galway 3-13; Ladies Senior Football Final: Boston Shamrocks 0-7 Connacht Ladies 4-14; Junior A Football Final: Wolfe Tones 2-13 Donegal 2-4; Junior A Hurling Final: Wexford 3-11 Tipperary 1-12; Junior B Football Final: Donegal 3-14 Aidan McAnespies 1-14; Junior C Hurling Final: Worcester 2-7 Portland 2-4; and Ladies Junior Football Final: Tír na nÓg 3-4 Boston Shamrocks 0-3. Full details of the matches are available online at [bostongaa.com](http://bostongaa.com).

1.) Noah Firth, Waltham; Diane Field, Cambridge; David Roth, Cambridge; 2.) Sinead Woods, Louth, Ireland; Shannon Mullen, Galway, Ireland; Sheila McLaughlin, Boston; 3.) Eric Versteeg, and Melanie Cyr, Cambridge; 4.) Ramona and Dave Mansfield, Hanson; 5.) Gareth Ruddy and daughter Zoe, Dorchester; 6.) Casey and Chip Norton, Wellesley; 7.) Bernie O'Reilly, Newton; Patty McDevitt, Quincy; 8.) Philip Kenny, Westboro and daughter Hannah whose team won the Continental Youth Championship (Under 8) in Philadelphia; 9.) Bagpipers Tim Horan, Det. Sgt. BPD and John Sexton, Sgt. BPD; 10.) Tom Eggers, So. Boston; Kevin Griffen, Dorchester; 11.) Ellen Joyce, Weymouth; Shannon O'Brien, Dorchester, Carmel Murray, Weymouth; Anne Kennedy, Canton.







# K of C's supreme knight will speak at Lawyers' Guild Red Mass event on Sept. 29

Carl A. Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, will be the keynote luncheon speaker when the Catholic Lawyers' Guild of Boston comes together to host its annual Red Mass and Luncheon on Sun., Sept. 29.

Honoring the official start of the of the new court year, the Mass will be celebrated at The Cathedral of the Holy Cross, 1400 Washington Street in Boston's South End, at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon will follow at 1 p.m. at The Seaport Hotel, One Seaport Lane in Boston.

Named for the majestic red vestments worn by the celebrants, the Red Mass is traditionally attended by judges, lawyers and court officials of all faiths seeking blessings, strength, and enlighten-

## Things Go Best for Coke with Irish

Coca-Cola is the biggest selling brand in the Irish grocery market for the ninth year in a row, according to an RTE.ie report.

The top 100 brands report from Checkout magazine and Nielsen puts dairy company Avonmore in second place with Brennan's Bread coming in third.

Lucozade comes in at fourth position, while Cadburys' Dairy Milk re-enters the top five, knocking Tayto down to number six. 7Up, Jacobs, Walkers, and Danone complete the top ten.

The annual Checkout Top 100, produced in association with Nielsen, is the most definitive list of the biggest selling brands in the Irish grocery industry by value sales.

The Top 100 Brands illustrates which brands have been able to best navigate an increasingly challenging grocery landscape, where value for money and "shopping around" are key, according to Stephen Wynne-Jones, Checkout editor. "Consumers are shopping around more than ever before, an indication of how competitive the market is for the big retail players."



**Carl A. Anderson**

ment for all servants of the law.

As supreme knight, Anderson is the board chairman and CEO of the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization, which serves more than 1.8 million members.

During his tenure, the Knights established the \$1 million Heroes Fund to provide immediate assistance to the families of rescue workers killed in the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001. In conjunction with Project Medishare, the Knights, through the "Healing Haiti's Children" program, are providing free prosthetic limbs and a minimum of two years of rehabilitation therapy to children in Haiti who lost a limb or limbs as a result of the January 2010 earthquake that devastated

that country.

An author and law professor, Anderson is a member of the Board of Superintendence of the Institute for the Works of Religion, also known as The Vatican Bank.

The Guild invites the general public to attend both the Red Mass and the subsequent luncheon. The Mass is free and open to the public; tickets to the luncheon and the supreme knight's address are available for \$125 per person by visiting [clgb.org](http://clgb.org). For information, call 617-722-8110.



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PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 18

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