

Showcasing the best of Ireland

iFest Boston at the World Trade Center, Sept, 26-28



Taoiseach Enda Kenny gathered in Dublin with organizers of iFest as plans for this first major Irish Festival were announced this summer. The three-day event boasts that it will present the “Best of Ireland.”
Photo courtesy iFest Boston

Chef Barbara Lynch will play gourmet role at iFest Boston

By BILL FORRY
EDITOR

South Boston native Barbara Lynch just returned from a trip to Tokyo to cook for US Ambassador Caroline Kennedy in an attempt to create a more robust interest in American cuisine in Japan. But it's Ireland, and the opportunity presented by iFest, that has captured her imagination lately.

Lynch, a James Beard Award-

winner and Relais & Châteaux Grand Chef, has been a major booster of the inaugural iFest. Last year, she took a brief, but enlightening tour of Ireland's culinary scene. It was her first-ever trip to her ancestral homeland and she says it has inspired her to take a keen interest in developing stronger ties to Irish vendors.

“They really blew me away,” Lynch said of her visit to Cork

and Killarney. “There was a Michelin star chef at the hotel in Ballymaloe and the food was beautiful. It's funny because I always feel like Ireland has this reputation of older people and simple food. But I spent some time with Darina Allen at Ballymaloe and they are all real artisans and they use quality products.”

Lynch says that she is drawn
(Continued on page 9)



Boston's own Barbara Lynch is a major iFest booster.

Fine food, music, arts and more

BIR STAFF

iFest Boston, a first of its kind original festival of contemporary Ireland, has a jam-packed itinerary for its inaugural event, taking place in Boston at the Seaport World Trade Center on September 26-28.

Presenting the best of Irish culture through the interactive iFest pillars of food & drink, live entertainment, culture and creativity, Irish roots, sporting heritage, and tourism and hospitality, the festival invites attendees to immerse themselves in all things Irish during three weekend sessions. Each five-hour session will feature the following events, designed to balance the Irish spirit of fun with rich cultural experiences.

Mayor Marty Walsh has endorsed iFest and the Boston launch is predicted to attract more than 40,000 visitors of all ages who will experience an insider's all-access view into the lives and work of some of the most prestigious and honored Irish personalities while celebrating the rich history of the island nation.

“At a very practical economic level, iFest is a great opportunity for Irish and Massachusetts business to further our strong business links, to promote small businesses in the iFest Best of Boston feature, and to showcase the city's great tourism, food, and hospitality offerings, alongside our unique culture, and dynamic business, and community,” said Walsh.

Entertainment: Enjoy today's Irish sound with its blending of trends and traditions, during performances on the main iFest Festival Stage and the Commonwealth Hall Stage. Each session will feature performances from the following: Paddy Moloney, founding member of virtuoso folk Irish band The Chieftains and musi-

(Continued on page 8)

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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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Maria Walsh 2014 Rose of Tralee.

Rose of Tralee talks of her confidence as a gay woman

Says annual festival celebrates women

TRALEE – The new Rose of Tralee, Boston-born Maria Walsh, has spoken of her confidence as a gay woman and said the question of her sexuality never arose during the festival in August.

Walsh, the Philadelphia Rose who is the 56th Rose of Tralee, said being gay was normal. “I’m not ashamed of my sexuality by any means. The Rose of Tralee is about celebrating women’s intelligence, careers, their volunteer work. The question of sexuality just never came up.

“Being gay and in a gay relationship is just one of the many things I identify and associate with. I’m confident in who I am as a person. I told my parents and they were supportive, as I knew they would be.

“If this can help any person to feel more comfortable with who they are, I’m happy,” she told The Sun on Sunday newspaper.

Walsh was the overwhelming favorite to win the Rose of Tralee with the bookies though she admitted being “absolutely shocked” to have been chosen among the 32 girls in the competition.

A festival spokesman confirmed that the issue of Ms Walsh’s sexuality never came up at any stage of the judging process.

When asked immediately after the festival if she was single, she responded: “I am indeed. My father has very high ambitions for whoever is stepping in so if they can pass the mother and father test then I might give them an auld gander.”

Rose of Tralee executive international chairman Anthony O’Gara said the festival was “delighted” to have chosen Ms Walsh as this year’s Rose.

Ireland waits on Mayor Walsh

In what is expected to be a triumphal return to the birthplace of his parents, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh will head for Ireland this month. It will be his first out of country visit since his election last November.

The mayor leaves Bos-

ton for Shannon on Thursday night, Sept. 18 for a ten-day visit to the Emerald Isle. His itinerary includes five days with his Irish relatives in Connemara in his parents’ home villages of Rosmuc and Carna. Walsh plans visits to Dublin, Donegal,

and Derry, and will make a presentation at a Belfast conference on September 25.

After the Belfast event, he will return to Galway and spend the weekend with his family, said mayoral spokesperson Kate Norton. “The overall

goal of this trip is to support Boston’s economic development through building relationships and strengthening our commercial and cultural link with Ireland,” Norton said.

– ED FORRY



Toeing the line at the non-competitive division start.

Enrique Arevalo photo

Martin Richard Memorial Run lures 200

Last Thursday, more than 200 runners competed in the first annual Martin Richard Memorial One Mile Run at Moakley Park in South Boston. The event was hosted by Youth Enrichment Services (YES) and USA Track & Field.

Henry, Martin, and Jane Richard joined the

YES track program in 2009 and immediately loved the competition and the camaraderie. In honor of Martin, that spirit of competition was on full display, as several runners posted personal best times, particularly in the kids divisions.

In the highlight of the evening – the non-com-

petitive mile - over 150 people of all ages ran, walked, scooted and laughed their way around the track in a great show of community. It was truly an event where there was something for athletes of all abilities.

Proceeds from the race benefited the Martin W. Richard Charitable Foun-

dation and YES (yeskids.org) and the partnership between the two organizations will continue going forward in order to support several great YES programs in addition to track and field, such as Operation Snowsports and Outdoor Adventure.

IPC to hold Geraghty golf tourney

The Irish Pastoral Centre will hold the First Annual Peg Geraghty Memorial Cup golf tournament on Mon., Sept. 29, at South Shore Country Club in Hingham beginning at 10 a.m. Peg Geraghty was a tireless advocate for the Irish Community in Boston and a most generous benefactor to the IPC. “We’re so pleased and grateful that Peg’s family has allowed the IPC to establish this annual tribute and complement her legacy in our community, and we sincerely hope that you can join us in honoring her,” said IPC Executive Director Megan Carroll.



Peg Geraghty

Peg, along with Eddie Barron and many members of the Irish and Irish American community, were founding members of the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton in 1989. She served as a board member of the Eire Society and was

an inaugural underwriter of the Stonehill College Irish Studies program abroad. Peg was a loyal supporter and keen participant in many Irish county events, including two annual Donegal banquets. She was a dedicated advocate and supporter of the Boston Irish Famine Memorial Committee, as well as an active member and generous supporter of the Irish Social Club of Boston. She and her late husband, Tom, joined the early committee initiated by Tom Flatley in 1975 to bring the Irish Art Treasures from Dublin to the Museum of Fine

Arts in Boston in 1976, and they were generous participants in the capital improvements at the Hyde Park YMCA. Peg was also a board member of Suffolk University and the Hyde Park Cooperative Bank (now Commonwealth Bank); former President of Geraghty Associates Real Estate of Hyde Park; and a long-time teacher in the Boston Public Schools.

Registration for the Tournament will begin at 10 a.m. For sponsorship information please visit ipcboston.org, email us at events@ipcboston.org, or call 617-265-5300.



Ireland’s Consul General Breandán Ó Caollaí, left, joined with New England Council president Jim Brett at a meeting last month in Portland, Maine, with that state’s senior US Sen. Susan Collins. The Irish official also met with members of the Maine Irish Heritage Center during his visit. More details in today’s Publisher’s Notes column, Page 6.

Margaret Brett Hastings photo

‘Boston Irish Honors 2014’ luncheon set for October 24

Citations to the Burke family, Kathy Craven, and Mayor Marty Walsh

The *Boston Irish Reporter*, the region’s leading chronicler of all things Irish-American, will host “Boston Irish Honors 2014,” its annual anniversary luncheon, on Fri., Oct. 24, at 11:45 a.m. in the main ballroom of Boston’s Seaport Hotel. The 35-member luncheon committee is chaired by Peter Meade, former director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

The 2014 honorees are: The Burke Family – Jacquelyn, John, Paul, Dennis and Michael; Katherine Craven; and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh.

“We are especially pleased that this year’s honorees have agreed to share their stories with us,” said BIR publisher Ed Forry. “In keeping with our heritage, the newspaper will recognize special achievements in business and public service, and salute an estimable family that shares our common roots in Boston and Ireland.

“The Burkes are an exemplary family, and their story is a wonderful example of our Boston Irish culture. Growing up in South Boston, their dad operated a drug store on D Street, and the siblings followed their own paths while sustaining their strong family ties: Jac-

quelyn and John Burke became pharmacists like their dad, and John now heads the Staples Foundation; Paul is a Boston firefighter, and he’s now a District Chief; Dr. Dennis Burke is a leading orthopedic surgeon at Mass General Hospital; and Michael is a union worker in South Boston.

“In a similar vein, Kathy Craven has a legion of admirers for her roles in several public agencies. A former staffer in the House Ways and Means committee and the mother of four, she was chief of the state’s School Building Authority, and oversaw the UMass Building Authority’s \$3.8 billion five-year capital plan. This spring, she was named chief administrative officer at Babson College.

“And I am delighted to acknowledge the leadership role of my longtime friend Marty Walsh, as he nears completion of his first year as Boston’s chief executive. Mayor Walsh has served on our honors luncheon committee each and every year, and he truly embodies the spirit of the very best of what it means to be Boston Irish.

“It will be an honor and privilege to tell their stories

at our Oct. 24 luncheon,” Forry said.

The *Boston Irish Reporter* is one of the region’s few remaining family-owned and-operated publications. The annual event draws appreciative audiences of some 350 Boston business and civic leaders and members of our city’s Irish social and cultural organizations.

The 2014 Luncheon Committee includes: Peter Meade, Event Chair, Ed Forry, Publisher, and Breandán O Caollaí, Consul General of Ireland. Members are: James T. Brett, Aidan Browne, William M. Bulger, James Carmody, John T. Carroll, Della O’Flaherty Costello, Steve Costello, Jay Curley, Sean Curran, Brendan Feeney, Dick Flavin, John Philip Foley, Bill Forry, Hon. Linda Dorcena Forry, Maureen Forry-Sorrell, Anne Geraghty, David Greaney, Jim Keefe, Edris Kelley, William F. Kennedy, Rev. Thomas B. Kennedy, Paul LaCamera, Mimi LaCamera, Joe Leary, Rosanne Bacon Meade, Sean Moynihan, James J. O’Brien, Michael O’Neill, Gil Sullivan, Michael Vaughn, Bobby White, and W. Paul White.

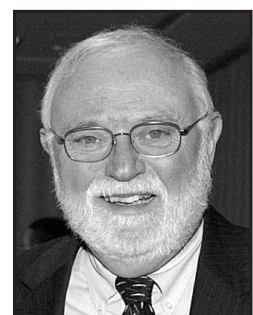
Portland and the Irish: Stories worth the telling

By Ed Forry

It is a short ride up the highway from Boston to Portland – two hours, maybe a little more – and it was to that fine destination that I found myself joining a couple of friends one weekday August morning for a quick excursion to his wonderful waterfront city along the Maine coast.

The initial purpose was to join Portland native John Phillip Foley and Ireland's Consul General in Boston, Breandán Ó Caollai, to meet that state's senior US Senator, Susan Collins, at a downtown luncheon hosted by the New England Council. The event was held in the Preti Flaherty law offices in a conference room offering sweeping views of the Old Port district, Portland Harbor, and the nearby islands.

The consul general had the opportunity to meet with Collins and discuss immigration reform and other issues. The senator, considered one of the few remaining moderate Republicans in Congress, has deep Irish and English roots on both sides of her family. A onetime aide to former Maine Sen. William Cohen, she served in Boston for a brief time in 1992 as regional director of the Small Business Administration, and later worked as a deputy state treasurer under former Massachusetts Treasurer Joe Malone. She returned to her home state and was elected to the Senate in 1996, filling the seat once held by Cohen.



Following the Collins' luncheon, John Foley and I joined the consul general and his wife Carmel for a visit to the Maine

Irish Heritage Center, which is located in a former neighborhood church, Saint Dominic's. "Saint Dom's" was Foley's boyhood parish boasting the third oldest church in the state. At one time it was home to the largest Irish Catholic parish north of Boston. It was a visit both memorable and moving.

In 1997, the Diocese of Portland closed the church. According to a brief history published by the center, the city in turn gifted the property to the Irish: "The beacon to all and community gathering place was purchased by the City of Portland and gifted to the Irish American Club and Friends of St. Dominic's. Thus was born the Maine Irish Heritage Center, whose purpose is to protect, preserve and restore the historic landmark that was formerly St. Dominic's Church, to provide a meeting place for Maine's diverse communities, and to promote Irish culture, history and heritage by telling the story of the Irish and Maine. "In January of 2003, the City of Portland presented the keys to the building known as the Irish Cathedral to the Maine Irish Heritage Center. With one in six Mainers of Irish descent, its importance as a place of living history is much valued and now holds a place of honor in the state as the Center for all things Irish in Maine. "The Maine Irish Heritage Center was closed for the most part from May 2006 until the fall of 2008. The 4,100-pound bell fell from its moorings in the tower and then a Patriot's Day storm wrought severe damage and havoc on both the exterior and interior. The building reopened amidst much fanfare in October 2008, with Eamon O'Cuiv, grandson of the famous president of Ireland, Eamon De Valera, presiding. "Today the bell rings proudly over the Greater Portland area, a testament to the grit and determination of the early Irish who came to Maine, to their descendants who continue to make the State of Maine a place to call home, and to Maine's new immigrants as a safe harbor in America." It was truly a fascinating facility! The building retains all the church characteristics of old St. Dom's, with beautiful stained-glass windows and rows of the original pews still in place on each side of the main aisle, beneath soaring 60 foot cathedral ceilings. The room off the altar area, once a sacristy, serves as office space and houses an ever-expanding library (For his part, John Foley brought four cases of books with him that day.) Downstairs, in a huge area which once served as the lower church, there's function space for upwards of 200, offering regular Irish dances, lectures, and other performances.

A group of some two dozen members found their way to the heritage center that afternoon to greet Ó Caollai. Among those attending were MIHC chair Mary McAleney, club president Brendan McVeigh, Professor Michael Connolly and club historian Matthew Jude Baker. Some of their pictures can be viewed on this page. Portland has developed a reputation as home for

fine dining and pleasant city life. If you're going to visit the city, make plans to visit the town's own Irish Heritage Center. It's worth the trip! For more details, visit online maineirish.com. The Maine Irish Heritage Center is located at 34 Gray Street Portland ME 04102. The phone number is 207-780-0118.



Claire Foley, Portland Irish American Trust; Professor/Author Michael Connolly, St. Joseph's College, Standish, ME; John Foley. Photos by Ed Forry



Author Matthew Jude Barker, Consul General Breandán Ó Caollai and his wife Carmel, Prof. Michael Connolly, Brendan McVeigh, President Irish American Club of Maine



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Commentary

Eight ways to help Ireland build a strong, happy future

By JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

For many Irish Americans the key to a strong future for Ireland is the strength and creative energy of its educational system. A highly educated population and work force not only attracts inward investment but it also generates innovation, new ideas, and happier, more informed lives for Irish people.

But Ireland is a very small country that has to balance its financial resources carefully. The social welfare of its people, relationships with other countries, roads, security, hospitals, and health care all require funding. And Ireland has a special problem in that it is a divided country and sensitive care must be focused upon the sometimes severe problems that separation presents in Northern Ireland.

All of this is not easy, especially when Ireland, with its small-country assets, must compete with the rest of the world. And educational funding must take its place amongst all these priorities; extravagant funding is not possible.

We find, however, that there are millions upon millions of people of Irish heritage throughout the world who would be willing, even anxious, to help if they are confident their support will be used wisely and effectively.

The people of the United States are the most generous in the world. Both world wars and our constant attention to humanitarian causes at home and abroad tend to underscore our care and concern. Irish Americans have been very successful in the United States, taking leadership positions in major universities, large corporations, state and federal governments, religious institutions, the armed services, and most every phase of our economic and social lives.

And as part of that, Irish Americans stand in the front rank of philanthropically inclined Americans. The Irish American Partnership tries to focus some of this caring and kindness toward Ireland.

It is in that spirit that we suggest consideration of eight Irish educational programs that need funding and may appeal to Irish Americans inclined to support the idea of a strong and successful Ireland well into the future. These are proven, effective programs already



Joe Leary

in existence and offering demonstrable evidence of their worthiness.

- Join in the Partnership's program to support the 3,000 Irish primary schools in Ireland. Early learning can make a student for life. Our focus is directed toward the smaller rural disadvantaged schools in western Ireland. These schools average between 25 and 75 young children. Taught and cared for by two or three 3 teachers, these rural schools are amongst the most needy in Ireland. Partnership gifts to each school are usually between \$1,500 and \$2,000 each. This is a prime Partnership program and is intended to support these small-school teachers and replenish worn student library books and the purchase of cutting edge science teaching materials. The Partnership and its donors have funded approximately 400 of these schools in recent years.

- Choose your own school to support. Simply select the county, city, town, or village your ancestors came from and direct your gift to a school in the area. The Partnership will send the gift to the school in your name or the name of the ancestor you are honoring. You will receive recognition letters and pictures of the students you are helping. The gift can be anywhere between \$500 and \$2,000, even \$5,000. Some families join together and make a joint gift. Over 100 Irish schools have been funded this way.

- Fund the search for identifying and retraining technology talented Irish lower wage earners. Young high school graduates who did not get into college, bartenders, waitresses, cab drivers et al. can become high-tech well-paid operators and supervisors with their unrecognized talent. The Partnership, working with the all-Ireland non-profit "Fast Track to High Technology" company, has had an impact on the lives of 200 young people in the North and South of Ireland with \$10,000 each year for the past four years.

- One Irish American Partnership supporter from New York City became so upset at the condition of Tang National School in the village of Tang, Co., the school his grandparents attended, he asked the Partnership to manage his \$50,000 gift to be used to build an extension on the school and modernize the existing building. The donor purchased the equipment and the teaching materials to provide the children with new computers and science teaching instruction. The donor and the Partnership were there for the school re-opening.

- Perhaps your ancestors emigrated from Northern Ireland. The Partnership funds support several integrated schools in the North helping them to teach and understand diversity. In 2013 we presented a \$10,000 gift to the Glengormley Integrated Primary Schools

in East Belfast, and in 2014 we are presenting a gift of \$10,000 to the Drumlins Integrate School in Ballynahinch in Co. Down. The Partnership welcomes new support for this program. We have funded nine integrated schools over the past four years. As with all Partnership programs, American participation is welcome.

The Partnership has helped many deserving underprivileged high school graduates attend university through a program called Access to Higher Education. Dublin City University, Trinity, University of Limerick, and The University of Ulster have all received \$10,000 grants over the past three years. We have met many of these students during our regular visits to the universities. Some are from families where no one has ever gone on to higher education.

- A Partnership supporter from the West Coast whose father went to the Cork Institute of Technology has provided a \$25,000 grant to the school through the Partnership for a selected student to receive a two-year scholarship to study and report on the development of Ireland's high technology sector and a general forecast of where the opportunities are in the next five years. This is a classic donor-initiated project that the Partnership monitors and sends periodic reports to the donor.

- Our final program is too comprehensive to fully describe here. It involves a large-scale study of 30 schools that was begun in 2005 to determine the most effective ways to teach young children the vales of understanding science, thereby generating a career interest as they go through their school years. The idea was to approach young minds to gain new scientists and engineers for Ireland. A donor from Virginia originally suggested and funded the initial research with gifts well into six figures. Today, this same generous and active donor still helps us manage the program and is delighted with its outcomes. The program found that teachers, no matter how willing and professional, needed additional training and that is how the program developed. The program has been managed by St. Patrick's Teaching College in Dublin with the approval of Ireland's Department of Education and Skills and the assistance of Mary Immaculate Teaching College in Limerick. The program today is active and growing in Mayo, Kilkenny, Limerick, and Kerry. Funding is approximately \$50,000 each year. With support, this program can be extended to any and all counties.

The above are just a few of the Ireland programs funded and managed by the Partnership over its 28-year history. There are so many more. They all present opportunities for interested Irish Americans to participate in building the future of Ireland.

A TALE OF TWO IRISH LINKSTERS As Rory soars, Padraig plummets

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

"Tiger's roar" once echoed across the majors' turf, but in 2014, the word that peals from tee to fairway is "Rory." The Northern Irish star, a Professional Golf Association pup at 25, bested the fields at the British Open and the PGA Championship to become just the fourth player in the past 100 years to claim four majors by the age of 25. At several junctures this year and a run of three straight wins – including those two majors – McIlroy has dominated the Tour like, well, that guy named Tiger.

McIlroy's dominance and, more surprisingly, his consistency in 2014 is all the more remarkable given his lackluster 2013 campaign and his reputation as a hugely talented but streaky player. Many of his competitors referred to him as "more Phil [Mickelson] than Tiger." In short, his fellow golfers never doubted his prodigious skills, but did wonder about his desire, his commitment to the game, and his "nice-guy demeanor" – lack of a killer instinct in the final round of a major. Never mind that he had already won two big ones before 2014, the whispers and sometimes outright comments from players and media dogged the affable young man from the North.

So what changed everything so dramatically this year? There's little question that McIlroy has become more Tigeresque in his practice and workout regimen. The increased devotion to his game, however, did not materialize without a personal price. He has a reputation for giving straight answers to questions, and in this one instance, he might well have spared himself a flood of negative, smarmy, outraged, and downright nasty commentary in every venue from Twitter to television if he not been so candid. The words that ignited something of a social media tempest?



Next stop: Deutsche Bank tournament at TPC in Norton.

Wire photo

They came in late May in the wake of his broken engagement to Danish tennis star Caroline Wozniacki – just a few days after the couple had sent out wedding invitations. Responding to questions on ESPN about whether his break-up had upped his golf game, McIlroy responded, "I think what happened has been for the better in terms of my golf. I've put a bit more time into it and it has refocused me. I mean, what else do I have to do now? I go to the golf course, I go to the gym, and it's just my life at the minute. I worked pretty hard before, but the past couple of months I've really just buried myself in my game. It obviously works pretty well, so I am going to keep doing it."

In earlier interviews, he had reflected that he realized he was not yet ready

for marriage and did not feel it was fair to Wozniacki. Although he took something of a media beating for what legions of men and women alike deemed as somewhere between lame and cold feet, whatever happened should have remained between the former couple – of course, an impossibility when the couple in question has the high-wattage profile of McIlroy and Wozniacki.

Hindsight, as the adage goes, is 20-20. What happened to McIlroy for his inartfully worded answer to ESPN is likely the reason that so many professional athletes – yes, golfers are athletes – have mastered the "art" of spouting mind-numbing cliches and repetitive, stock answers to virtually any media questions.

What is not in question is that McIlroy

seems poised to make Ireland's golf-mad masses happy for years to come. It is way too early to start mentioning him in the same category as Tiger and Jack, but...

As McIlroy's rise continues, a striking contrast has unfolded in the travails of another great Irish golfer, the Dubliner who not only broke the Emerald Isle's six-decade drought in the majors when he grabbed the 2007 British Open and the 2008 British Open and PGA championships. Before Rory, there was Padraig. The news that Padraig Harrington has lost his US PGA Tour card for 2015 once seemed an impossibility. In this writer's opinion, any golfer who has won an American major – whether the Masters, the US Open, or the PGA Championship – should receive a little more consideration from the PGA powers that be.

I know what many people will say about Harrington's failure to qualify: The rules are the rules, and the bottom line is the bottom line. All well and good when one's talking about the Tour's rank and file. Until or unless a player wins a major, no matter how many other Tour events he wins, he's a great player who can't win the big one. Just ask Sergio Garcia, Colin Montgomerie, and any number of players from all over the globe.

Of course, Harrington can turn to his one-time exemption for his status as one of the top 50 players on the career money-list to play the PGA Tour in 2015; however, that reinforces my point – he has not only carted home a truckload of cash in his career, but has won three majors. If you check the names on that Top 50 career-earnings roster, you'll find that the majority have yet to win even one major. Just one scribe's opinion... The fact is that 2014 had been a grand year for Irish golf, North and South, courtesy of Rory McIlroy.



IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



2014 Solas Awards Celebration

As the **Irish International Immigrant Center** brings its 25th year of service to individuals and families from Ireland and around the world to a close, come celebrate the immigrants who bring so much to our workplaces and communities; and join us in honoring two people who have made IIC's work possible:

Sister Lena Deevy, LSA
Founder of the Irish International Immigrant Center

Richard E. Holbrook
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Eastern Bank

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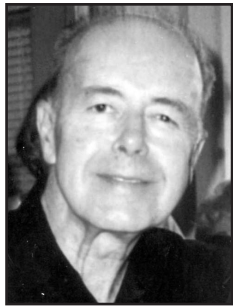
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Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

Ray Flynn, a Natural For Honors – At a recent birthday party celebrating former Boston Mayor **Ray Flynn's** 75th birthday, City Councillors **Bill Linehan** and **Stephen Murphy** announced they will lead a move to recognize the South Boston native for his life of public service. What a grand idea and one that Bostonians and others should, and I am sure will, get behind. (Disclosure: I worked at City Hall during the Flynn years)



Bill O'Donnell

Ray was the "people's mayor." He knew the neighborhoods, the side streets, the basketball courts and the kids, and the residents and working folks who populated the city. He was around and approachable, and he could go into any corner of the city, regardless of ethnic or political considerations, and receive a hearty welcome.

I remember his early years as a city councillor and Massachusetts House member and also his days as a caring probation officer who never had a problem identifying with those who had not grown up in plush circumstances. He used his public roles as a legislator and court official to help young people and others, many attracted by his reputation as a Providence College basketball star.

He and I don't always agree, but I always saw Ray as a guy who would listen, and use his awareness and street cred to help youngsters and others reach their potentials. He was of Southie but not captured by the sometime hard-nosed pro forma mantra of his home base.

During his tenure Ray and those who worked alongside him kept an open, generous mind about emigrants who crowded into Boston looking for a hand up, not a handout. And during his years on the job Ray reached out to many nations and groups and was a key player with Boston Ireland ventures in linking Derry and Galway with Boston, to the advantage of all.

I have no idea what the inevitable "committee" will decide re how and where to honor Boston's 46th Mayor, but I like the idea of a statue or the like somewhere prominent on the Rose Kennedy Greenway, the link to so many of the neighborhoods that Ray Flynn will forever be identified with. As I noted above, it's a grand idea, and, as my late father used to say: "No time like the present."

Events Moving Fast on Economic Front – There's a lot of economic talk going on in Ireland, Britain, and the White House that involves taxes, money, something called "inversion," and "corporate deserters." That last pejorative is what **President Obama** uses to describe those companies that shift their home headquarters from the US to a country with a lower corporate tax. It's potentially a trillion-dollar escape by companies who dislike our high corporate tax rate. Although the truth is that most corporations, especially the big ones, use loopholes and fancy tax dodges to get their tax bills well south of Uncle Sam's 35 percent corporate rate. Buying a foreign company or merging with one to gain the use of the newly acquired company base to dramatically reduce your US taxes is called inversion, which costs the rest of us higher taxes.

Television funnyman **Stephen Colbert** describes inversion thusly: "It's like me adopting an African child, then claiming myself as his dependent." Some governments, envious of Ireland's success in attracting corporations to base themselves on Irish soil, are calling for an increase in Ireland's 12.5 percent corporate tax rate. Ireland, which is a marketing behemoth with an educated, English-speaking work force and easy access to the European Union's 500 million plus consumers, said that companies come to Ireland on the merits, not simply for tax breaks. Across Europe only one country, Bulgaria, has a corporate rate lower than Ireland. You have not heard the last of Inversion though. Trust me on that.

Moving on: Northern Ireland, salivating as it probably should at the rock bottom 12.5 percent Republic of Ireland rate, has persuaded London to allow the North to go to a low corporate tax rate separate and apart from Britain's own rate. The final decision, sources say, should be made no later than October. The cost for the North in lowered revenue is expected to be in excess of \$300 million, but a big boost in the long run is the goal. The North's stuttering business climate could use a bounce and a operating tax on a par with the Republic could be very helpful, with some saying it could "transform international investment." That may be a stretch.

Somewhat on the long finger are emergency status plans by Wall Street investment firms such as Bank of America, Citigroup, and Morgan Stanley that would see a shift of some London-based operations to Ireland if and when Britain leaves the European Union. The city of London, the financial center, accounts for some 10 percent of the British economy.

British Prime Minister **David Cameron** has promised to hold a referendum on the question of Britain's membership in the EU if his Conservative party is re-elected next year. Stay tuned.

Shannon Military Landings Roil Irish – Increasing anti-war sentiment and questions by Irish protesters about Ireland's neutrality comes as new government figures show a marked increase of 15 percent in the number of US military flights landing at

Shannon last year. The numbers are not as compelling as a decade ago when the occupation by US troops in Iraq was at its highest, but peace activists charge that Ireland's neutrality is being severely compromised by the steady flow of American soldiers through Shannon to active war zones.

Sinn Fein a Growing Force in Europe – Newest figures show clearly that Sinn Fein is now the largest Irish parliamentary group in the European Parliament. Other parties in Greece, Spain, and Portugal, all leftist and anti-austerity as Sinn Fein, have increased their numbers, adding to their combined political muscle in the EU parliament.

Couple Sinn Fein's electoral successes at home along with its new-found clout in the Euro legislative body and you have an indication that the Irish republicans have sharpened their political agenda, which is to maximize support for Irish unity and the peace process; attract maximum support from EU institutions, and oppose austerity.

The left in Ireland and in Europe oppose the IMF policy of belt-tightening to achieve economic recovery and financial stability, and instead seek to cut unemployment, reduce taxes, hold firm on social benefits and, in general, ease the tax burdens imposed on the working class

Maeve Binchy and the Gifts She Left Behind – Ireland's best-selling author died two years ago this summer but she left what many regarded as a posthumous final book as a going-away present for her faithful readers. At her death in 2012 she left her last novel, "A Week in Winter," which was published that Christmas and was, as usual, a best seller.

Sometime after her passing, her husband, according to the *Irish Independent*, found a drawer filled with forgotten stories that was published in 2013 as "Chestnut Street" and became the second Christmas best-seller following Maeve's death.

The third and truly final chapter in the posthumous bequests from the queen of Irish novelists is a seven-part melange, authored by Maeve and six other Irish writers. All seven contributed to the completed mystery novel titled "The Caravaggio Painting." The plot makes use of an actual painting that hangs in the Doon Abbey in Kildare and attracts visitors from far and wide. The book is being published this month by Liberty Press.

Rest Easy: NI Banks in the Black – On one hand, it's an extraordinary turn-around for the four top banks in the North. The encouraging rebound followed the help and support of the Irish government and the stability created by the IMF Irish bailouts. The four Northern-based banks, which had hundreds of millions in debt last year, are now reporting a cumulative profit of over \$800 million.

The Dishonesty of Fox Television News – For almost two years the Republicans who control the US House Committee on Intelligence have spent their waking moments in lock-step, screaming "Benghazi, Benghazi," a reference to Sept. 11, 2012, when terrorists attacked the US consulate in that Libyan city, killing the ambassador and three others. The GOP was hoping, perhaps, to distract voters from the disgraceful do-nothing Congress and the speaker's pitiful lawsuit against the president.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported on Aug. 1 that the committee had "concluded that there was no deliberate wrongdoing by the Obama administration in the 2012 attack." Said the committee report: "The intelligence community did not have specific tactical warning of an attack before it happened." The report noted that the process used to create administration talking points was "flawed" but "reflected the conflicting intelligence assessments in the days immediately following the crisis," adding that "there was no stand-down order given to American personnel."

This final official report by the Republican-dominated committee is a point-by-point refutation of the Benghazi hoax Fox News and the GOP had pushed for two long and embarrassing years. On Mon., Aug. 4, the Fox channel did not mention the report. Not a word. There was deadly silence in **Rupert Murdoch's** make-believe news room.

Back in late spring, when Speaker **John Boehner** first announced he would appoint a select committee investigation into Benghazi, Fox devoted at least 225 segments on the Benghazi topic in over just two weeks, accounting for TV air-time with an estimated publicity value of \$124 million. Yes, indeed, "fair and balanced." (And thanks to Media Matters for its dedicated coverage and details.)

DeLorean's Dream Car 35 Years Later – An anniversary celebration of a sort, I would guess, is what is being planned for next May in Belfast when a gathering of former DeLorean employees will help mark the 35th anniversary of the first DeLorean gull wing car appearance in 1980. Many of the auto company's workers and some administrators will be on hand but, if history has a memory, there will be few if any representatives from the badly stung British government.

For those of us who recall the animosity and disappointment surrounding the failed enterprise, which closed its doors three short years after opening, many will also likely remember the millions of British pounds sterling that were wasted, or that disappeared, during the company's 36-month existence. And at the helm when the doors clanged shut was **John DeLorean**, who had flimsy excuses but no real answers about the huge cost overruns and the end of a dream.

Several years after the DeLorean plant closed, its

hopes in shambles amid cruel job losses, I was in Belfast interviewing a Sinn Fein politician not too far from Dunmurry. I drove to the site, which was enclosed by a high chain-link fence with a formidable lock on the gate, to see what I could see. It was the most depressing vista one could imagine. Where once thousands of Belfast workers hungry for jobs streamed in every morning to the huge, hanger-like plant, there was now no sign of activity, not a person to be seen, just an eerily quiet, deserted assembly plant hulk.

August Closed Out 1981 Hunger Strike – The first to die on hunger strike was **Bobby Sands**, who passed away on May 5, then four men – their average age 25 years old – died during August 1981. The August Four were **Kevin Lynch**, Aug. 1; **Kieran Doherty**, Aug. 2; **Tom McElwee**, Aug. 8; and **Mickey Devine**, Aug. 20. The ten who eventually died did not live to see the British accede to almost all of the prisoners' demands. But their actions would help ensure the peace that would come to Ireland. We should not forget them.

Mayor Walsh: Close But Not Quite There – The *Boston Globe's* **Yvonne Abraham** took the city's new mayor, **Marty Walsh**, to the woodshed in a harsh appraisal of his defense of the system that prevailed in the state's Probation Department the *Globe* columnist made some telling points when she wrote that "Probation jobs aren't like jobs shelving books in a library" She's right, but she could have cut the mayor a bit of slack.

My take on the misguided remarks of State House veteran Walsh is that he likely in his elected role over the years recommended constituents for jobs and /or may himself have been the recipient of a well-placed recommendation by an influential labor leader. All conjecture, of course, I have no idea if such things ever happened, but it not inconceivable that during his earlier career the mayor helped, or was helped by, an influential friend.

As a result I believe that he was concerned personally in being seen as a hypocrite who was willing to criticize others for actions he had done himself, and willing to savage another state employee before he had all the facts.

I also believe that the jury verdict on former probation chief **John O'Brien** was correct. But I am not Marty Walsh. Hypocrisy, an eagerness to pile on, is not likely to be found in the Walsh DNA. The mayor was wrong, but I believe there was more going on than a simple refusal to condemn. That's one man's opinion, anyway.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

By a unanimous vote the Boston City Council has passed an ordinance that strongly limits immigration holds for possible deportation by the police. Called the Boston Trust Act, it halts the automatic hand-over of non-criminal immigrants under the often abused federal Secure Communities law. ... How do you define appreciation? **Bob Kraft** bought the New England Patriots in 1994 for \$175 million; the team and its properties are now said to be worth \$2.6 billion. ... Journalism lost a superb and gutsy member of the fraternity with the execution of **James Foley**. ... Good advice: skip Venezuela for your holidays, book Aer Lingus to Ireland. ... The well-known Derry pub "Bound for Boston" has closed its doors after 21 years.

The new Rose of Tralee, 27-year-old **Rose Maria Walsh**, is a Boston native who represented Philadelphia in the Kerry event. ... For college students in Boston it's ugly, crowded housing. In Dublin, Galway, Cork, etc., the problem is out-of-sight school year rentals, averaging \$1,000 - \$2,000 a month. ... Good news: Rupert Murdoch and Fox have abandoned their pursuit of Time Warner. We all win on that decision. ... The 170-foot round tower in Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery that was bombed by the UVF is being restored and will reopen, hopefully, early next year.

Maureen O'Hara, living in Idaho, turned 94 on Aug. 17. Reportedly, she is sharp mentally and and is being well-looked after. ... The legendary **Wolfe Tones** celebrated their 50th anniversary last month with a special show at Derry's Forum. ... Good news for Catholicism: **Cardinal Sean Brady** has tendered his retirement and a coadjutor, **Archbishop Eamon Martin**, will take over. ... All of you out there raise your hands if you knew that the Dublin-London air route is the second busiest in the world. (only Hong Kong-Taipei is busier). ... 1976 Nobel **Maureen Maguire**, co-founder of the Peace People, is out and urging an end to the Gaza siege.

Dublin has been voted the world's fifth "Friendliest City" by Conde Nast Traveler. Did the magazine call you? ... Drug giant Pfizer, with expansive operations in Ireland, is being sued by thousands about the dangers of its Irish-made drug Lipitor. ... President Obama has quietly chided top NI pols that it's past time to get their act together. ... Recent attendees have not been quiet in their description of Race Week in Galway, calling it filled with young people, raucous, and with an "awful lot of alcohol involved." ... Class act: Red Sox pitcher **Jon Lester**, traded to Oakland for a much needed RH power hitter, took out a full-page *Globe* ad to thank his Sox teammates, fans, and ownership for the "love and kindness we have enjoyed in Boston." ... The Society of Jesus is a tough organization: American Jesuits publicly prodded members of Congress who were educated at their Catholic schools to protect the Border Children. ... Old friend retired Westfield Professor **Catherine Shannon** and the Charitable Irish Society are hosting a trio of Silver Key honorees on Wed., Oct. 15, at the Boston College Club from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **Phil Coulter** will entertain and the proceeds will assist immigrants who need emergency help.

iFest Boston at the World Trade Center, Sept, 26-28

Showcasing the best of Ireland

(Continued from page 1)

cal ambassador to iFest; Jack L, one of Ireland's best-loved performers and a six-time Platinum artist known for his inventive "baroque-and-roll"; Top Irish rock band The Rip Tide Movement; the Damien Mullane Trio, led by 27-year-old virtuoso accordionist Damien Mullane; and Seo Linn, an up-and-coming Trad performer whose Gaelic version of Avicii's hit "Wake Me Up" took YouTube by storm.

The internationally celebrated Irish dance group Riverdance will perform a special showcase of their recent, acclaimed Heartbeat of Home show with Paddy Moloney. Festivalgoers will have a chance to join in the fun during special outdoor Ceilí (a social form of folk dance) and Irish dance master classes, all led by members of the Riverdance Irish Dance Troupe.

Food and drink: Celebrate the taste of contemporary Irish cuisine with top Irish and American chefs, exquisite native ingredients, and artisan products. In Commonwealth Hall, a Chef Demonstration Theatre provides an intimate setting where Irish and Bostonian chefs including Darina Allen, Kevin Dundon, Cathal Armstrong, Barbara Lynch, Ana Sortun, Lydia Shire, and Ming Tsai will demonstrate sophisticated interpretations of Ireland's traditional fare. Festivalgoers can also enjoy a taste of an Irish tradition at the Bewley's Boston Irish Tea Party, an afternoon tea hosted by Bewley's Tea with fresh-baked pastries from top Boston pastry chef Maura Kilpatrick of Sofra.

The arts, sports: Avid readers will appreciate the iFest literary salon featuring up and coming Irish and American authors, and fashionistas will bask in a showcase of costume design from Emmy- Award winning Joan Bergin and fashion



iFest organizer Rachel Kelly met with Boston Mayor Marty Walsh to review plans for the three-day festival. *Photos courtesy iFest.*

shows from Junk Kouture. Visitors with a burning desire to explore their Irish roots can indulge in master classes from the genealogy expert and author John Grenham of "Who Do You Think You Are?" on the TLC network. Ascintillating documentary called "Ireland Through the TV Lens" will also be featured from RTE, Ireland's National Television and Radio Broadcaster. Athletes and sporting aficionados will take great pleasure in a meet and greet with sports stars of the GAA, hitting a sliotar at the hurling simulator and watching iconic matches.

Opening with a trade preview on Friday, September 26, iFest has both a consumer and a business dimension, promoting the Irish food and hospitality sectors in conjunction



Legendary Irish traditional musician Paddy Moloney is among the artists who will perform in Boston at the iFest events, Sept 26-28.

with the state agencies, and supporting exports, tourism, and direct investment.

The event will be open to the public on Fri., Sept., 26, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.; on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.; and on Sunday, Sept. 28 from noon to 5 p.m.

"iFest is about reframing Ireland through the extraordinary talent of its people and celebrating our unique culture," says iFest founder and CEO Rachel Kelly. "Ultimately, it is an engaging and entertaining experience of Ireland highlighting elements ranging from music and the arts to our renowned gastro culture and everything in between."

For more information and updates, see ifestboston.com.

A Q&A with: Damien Mullane

Irish traditional music has a long and distinguished roster of excellent accordionists, what with Joe Burke, Joe Cooley, Paddy O'Brien, Jackie Daly, Sharon Shannon, and the list goes on (and on)—and Damien Mullane seems a cinch to join the club. The 28-year-old Mullane is a former All-Ireland champion on both accordion and melodeon, and was a member of legendary fiddler Frankie Gavin's band De Dannan. He has toured many parts of the world, performed for dignitaries like President Obama and former Irish President Mary Robinson, and two years ago released his debut solo album, "13," which Irish Music magazine praised for its "exciting, original, and progressive sound." At iFest, Mullane will be joined by guitarist Donogh Hennessy and string bassist Trevor Hutchinson — a former and a current member, respectively, of Irish supergroup Lunasa — who both appear on "13."

Q. Damien, do you have any experiences with, or impressions of Boston? Or is it largely unexplored territory for you?

A. I have been to Boston many times, playing with various outfits including De Dannan and "The Women of Ireland." Boston has always been one of my favorite places to visit in America.

Q. You were born in Cork but grew up for the most part in West London — did you have the music in your family, or was it something you kind of picked up on your own? Which musicians did you listen to, and take inspiration from, in learning accordion?

A. Unfortunately, there was no music in my fam-

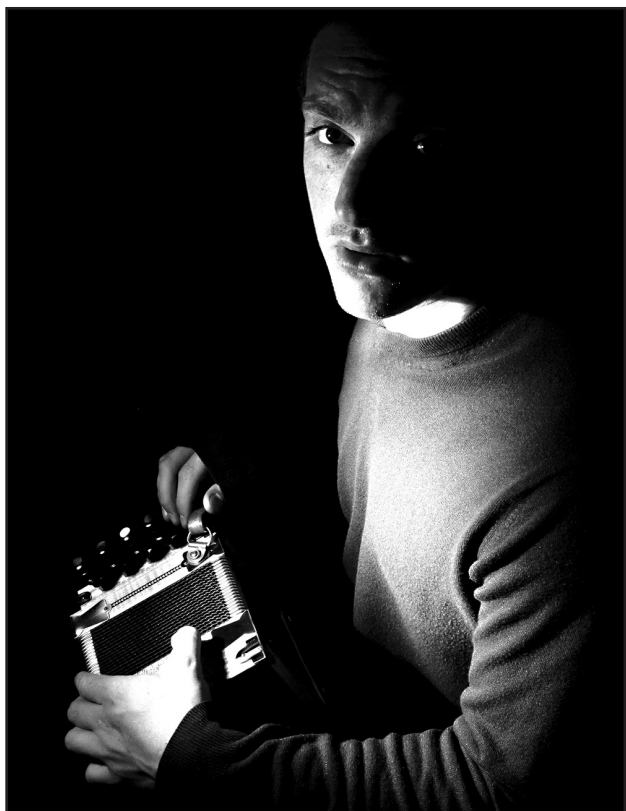
ily, so it was actually a friend from school who got me interested, as he used to go for lessons on the tin whistle at the time. I had a great teacher who exposed me to all the great accordion players such as Mairtin O'Connor, Dermot Byrne, Jackie Daly, and so on. I took inspiration from every musician as they all had their own way of expressing themselves through their music. I would try and emulate the stylistic traits that each musician had in order to develop my own style.

Q. You wound up winning a few All-Ireland titles, but not every Fleadh champion goes on to be a touring performer. Do you feel the experience of competing, and making it to the top level, helped you along that road to being a full-time musician — or do you think you were already headed that way?

A. I always wanted to be a touring performer, but had the understanding that in order to win the All-Ireland titles, I had to conform to the style of playing that was expected, like that of Joe Burke and Paddy O'Brien. If I played my natural style in the competitions, I wouldn't have stood a chance.

Q. Was your stint with Frankie Gavin and De Dannan your first "serious" band, or had you been in other ensembles before that?

A. I had played in numerous other bands but none as established as De Dannan. Musically, it was a great experience as I had been a huge fan of De Dannan before joining the band, which led me to raise my game when playing with someone of Frankie's caliber.



Accordion player Damien Mullane is looking forward to his return visit to Boston.

iFest Boston at the World Trade Center, Sept, 26-28

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• **Genealogy master-classes:** iFest gives Boston's large Irish American population a unique opportunity to explore their heritage through a series of exhibitions, lectures, and workshops. Genealogy expert and author John Grenham of "Who Do You Think You Are?" on the TLC network will give attendees the tools to trace their roots during genealogy master classes and talks on family histories.

• **Jameson Irish Whiskey tastings and master cooperage experience:** Jameson Irish Whiskey will have a pop-up cooperage where guests can meet Master Distillers and experience some of the finest whiskeys that the Middleton Distillery has to offer through whiskey tasting master classes and demos. Using tools that are over 100 years old, passed on from one generation of coopers to the next, Brian Nation (master distiller) will conduct master classes and tastings of all the Jameson varieties.

• **Bewley's Boston Irish Tea Party:** Bostonians have heard of the Boston Tea Party, but iFest is bringing a traditional Irish Tea Party to Boston. Bewley's Tea of Ireland will host an afternoon tea party with Boston's top pastry chef, Maura Kilpatrick of Oleana and Sofra. Bewley's has been an Irish tradition for generations. Bewley's Teas will be paired with some of Chef Kilpatrick's award-winning pastries and cakes.

• **Chef demonstration Theatre:** iFest brings together the top culinary



The internationally celebrated Irish dance group "Riverdance": will perform a special showcase of their acclaimed "Heartbeat of Home" show. The dancers will also lead master classes in Irish dance.

talent from Boston and Ireland for a weekend of chef demos, tastings, and interviews. There will be a full kitchen with seating for guests to watch and the rotating chef talent. Chefs that will be featured over the weekend include Ireland's best chefs: Darina Allen, Kevin Dundon and Cathal Armstrong along with America's finest chefs: Barbara Lynch, Lydia Shire, Jasper White and Colin Lynch.

• **Irish Sporting Heritage:** The Gaelic Athletic Association is coming to iFest and will feature top Irish athletes for meet-and-greet sessions, panel discussions, and skills and drills demos. Two major cups—the Liam McCarthy (hurling) and the Sam Maguire (football)—will be on display in a sporting exhibit. Festival-goers can get

in on the action with a hurling simulator to give participants the chance to take a swing at the ball, called a "sliotar".

• **Guinness 20/20 Bar:** Guinness is going to unveil the new "look" of the Irish bar for the 21st century at iFest with its 20/20 bar prototype. The Guinness bar of the future features culinary-focused cuisine paired with Guinness and Guinness Beer Cocktails. Guests will be the first people in the world to experience the new Guinness 20/20 bar before it is revealed anywhere else.

• **Irish Literary Salon:** iFest will celebrate Ireland's rich literary history with literary roundtable discussions and readings with up-and-coming Irish and American authors including: Donal Ryan (IMPAC Dublin

Literary Award nominee and Guardian First Book Award 2013 for *The Spinning Heart*), acclaimed fiction writer Christine Dwyer Hickey, Arts Council Literature Award winner Clair Kilroy, novelist Darragh McKeon, novelist Lily King (winner of the New England Book Award for Fiction 2014), and noted award-winning short story and creative nonfiction writer Robin Black.

• **Live Irish Music:** Guests will enjoy the sounds of today's Irish music during performances on the main iFest Festival Stage and the Commonwealth Hall Stage. Each session will feature rotating performances from the following: Paddy Moloney of the Chieftains, Damien Mullane Trio, and The Riptide Movement. A spotlight will focus on

Irish alt-pop act, Heathers, formed in 2007 around the talents of the then 17-year old Dublin-based twin sisters Louise and Ellie Macnamara whose first album "Here, Not There", featured the #1 hit "Remember When." On the heels of the record, Heathers developed an underground following both in Ireland and in the United States. Their popularity in the US continued to rise after two summer tours of house shows and support from heavyweights such as legendary DJ and producer David Guetta and film and television producer, screenwriter, director, actor and composer JJ Abrams.

• **Award-Winning Irish Costume Designer:** Joan Bergin's Emmy award-winning costumes will be on display. Joan

Bergin is one of Ireland's best-known film costume designers and her film credits have included, "My Left Foot", "In the Name of the Father" and "Dancing at Lughnasa." More recently, her work was seen on television in "David Copperfield" and "The Tudors", for which she has won three Emmys.

• **Riverdance:** The internationally celebrated Irish dance group "Riverdance" will perform a special showcase of their recent, acclaimed "Heartbeat of Home" show with special guest performer Paddy Moloney. Festival-goers will have a chance to join in the fun during special outdoor Ceilí (a social form of folk dance) and Irish dance master classes, all led by members of the Riverdance Irish Dance Troupe.

Grenham traces roots of the Irish migrations

By BILL FORRY
EDITOR

John Grenham, who writes the 'Irish Roots' column in the *Irish Times* and runs the Irish Times Irish Ancestors website, will be one of the featured speakers at this month's inaugural iFest Boston weekend. Grenham, who visited the city last month for the Celtic Connections conference in Waltham, spoke to the BIR about his work and the surging interest in genealogy.

A fellow of the Irish Genealogical Research Society and the Genealogical Society of Ireland, Grenham quite literally wrote the book on how to seek out your ancestors in Ireland. Since his first published works in the 1980s, technology and groundbreaking work by employees within the National Archives have fueled a revolution in the field.

"It is very definitely on the rise," Grenham said. "It's always been a very strong interest in the US and a hobby for people. One of the things that is happening now is that Irish people realize that they have extended relations in America. It used to be just the Yanks coming back. Now, it goes both ways."

The level of access to Irish records—and the relative ease in which one can research their roots—has been "absolutely transformed," Grenham explains.

"A lot of it comes down to one person, Catriona Crowe, who single-handedly battled her way through the bureaucracy," said Grenham, referring to the head of special projects at the National Archives of Ireland. In pushing to digitize and make available census information from 1901 and 1911, Crowe turned heads and made the

release of such data politically popular. "As a result, lots of people in Ireland had revelations about their ancestry. Her work really started a chain of events and she is continuing to work with new census and land records. She has a passionate commitment for making them available for free."

Grenham can claim credit for helping the public navigate the process as well through his books, articles, and other resources on his website, johngrenham.com. He'll speak about the latest developments in the genealogy field during several appearances at iFest.

"I'll be doing four or five talks over three days that outlines Irish migration to the US and how to start reconnecting. That will be followed then by a master talk, going through individual families so people can see how the resources



John Grenham

fit together," said Grenham. "One of the things I like to say to people is that nobody ever left Ireland to emigrate to America. They left Roscommon to their cousins' farm in Butte. Or they left their family in Cork to go to a job with a brother-in-law in Boston. It was about families and individuals going to their neighbors and cousins. It was individual stories and people making decisions. One of the joys of genealogy is that you find people disobeying the laws of history in weird and unexpected ways. It re-affirms your faith in individuality."

Lynch to play gourmet role at iFest Boston

(Continued from page 1)

to iFest in part by its dynamic leader, Rachel Kelly, whom she met two years ago here in Boston. But she also hopes that the festival's trade show component will encourage more US restaurateurs to source their food from Ireland.

"I should be able to get Irish butter here and fresh hops and seaweed. Ireland is an agricultural heaven. We get all these products from France and Italy, but why not more from Ireland. Even the water is better there."

Lynch told the *Reporter* that she has made plans to write a book that will connect Ireland and America by focusing on recipes of Irish grandmothers. She is also working on her memoir, which is slated



Chef Barbara Lynch

to be published in 2016.

At iFest, Lynch—whose culinary empire includes No. 9 Park, B&G Oysters, The Butcher Shop, Menton and Drink—will be a featured part of the cooking demonstrations. She has used her huge network to enlist other high-profile chefs to join in the fun.

U.S. Citizenship: Why Wait?

Q: My husband has a green card and has been eligible to apply for US citizenship for quite some time, but he keeps putting it off. Can you give me a list of good reasons why he should become a citizen?
A: IIIC strongly recommends that all eligible legal permanent residents apply to become naturalized US citizens. Here are some of the major reasons for doing so:

Voting: If you are making this country your permanent home and want to participate fully in the American democratic process, becoming a citizen is a necessary step. Almost without exception, only US citizens can vote. A US citizen is eligible to vote in every local, state, and federal primary and general election. (Note on unlawful voting: a non-citizen, even a lawful permanent resident, who has voted in violation of any federal, state, or local constitutional provision, statute, ordinance or regulation may be barred from obtaining US citizenship and may be considered inadmissible. If voting involves a false claim to US citizenship, it could be a deportable offense.)

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

Guaranteed US Status: Permanent residents (green card holders) are at risk of losing their status if they spend long continuous periods of time outside the US without obtaining permission from the immigration authorities beforehand. We frequently have been contacted by immigrants who inadvertently abandoned their legal permanent residence status, and who later wanted to return to live in the US. Generally, they had to go through the whole arduous processing of applying for permanent residence all over again. Also, US citizenship is for life, whereas legal permanent residence must be renewed every ten years at considerable expense.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

An agency accredited by US Department of Justice
100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110
Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655
Website: iicenter.org Email: immigration@iicenter.org

Sister Lena Deevy, LSA, and Richard E. Holbrook will be honored as IIC celebrates 25 Years

The Irish International Immigrant Center (IIIC) is now accepting reservations for its 2014 Solas Awards Celebration, to be held on Thursday, October 30th at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. The culmination of IIIC's 25th anniversary year, this year's Sola Awards gala will recognize the contributions of IIIC's Executive Director Emerita, Sister Lena Deevy, LSA, and Richard E. Holbrook, Chairman and CEO of Eastern Bank.

Led by Massachusetts State Senator Linda Dorcea Forry, who will be joining us as event emcee, the Solas Awards Celebration will bring together business and community leaders, past IIC program participants, volunteers, and other supporters of IIIC's work assisting immigrants from Ireland and around the world and promoting reconciliation in Ireland. We look forward to recognizing Sister Lena and Richard, who have done so much to make IIIC's services possible over the years and highlighting just how



Paul Pelan

much immigrants have done – and continue to do – for our communities. Sister Lena, Executive Director Emerita, has worked tirelessly to

promote the welfare of immigrants during her 24 years of leadership at the IIIC and continues her efforts today. Her work to promote solidarity, peace, and justice are global in scale, benefitting people in Ireland, Haiti, Uganda and beyond.

In his role as Chairman and CEO of Eastern Bank, Richard Holbrook oversees a company that is a leader in corporate social responsibility. With a strong commitment to giving back, Eastern Bank has been a tremendous supporter of IIIC's work for a decade and shares IIIC's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Proceeds from the 2014 Solas Awards Celebration support the IIIC's legal, wellness, and education programs for immigrants from Ireland and around the world, as well as the learning exchange programs promoting reconciliation and economic recovery in Ireland. For more information and to make a reservation, contact Mary at 617-695-1554.

Matters Of Substance Who is a “Gatekeeper?”

When we hear of high profile people or celebrities dying by suicide or addiction, we ask ourselves “If they can’t overcome their illnesses, how can I?” The reality is illnesses such as addiction and depression (just like cancer or heart disease) do not care what age you are, where you come from, or how much money you have. County Cork hurler and QPR Gatekeeper, Conor Cusack, recently shared on his blog “Depression kills but it is not here to kill us.... We have an incredible capacity as human beings to endure, adapt and grow through the challenges that life throws at us...”

However, to get to the point where we can adapt and grow from these illnesses, some of us must wade through a very dark, seemingly impenetrable place. It is hard to do this alone which is why community gatekeepers are so vital. According to the Surgeon General's National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (2001), “...a gatekeeper is someone in a position to recognize a crisis and the warning signs that someone may be contemplating

suicide. Gatekeepers include parents, siblings, friends, neighbors, teachers, ministers, doctors, nurses, office supervisors, squad leaders, foremen, police officers, advisors, caseworkers, fire fighters, and many others who are strategically positioned to recognize and refer someone at risk of suicide.” Are you on this list? ANY ONE of us can save a life.

We see our loved ones before they go to the doctor or psychiatrist. We see work colleagues struggling before our bosses notice that their work is degrading. Moreover, perhaps before anyone else notices, we are aware that our friends are either drinking more than usual or choosing not to socialize as much anymore. If we have the skills and knowledge of a QPR Gatekeeper, we can offer them a bridge to hope, toward support that is available no matter what their circumstances. It requires getting involved a little, insists we remove our own bias and judgment but if it relieves someone from the smothering effects of depression - is it not worth it? I hear from so many survivors of suicide, family, friends

and acquaintances alike; “I wish I could have seen the signs before!” The QPR Training WILL help you identify these signs. Even if you are wrong, the worst outcome is the person you tried to help knows that you care!

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” – Leo Buscaglia

No one questions that training in CPR and the Heimlich maneuver saves lives but would you be surprised to learn that QPR can save lives too? That in 90 minutes you will have acquired the skills to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and the tools to question, persuade, and refer someone to help? Suicide Prevention is EVERYONE'S business and there are many steps to prevent suicide.

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The Irish Pastoral Centre (Fr. John McCarthy) 617-265-5300

Step 2: Attend one of our QPR Suicide Preven-



Danielle Bowles

tion Community Gatekeeper trainings, where you will learn the key signs someone you care about may be considering suicide, practical skills to ask the (Q)uestion, (P)ersuade them to not harm themselves and how to (R)efere them to the help they need.

Step 3: Walk with us or donate to our upcoming “IIIC – Together For Hope” Suicide Prevention Walk on Saturday, October 4th 2014 at Pope John Paul Park Dorchester. All Funds will go to support our IIIC direct care services, right here in our community in Boston.

Call Danielle at IIIC 617-542-7654 ext.14 or email: downen@iicenter.org to register for our walk or for one of our upcoming QPR trainings. A world without suicide is possible, one-step at a time. Let us begin!



IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

IMMIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The Irish International Immigrant Center provides free legal support and representation to the Irish immigrant community. Weekly legal clinics where you can receive a free and confidential consultation with staff and volunteer attorneys are held throughout the Greater Boston area. For information, call us at (617) 542-7654.

Upcoming Clinic Schedule

Tuesday, September 2nd
IIIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street

Monday, September 8th
Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton

Tuesday, September 16th
IIIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street

Wednesday, September 24th
St. Marks Parish (Church Basement)
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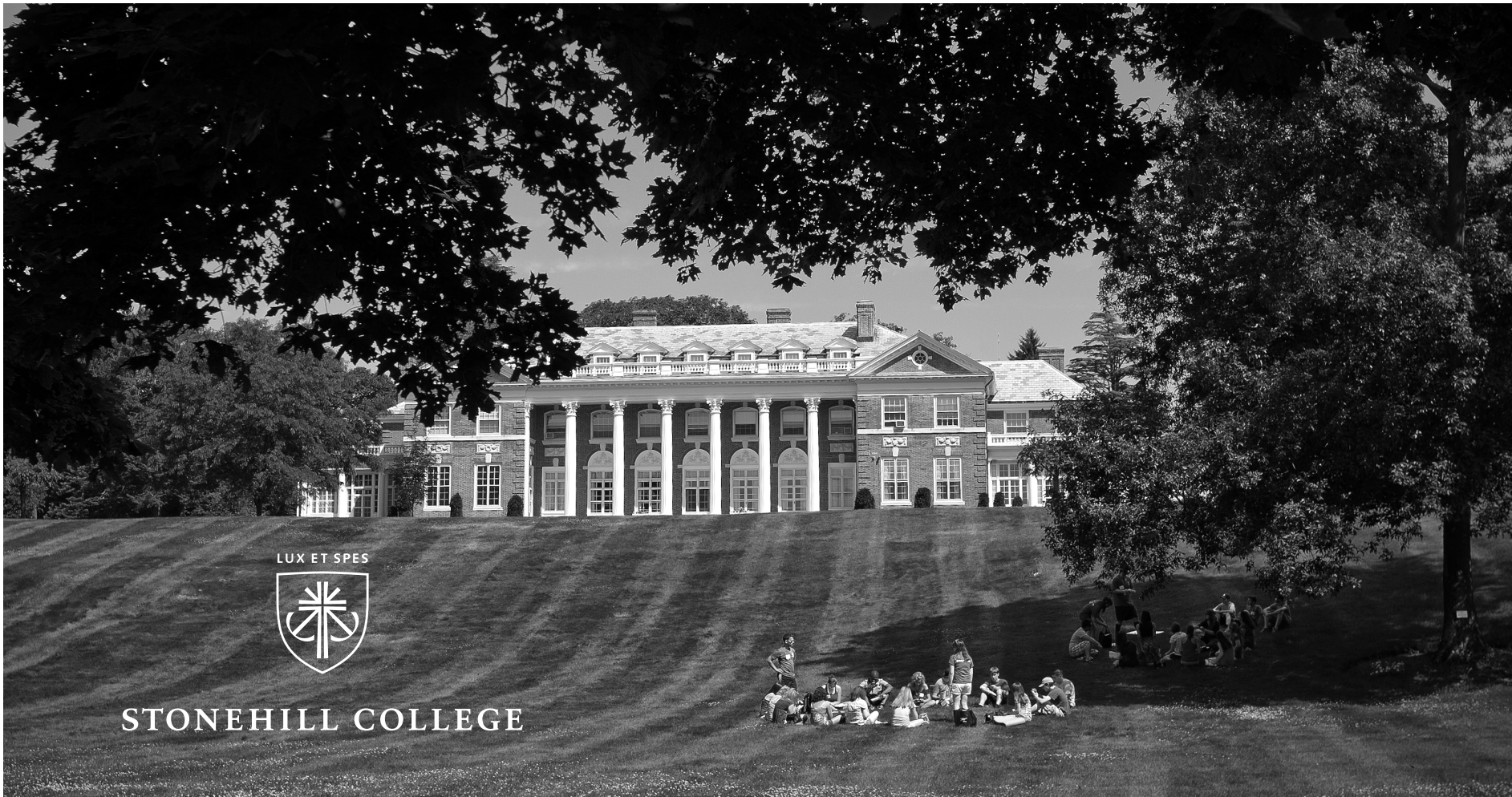
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**BOSTON IRISH ARTS,
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Backstage at 'The Lion King': Tending to the fetching jungle

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Somewhere in the depths beneath Boston's Opera House lies a home and hospital for the extraordinary puppets that come to life nightly in Disney's "The Lion King." One of the guardians of this theatrical ménage of giraffes, hyenas, and gazelles is the company's Puppet Assistant, Sue McLaughlin.

A native of Milford, NH, Sue has been working her magic with "The Lion King" for 16 years. She was initially hired as a dresser with the original Broadway company, working closely with the Scar and Zazu puppets. More recently, she has been applying her professional touch with the national touring company, which plays the Opera House from Sept. 9 to Oct. 12.

McLaughlin studied theater at Hofstra University and has a master of professional studies in art therapy from Pratt Institute. Originally pursuing an acting career, she eventually found her calling backstage, building an impressive list of credits at Lincoln Center where she was part of the wardrobe department for prestigious productions of "Carousel," "The Heiress," and "A Delicate Balance."

We spoke by phone about her work with "The Lion King" during the show's Washington, DC, run. Here's an edited look at our conversation.

Q. As Puppet Assistant, what's a typical day like for you with "The Lion King"?

A. There are three of us that travel with the show and our job is exclusively to take care of the puppets and the masks. Our day starts before noontime. We're here at ten or eleven in the morning and we

check all our principal masks – check for any damage, make sure they're clean, make sure they're working properly. We do that maintenance every day, and then all of the ensemble puppetry is checked once a week . . . There's also one of us here during the show in case anything breaks during the show and needs immediate attention . . . There's a total of about 230 puppets and masks in the show that we help to maintain.

Q. During the show, are you able to see what's happening onstage?

A. Depending on the theater we're in, I'm in the wings for a good part of the first act. So I can catch little glimpses of some of the scenes. But mostly I'm looking at the puppets and the grasses and the things that have not entered the stage yet.

Q. Maneuvering so many puppets and set pieces must mean that what happens backstage has to be as carefully choreographed as what happens onstage.

A. Yes! Sometimes we say the backstage choreography is as important as onstage. Big scenery pieces coming on and off stage. And once things are in the wings, they're immediately stored, hanging overhead. So you can be standing someplace that's cleared, but a large scenery piece or a puppet may be being lowered. We're constantly vigilant about where we're standing because people are manually lifting or lowering things with the remotes . . . It's a lot of people. Once you have the crew and the cast of 45, there's about 100 people backstage every night.

Q. Although some of the puppets are very large, they're deceptively light,



Sue McLaughlin, with three of the many puppets and masks she tends to backstage at Disney's "The Lion King," playing the Boston Opera House September 9 - October 12.
Photo by Selena Moshell

aren't they?

A. We've been in production for so long that every generation of puppets gets a little bit lighter and the materials we use get a little more high-tech. The masks are made out of a material called carbon fiber. Very similar to fiberglass material. So they're very light and very strong.

Q. You began your "Lion King" career working with Scar, one of the more menacing characters in the show. He has a very interesting headpiece.

A. Scar has an animatronics motor that runs his mouth, that allows his mouth to drop down in front of his face and allows him to sort of lunge at other characters. I really learned about that kind of intricate piece on the job. I had a very strong wardrobe background, so I already had all of the spatial skills – how to put something together. That was all under my belt.

Q. And then your responsibilities grew when you were invited to join the touring company.

A. I came to them with a strong working knowledge of Scar . . . and then they taught me about patching the carbon fiber, and the painting skills that I needed (to maintain the individual components). Everything from a pop rivet to brazing armature back together. Every day is something a little different . . . I'm just very lucky to have had mentors who had patience and were willing to teach me along the way.

Q. Did your interest in the arts begin at an early age?

A. Gosh, yeah. I remember my Mom bringing me to see shows at the American Stage Festival in Milford. I must have been maybe ten or so . . . There was a girl up onstage I had gone to summer camp with. At that point, I kind of put the pieces together – that those were real people up there. They were just like me. And I was like, gosh, if she can do that, I can do that. I had the opportunity to do some internships at American Stage Festival right after high school. Then I went to Hofstra out on Long Island and got a drama degree and have really worked professionally in the arts ever since then, with a few small hiatuses here and there.

Q. I have to ask if you have a favorite puppet in the show. Or is it like having kids – you just love them all.

A. (Laughs) I'm reluctant to say I have a favorite because I don't want to hurt the other one's feelings. It's very funny because I think of them on a very sort of human level, which of course they're not . . . Certainly the cheetah is a personal favorite because I think she's so graceful. There's something beautiful and magical about that particular puppet that just makes me smile every time I see her onstage.

R. J. Donovan is Editor and Publisher of onstageboston.com.

...

Disney's "The Lion King," September 9 - October 12, at the Boston Opera House, 539 Washington Street, Boston. Tickets: 866-870-2717 or LionKing.com.

Gaelic Roots schedule set

Performances by Robbie O'Connell and Aoife Clancy, Cape Breton fiddler Kimberley Fraser, and husband-wife fiddle-piano duo Don and Cindy Roy highlight the fall schedule for Boston College's popular Gaelic Roots Music, Song, Dance, Workshop and Lecture Series.

Gaelic Roots, which brings to BC some of the most acclaimed performers of music in the Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton and other Gaelic traditions, will present two events this semester in the Cadigan Alumni Center on BC's Brighton Campus, as part of a new partnership between the University's Center for Irish Programs and University Libraries with the Alumni Association. Two others will take place at the Theology and Ministry Library (TML) on Brighton Campus and in BC's Gasson Hall tower, Room 100.

The fall schedule begins on Sept. 25 in the TML auditorium (117 Lake Street) with Don and Cindy Roy. A champion fiddler, Don is well-versed in several styles, with a particular affinity for the French Canadian tradition. Cindy supplements her highly praised piano accompaniment with foot percussion, giving the Roys' music a particularly strong rhythmic component.

Gasson 100 will be the setting on Oct. 7 for a perennial Gaelic Roots favorite, an Irish dance and ceili organized by fiddler Seamus Connolly, the Sullivan Artist-in-Residence in Irish Programs at

BC, and Kieran Jordan, a renowned Irish dance performer-choreographer-teacher and BC Irish Studies faculty member. This participatory event features Irish social dances, all of which will be taught by Jordan, and are open to experienced and novice dancers alike.

Action will shift to the Cadigan Alumni Center on Nov. 13 with a return performance by Kimberley Fraser, one of the most prominent contemporary fiddlers in the Cape Breton tradition, accompanied by pianist Mac Morin. Fraser, a former Boston-area resident, has performed at festivals and concerts throughout the world, as well as past Gaelic Roots events; Morin – like Fraser, a dancer as well as musician – is similarly well-traveled, and has appeared with The Chieftains, Art Garfunkel and Yo-Yo Ma, among many others.

Capping the fall semester slate will be the Gaelic Roots Christmas Concert on Dec. 9, with two of New England's most beloved Irish singers, Robbie O'Connell and Aoife Clancy. In the past few decades, O'Connell has emerged as a prolific singer-songwriter whose works have been widely sung in concert halls and pubs alike. Similarly, Clancy – a former member of Cherish the Ladies – has enjoyed a fruitful solo career.

For more information, see bc.edu/gaelicroots.

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In the works: ‘Dancing at the Crossroads’ – one man’s look back at the ‘Irish Catskills’

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It’s a sad but true fact of life, says Arlington resident Kevin Ferguson: Sometimes it takes a tragic event to spur you to start that project you’ve always been meaning to do.

For generations, Ferguson’s family was a fixture in the “Irish Catskills,” an enclave of inns, hotels, and bungalows in New York’s famed vacation spot that was a summer getaway for many New York City-area Irish. His aunt and uncle, Marie and Ed Mullan, ran the Mountain Spring Farm (later Hotel) in East Durham beginning in 1947 for almost four decades, his cousin for another 18 years. Then in 2010, the main building of the hotel—which under its subsequent owners, the Handel family, had become the Blackthorne Resort—burned down.

The Handels went on to build a new facility on the Mountain Spring’s old site, but Ferguson was devastated by the loss. “It was heartbreaking,” says Ferguson. “The Mountain Spring was an icon of the Irish Catskills, of course, but for me there also was so much family and personal history wrapped up in the place: It was where my parents met; it was where I spent so many summers as a kid; it was where I proposed to my wife. And now it was gone.”

A journalist most of his adult life whose work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Forbes* and *Businessweek*, among other publications, Ferguson had long tinkered with the thought of undertaking a historical project about the Irish Catskills, but had trouble finding a starting point. Now, more motivated than ever before to realize his ambition, he had an idea.

“I realized that, to really make this story come alive, it needed to be told visually,” he says. “Of course, there was one little issue: I’d never done a film before.”

Nonetheless, Ferguson—with the help of some experienced film professionals—is finishing up “The Irish Catskills: Dancing at the Crossroads,” a full-length documentary that traces the history and legacy of this beloved chapter of Irish-American. For the past few years, Ferguson has amassed photos, home movies and other memorabilia, and conducted dozens of interviews to tell the story on a personal and anecdotal scale.

For many in the Boston area—and elsewhere—the Catskills is synonymous with traditional Irish music, thanks notably to the popular Catskills Irish Arts Week (CIAW), which for the better part of two decades has offered classes, concerts and innumerable jam sessions, drawing some of the best Irish musicians from near and far. As “Dancing at the Crossroads” makes clear, through footage taken at recent CIAWs as well as recounted via clips and reminiscences from farther back in time, music and dance is in fact a major component of Irish Catskills lore.

Among those interviewed for the film were Boston accordion legend Joe Der-rane and other prominent Irish musicians like Joe “Accordion” Burke, Billy McComiskey, Joanie Madden, Felix and Brendan Dolan, and Black 47 founder Larry Kirwan. Performances by luminaries such as Aoife Clancy, Msgr. Charlie Coen, Jerry O’Sullivan, Brian Conway, Dylan Foley and Rose Conway Flanagan, along with Felix Dolan, McComiskey, Conway and others were filmed for “Dancing at the Crossroads.”

But Ferguson wants to make it clear that his film is more than an exercise in ethnomusicology; it’s a chronicle of social and cultural changes accompanying the gradual arrival of the Irish—an often marginalized, even ostracized immigrant group—into the mainstream of American society.

“I struggled with the premise at first,” he says. “I knew music and dance would be a big part of what I was looking at, because obviously they are a big part of the Irish-American experience. But I was interested in the community, the interconnectedness, how people saw themselves back then and how that perception evolved over the years.”

“It’s a simple story, yet complex. The Irish Catskills are different than they used to be, but they’ve lasted longer than the ‘other’ Catskills. For a long while, the Irish Catskills had a very



Scenes from Kevin Ferguson’s forthcoming documentary, “Dancing at the Crossroads.” Ferguson used photos and film clips donated by veterans of the Irish Catskills, as well as contemporary footage.



specific purpose: It was a place where the Irish held onto their heritage, even as they were consciously assimilating, and where Americans went to if they wanted to be Irish.”

Whatever the intellectual/academic component to the film, however, it’s a story in which Ferguson has been a participant, and a subject matter that lies close to his heart. He can easily recall those sultry days of summer in the 1960s, piling into the family car to make the approximately two-hour trip from the New York City area up the New York State Thruway to Exit 21, finally arriving at a place “where everybody knew everybody; the neighbors you had there were usually the same ones you saw at home.” To be a young boy in those days was to be “outside constantly,” he says, where you could choose among recreational activities like softball and shuffleboard or Irish sports like hurling.

And there was no getting away from the music and dance: If the call went out for, say, “The Siege of Ennis” or “The Stack of Barley,” Ferguson recalls, “you’d get shoved into it, whether you wanted to or not. Everyone participated. I actually looked forward to it.” There were, he says, “17 different places where you’d hear live Irish music, seven nights a week, and with some of the best Irish musicians, not just from New York but all over. You would go pub-hopping down all those dark roads—it was almost impossible to drive through East Durham, because there were mobs of people.”

It was just like the sign advertising his aunt and uncle’s hotel said: the nearest thing to Ireland.

A drive down Route 145 through East Durham nowadays yields very few such sightings, says Ferguson. “You might notice a few shamrocks on the odd sign, but you’d have no idea what the place was like.”

To tell the story of the Irish Catskills, Ferguson enlisted three key people on the technical side of the project: direc-

tor of photography and editor Michael Rossi, an Emmy-winning filmmaker; cinematographer Doug Gordon, with experience in both documentary and feature film work; and consultant James

Rutenbeck, whose editing credits include more than 50 films for PBS, BBC, Channel Four (UK), Discovery Channel and Showtime.

For the actual content, Ferguson had to seek out people who could offer not only personal recollections, but also a certain perspective on the period—the 1930s until present day—he wanted to explore in the film. Fortunately, he knew Brendan Dolan, son of the legendary pianist Felix Dolan and a respected musician in his own right, from whom he had taken lessons at CIAW. Dolan had been doing research for a thesis on Irish music in the Catskills, and collected valuable details, such as names of various inn and hotel owners over the years.

“It was like detective work, trying to track people down, finding out who was still alive and where they were living,” Ferguson says. “One thing led to another—somebody would say, ‘Oh, you should talk to this person’—and we ended up filming 40 interviews.”

But Ferguson didn’t just want talking heads. He sought out photos, home movies, recordings, anything that might help recapture the look and sounds of the past decades. “The first year of the project, it was frustrating: People were happy to talk, but they said they had little in the way of keepsakes or other evidence from the era. But then, the second or third time we spoke, they’d say, ‘You know, come to think of it, we do have some photos.’”

“Social media was helpful: I’d post photos on Facebook, and people would send family albums or packets of photos.”

One of the best turns of fortune came when East Durham resident Jimmy Carmody offered Ferguson access to his home movies from the 1930s, ’40s, and ’50s. “That was a great find; all these missing pieces started coming together, and we were able to move forward.”

There were other instances of serendipity. Ferguson came across an Irish musician and singer-songwriter named Jim Meehan, a hospice worker who had written a song in honor of one of his patients, a habitué of the Irish Catskills. “He used to play music for her while she would reminisce about her days in the US dancing in the Catskills to the sounds of her brother-in-law Noel Kingston, and Joe Nellany and the Sligo Aces,” says Ferguson, who hopes to use the song in the film. “Her doctor would ask her why she looked tired in the morning and she replied that she was up all night danc-

(Continued on page 17)

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By Sean Smith

Mórğa, “For the Sake of Auld Decency” • Not only is it decent, it’s quite a lot of fun. Mórğa came onto the scene in 2008, their performances and subsequent CD drawing plaudits for their raw energy and evocations of groundbreaking 1970s Irish bands like De Dannan. After a sabbatical of a couple of years, and the departure of accordionist Barry Brady, remaining members Jonas Fromseier (bouzouki, banjo), Danny Diamond (fiddle) and Dominic Keogh (bodhran, flute) welcomed to their ranks David Munnelly, known for his colorful, propulsive box playing, in particular his innovative use of bass fingerings.

While that ’70s influence remains strong – especially evidenced by the Alec Finn-esque arpeggio/counterpoint stylings of Fromseier’s bouzouki-playing – Mórğa also turns the clock even farther back in this imaginatively orchestrated and thoroughly enjoyable 12-track CD, recalling at times the boisterous 1920s Irish dance hall era. Munnelly and Diamond provide the swing to “Fitzmaurice’s Polka” (a John J. Kimmel tune honoring famed Irish aviator James Fitzmaurice), and with Fromseier’s strummed banjo, it’s easy to imagine yourself transported to a long-ago evening with the Flanagan Brothers; in a similar vein, later on the guys do a sprightly set of schottisches, and again, capture the Irish-American authenticity with equal parts respect and affection.

But it must be emphasized that Mórğa is very much in the here and now, and on this CD they string together some outstanding sets with shrewdly placed turns of pace and mood. One such highlight is Munnelly and Diamond’s tender rendition of the old Thomas Moore classic “Believe, If All Those Endearing Charms” (covered by everyone from Dexy’s Midnight Runners to Bugs Bunny), which segues into the well-known march “Garry Owen,” as Munnelly switches to bass-driven rhythm underneath Diamond, followed by a graceful transition to the jig “Connie the Soldier,” and for good measure, the slip jig “Dever the Dancer” (the introduction by Keogh, Diamond and Fromseier definitely suggests 1970s vintage De Dannan).

As the aforementioned tracks suggest, Mórğa isn’t just a jigs-and-reels band: On this CD, you’ll also hear

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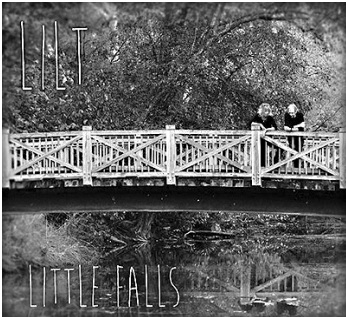
slides, a two-step, Connaught polkas, a Cape Breton fiddle reel, an old-timey tune and a couple of other less-familiar dance forms, sometimes in the same set. One track opens with a lancers, “Fred and Peter” (with Keogh holding forth on flute), goes into a fling popularized by the Flanagans – the splendidly named “Up the Hill of Down” – and climaxes with two driving reels, “The Kilmaley” and “For the Sake of Auld Decency.” You might feel as if you’ve traveled across a few thousand miles and several decades during this CD’s 55 minutes, and the trip is well worth it.

Lilt, “Little Falls” • Lilt is a Washington, DC-based duo, Tina Eck and Keith Carr, that favors the pairing of flute and bouzouki, a sound that is often moody, sometimes delicate, and – perhaps when you least expect it – will seize you by the shoulders with a quiet yet prodigious intensity.

Lilt enhances the flute-bouzouki dynamic with Eck’s whistle and Carr’s tenor banjo and mandolin, all played with equal aplomb and skill, and guest appearances by fiddler Graham DeZarn, sean-nos dancer Shannon Dunne, guitarist Conor Hearn, cellist Kristen Jones and the ubiquitous and indispensable Josh Dukes on guitar and bodhran; also, Eileen Estes joins Carr on vocals for a rendition of “Waterbound,” Dirk Powell’s dark take on the traditional North Carolina song of the same name.

The focus, however, is squarely on Eck’s commanding flute/whistle presence, and the fine backing provided by Carr, whose accompaniment alternates between a chordal and a more varied harmonic approach, and sometimes joining Eck on melody – as in the case on the jig set “Fig for a Kiss/Seahamhac Tube Station.” It all makes for a presentation that can be on the spare side one moment, and the next reward you with a more full-bodied, resonant sequence: You get all that right at the start of the CD, in their rendition of Pádraig Rynne’s jig “The Long Journey,” which powers up into a pair of reels, “The Mouse in the Meadow” and “The Maid in the Cherry Tree.”

Other standouts on “Little Falls” include a slow-paced “Eddie Kelly’s Reel,” sounding here as if plucked from the Elizabethan era – Carr’s bouzouki could pass for a harpsichord; the Holly Geraghty composition “Planxty Dermot Grogan,” Jones’ cello providing soulful depth; the “Galway Reel/Seamus Thompson’s/View Across the Valley” reel set, with Carr’s banjo in the spotlight early on, and excellent contributions from DeZarn and Dukes (the latter also was a production consultant for the album); a trio of polkas played slightly slower than



Worldwide at www.bostonirish.com

dance floor-speed (not that there’s anything wrong with that) that includes “I’ll Buy Boots for Maggie” and its quirky A part.

Soulsha (EP) • The past decade-and-a-half has seen the emergence of a “big-band sound” in folk music, in which traditional material, and instruments like fiddle, accordion, pipes and whistle are blended with a brass section and percussion, as championed by Quebec’s La Bottine Souriante, England’s Bellowhead and the Scottish-Irish-Latin band Salsa Celtica. Now there’s Soulsha, led by Boston-area musicians Neil Pearlman (keyboards, mandolin, vocals) and Elias Alexander (lead vocals, pipes, low whistle), with its emphasis on West African funk fusion and occasional flashes of New Orleans jazz.

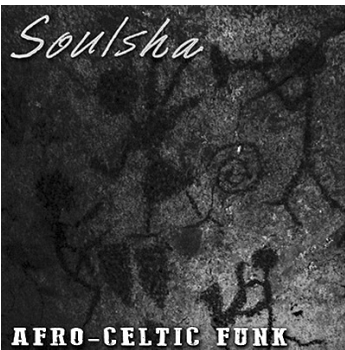
A casual listen suggests a similarity to Salsa Celtica, given some of the connections between Afro and Latin music, but Soulsha has carved out its own territory. The band tends to conscientiously harness its energy behind Alexander’s singing, even as its trumpets, saxophones and trombones pepper the melody line with quick outbursts as well as more extended phrases. More to the point, this is purely infectious stuff – certainly the crowd that formed up a mosh pit (or whatever the kids call it these days) at their BCMFest performance earlier this year thought so.

The EP’s four songs evince a diversity in and of themselves: “Banks of Marble,” composed by New York apple farmer Les Rice, popularized by Pete Seeger and given a dramatic treatment several years ago by Scottish power trio

Lau (that version providing the inspiration for Soulsha’s take); Nigerian singer-songwriter Keziah Jones’ “Million Miles”; an Alexander-Pearlman original, “Carry It On”; and the Scots-Gaelic “A’Ghrian.” Each song uses an instrumental break to fully manifest the band’s Celtic persona: On “Banks of Marble,” Alexander churns out “Gravel Walks” on pipes, for example, while in “A’Ghrian,” his low whistle duets with the fiddle of Galen Fraser on Adam Sutherland’s “Road to Errogie.”

Yet there’s nothing at all formulaic about this approach, as the interplay between fiddle, whistle and horns on “Carry It On” – and the break into Liz Knowles’ “Jig for John” – demonstrates. It’s fresh, bold and exciting, and defies you to listen without moving and grooving to the beat; you might need to advise nearby friends, co-workers or fellow commuters in advance.

To obtain a copy of the Soulsha EP, see soulshamusic.com.



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Early fall concerts slate: Lots going on

Greater Boston's early fall Irish / Celtic concert slate includes a rare duet appearance by Beoga members Niamh Dunne and Sean Og Graham and a concert by new "super group" The Alt, both at The Burren, and a performance by one of Scotland's most enduring and popular bands, the Tannahill Weavers, at a new location for the notloB Parlour Series.

The Somerville-based Burren welcomes Dunne and Graham as part of its "Backroom" series on Sept. 10. The two are an integral part of Beoga, regarded as one of the most inventive and exciting groups to emerge in 21st-century Ireland.

Dunne, in addition to being a talented fiddler with strong family roots in Irish music – her father, renowned piper Mickey Dunne, will be joining them for the show – is a dynamic vocalist who has shown herself capable of singing in a variety of styles, from traditional to country to ragtime; Graham excels at both the melody (accordion) and rhythm (guitar) ends of the spectrum, and is a highly creative composer of tunes, many of which are part of

Beoga's repertoire. Local bluegrass/Celtic fusion band Cat and the Moon will open the evening.

The Alt, which comes to the Burren Sept. 17, comprises John Doyle, one of the most influential Irish guitarists-vocalists-songwriters of our time; Nuala Kennedy, a flute and whistle player and vocalist, whose innovative interpretations of Irish and Scottish music have been

spotlighted on her three acclaimed solo albums; and Dublin-born bouzouki and guitar player Eamon O'Leary, who plays as part of The Murphy Beds and has been a mainstay of New York City's Irish scene for

some years. Worcester native David Doocey (now a Mayo resident), an All-Ireland medalist and World Fleadh fiddle champion, will be the kick-off act.

For more information on The Burren "Backroom" series, and links to purchase tickets for these events, see burren.com/Backroom-Series.html.

Club Passim in Harvard Square will welcome The Bombadils, a Canadian quartet with a repertoire from Irish, Canadian, bluegrass, and old-timey traditions, along with their own material, on Sept. 14; opening is the Maine duo of Ellie Buckland and Isa Burke, who play a combination of Americana and original roots-based music. Scottish-style Fiddler Hanneke Cassel and cellist Mike Block come to Passim for two shows on Oct. 2. Go to passim.org for information on these concerts.

On Sept. 20, Newton Community Pride will present the first event in its "Acoustic Newton" coffeehouse series, a concert featuring Boston-area trio Ceol Corvus, which plays mainly traditional Irish tunes and songs on concertina, whistle, banjo, mandolin, bouzouki, guitar and bodhran. The opening act will be Catching Sparks, the duo of Isabel Oliart (fiddle) and McKinley James (cello), performing Celtic and New England-style music. The concert takes place at 7 p.m. in the Newton Cultural Center at Newton City Hall; tickets are \$15, \$10 for students and seniors [see newtoncommunitypride.org].

The seven-year-old notloB Parlour Series, with a distinguished track record of presenting local, national and international acts in a variety of traditional, folk and acoustic music genres, moves to Brookline's Washington Square area for the 2014-15 season. On Oct. 4, notloB



Among the area's early fall music events will be a rare appearance by the Tannahill Weavers, and the Boston debut of new trio The Alt.

will present the Tannahill Weavers, stalwarts of Scottish traditional music for almost four decades, their style marked by instrumental sets full of drive, vigor and – above all – musical virtuosity, and songs with gorgeously arranged harmonies. They also are well-known for their stage presence, especially through the humor and spirit of co-founder Roy Gullane (guitar, vocals). Joining Gullane is fellow band co-founder Phil Smillie (flute, bodhran, whistles), long-time fiddler/violist/cellist John Martin and most recent arrival, bagpiper Lorne MacDougall.

Opening the show will be Boston-area trio Fresh Haggis, three young American musicians – Kathleen Parks (fiddle, vocals), Elias Alexander (pipes, whistles, vocals) and Eamon Sefton (guitar, vocals) – who are blazing their own way in Scottish and Irish music. The band has performed at BCMFest, Berklee College of Music Fusion Night, and the Lord Geoffrey Presents Series.

The concert will take place at Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis, 1581 Beacon St. in Brookline. Reservations for this and other notloB events are strong



encouraged. For more information, see sites.google.com/site/notlobmusic.

On Oct. 8, Celtic music from a sometimes overlooked setting – Spain – will be the focal point of another Lord Geoffrey Presents event, a concert by Blanca and Chuchi Alcuadrado. This violin-guitar duo brings Celtic influences to their interpretations of traditional music from Burgos, the historic capital of Spain's Castile region. The show takes place at Outpost 186, 186 Hampshire Street, in Cambridge; for reservations and information, e-mail lordgeoffreypresents@gmail.com.

– SEAN SMITH

One man's look back at the 'Irish Catskills'



Arlington resident Kev-in Ferguson.

(Continued from page 15) ing. She was in her mind," noted Ferguson; she was using a wheelchair at that point.

Ferguson recently hired Sabrina Zanella-Foresi, whose credits include editing documentaries on Penn Station and Henry Ford that appeared on PBS' "American Experience," to do final edits on "Dancing at the Crossroads." As a companion to the documentary, Ferguson plans to make available an iPad version, "100 Years of the Irish Catskills," comprising some 275 pages with more than 200 photos, as well as video and audio clips, some of them dating to the 1950s.

Although there is still a ways to go before he finishes "Dancing at the Crossroads," Ferguson – who lauds the patience of his wife and children during his years of toil

on the project – says he has already found the experience rewarding. "I'd been around the Catskills my whole life, but I never knew enough about the whole story to grasp what it meant. What I've found over these past few years has given me a whole new understanding, and appreciation, of that time and place."

The heyday of the Irish Catskills may have gone, but in one "Dancing at the Crossroads" interview clip Leitrim native Ann

Duffy Downey points to the continuing popularity of places such as the Blackthorne, Shamrock House, and Gavin's, and offers a coda that is undoubtedly shared by many: "A lot of people say, 'Oh, the Catskills is fading, the Catskills is fading.' Well, I don't think the Catskills is fading one bit."

For more information on "The Irish Catskills: Dancing at the Crossroads," see narrowbackfilms.com.

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Dot’s Anglin making mark with Irish baseball team

By SOPHIE GAYTER
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

For Nathaniel Anglin, a teacher at The Neighborhood House Charter School in Dorchester, baseball has always been more than just a sport. “I’ve been playing baseball my whole life, basically from the time I was able to swing a bat,” said Anglin, who plays first base or pitcher. “I played college ball, but after my sophomore or junior year I kind of knew at that point that major league ball wasn’t going to happen.”

Anglin didn’t make it to the major leagues, but after qualifying for an Irish passport through his grandparents, he joined the Irish National baseball team in 2005, and has represented Ireland on four occasions since at the European Baseball Championships.

“My Dad found the team. He’s very close-knit to the Irish community around here, so that’s how I found out about it,” said Anglin. “I couldn’t pick two cooler things: Baseball, my favorite sport, and the opportunity to explore my personal heritage.”

After pitching for a scout who confirmed that Anglin’s skill level was up to the required standard for the national team, the-then 19-year old Anglin met up with his teammates for the first time at a tournament in Long Beach, California, in the summer of 2005. “I’ll never forget it. I walked into a parking lot near where the team was staying and they pulled out my



Nat Anglin waits for the batter to get to the plate.

Zena Ryle of Ireland photo

jersey with my name on the back of it and I thought ‘Oh My God. I made it!’ It was a pretty special moment,” said Anglin, “From right off the bat, I was hooked.”

Founded in 1996, the Irish National baseball team now competes every other year in the European championships. “That’s probably the gift and the curse about it. You make such great connections over there; some of these guys are

like my brothers. But the games are only held every other year,” said Anglin.

This past season, the championships were held in Slovenia, and Anglin said this summer’s tournament was the best he has experienced yet. “Slovenia is a beautiful country. People were super friendly, super excited to have everyone there. We played against Norway, Romania, Hungary, and Israel. We won

the first three games, which was huge, but we ended up losing to Slovenia in the semi-final. But it was great, I had a great tournament personally, and the team did too.”

Before this year’s tournament started, Anglin spent two weeks in Ireland attempting to grow the game there at the grass-roots level, something he aspires to do before the start of every tournament. “The big

thing about Irish baseball is that obviously it’s not huge over there yet, so I’ll go over there and I’ll lead clinics with other Irish Americans to teach kids the skills that I’ve learned since I was four. So it’s a great opportunity to not only play personally for the country, but to also go over and coach and help grow the sport,” he said.

Going forward, Anglin hopes to grow the sport itself in Ireland, and grow the fan base for the national team back in Boston, and the rest of the country. “Every other year when we don’t have the European championships, we try to get the team to come to the US. We played a game in Milton in 2010,” he said, “and five or six hundred people showed up. The game here was important, and I’d love to get them back. I’d love to do something more in the Dorchester area next time, because there is a lot of Irish pride in the community around here, and it’s a big baseball town.”

Although the next European Championships are two years away, Anglin is eager to keep training and working hard to improve on this season’s performance, and determined to keep the Irish flag flying high. “Playing for the national team is hands down my favorite baseball experience,” he said, “and I’ve played a lot of ball. But playing for a flag is unlike anything else.”

Play’s on at ICC over Labor Day weekend

Boston’s Northeast Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) has been a focal point for the Irish community in the area for years. Offering locals the opportunity to play a variety of Gaelic sports, including Gaelic football and hurling, the GAA has numerous teams in the Boston area in addition to squads that come from as far as Maine, New Hampshire, and Connecticut to participate in the Boston Northeast division.

The Northeast GAA season runs from April to Labor Day weekend, with between 140 to 170 games played each year. All games are played live on the grounds of the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton and are well attended by folks looking to connect with a piece of Ireland here in Massachusetts.

“On any given Sunday,

we have games running all day from about 10:30 in the morning, where we have a huge youth program, right through the afternoon where we have our men’s and women’s matches,” said Northeast GAA Chairman John Cunningham.

In his first year as chairman of the Northeast GAA, Cunningham is aiming to bring the love and passion that local Irish people feel for Gaelic sport to other people in the area. “Our goal is to expand our viewership,” said Cunningham, “We have been working with local TV channels to get our matches on local sports networks. So far it’s only Irish people and we need to expand to the non-Irish community.”

During the upcoming Labor Day weekend, the Boston GAA will be host-

ing the North American Championships at the ICC in Canton. What started in 1998 as a small event has grown to become the most significant GAA tournament of the year this side of the Atlantic.

“I believe this year’s finals in Canton will be the biggest finals that have ever taken place in GAA history in North America,” said Cunningham, “We are expecting to have almost 5,000 people attend the games over the course of the weekend, as well as a number of dignitaries over from Ireland, including GAA President Liam O’Neill.”

Run by the North American County Board (NACB) of the Gaelic Athletic Association, the finals in Canton will see hundreds of Gaelic sport fans gather at the ICC for a weekend-long celebration of Irish

culture and sport. Starting on Fri., Aug. 29, the championships will run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. all day on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend. “At this year’s championships, we will have 111 teams who have come to the Boston area from all over the country, and from Canada to the Cayman Islands to compete in the finals,” said Cunningham.

For more information on schedules and match times, including information on the North American Championships, visit the Boston GAA website at bostongaa.com or on Twitter @GAABoston. Tickets for regular season GAA matches are \$10. For the Labor Day weekend National Championships, tickets will be \$15 on Friday and Saturday, \$20 on Sunday, and \$40 for a

weekend pass.

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– SOPHIE GAYTER

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Of NFL billionaires, ESPN overreach, and, the Sox

By Clark Booth

We have some dribs and drabs from the sporting scene for bantering while awaiting the summer's suffocating dog days to run their miserable course. And is there a sporting experience more painful, either to play or watch (at the going price), than an exhibition football game in mid-August?

All that notwithstanding, Forbes Magazine, last word on the subject, says the Patriots' franchise is worth \$2.6 billion, second only among the NFL corporate heavyweights to the Dallas Cowboys at \$3.2 billion. Somewhere in the Great Beyond, poor Billy Sullivan, long the NFL's premier pauper, is gnashing his teeth. More proof that life is unfair.

Forbes accountants post the Pats latest earnings at \$428 million against \$147 million in operating costs, yielding obviously fabulous profits. Giddy numbers like this rouse the suspicions of players who fear they've been fleeced. It also feeds the anger of banged-up old pros who believe the injury slush-fund mandated by federal courts to ease their perpetual pain is pathetically underfunded. If everyone's getting rich in the NFL, it hardly means everyone's happy.

When ESPN commandeered the annual Little League World Series, you just knew wretched excess would soon follow. But their treatment of what once upon a time was a sweet little event has exceeded the worst expectations. It's the attitude they bring to the thing, with its exaggerations of heavy analysis and attendant ballyhoo inspiring goofy behavior by both the kids and manic fans, who mainly consist of out-of-control parents and their entourages. The result is a mockery of youth sport. Thanks, guys!

You've got to hand it to the Red Sox. There's method to their madness. The baseball world is astounded that this team blithely manages with a straight face to go from near-first to worst, back to first, and then back to worst in consecutive years. But it's actually quite smart, and a trick they've seemingly mastered.

As the game is now structured there are advantages to flopping totally, only the biggest being the precious high

draft-pick you get the next season plus dispensations from losing picks when signing free agents. If this year's lame effort gets much more miserable they could end up with one of the top three-four draft-choices and that's where you land potential franchise players.

There's no in-between anymore. If you can't go all the way (and repeating has never been more difficult), you might as well win nothing. It's smart!

Some last notes on the epic commissioner pursuit. New boy Rob Manfred gets an extended honeymoon. No dark clouds on the horizon until December 2016, when the labor pact (CBA) expires. On that he need not worry greatly unless hot-headed new owners demand a salary cap, which would give us baseball's version of WW III.

And quite lastly: Manfred may prove wonderful, but a better bet for the job, I believe, was Steve Greenberg, a Yale man, superior lawyer, aide-de-camp of estimable Commissioner Fay Vincent, and son of the illustrious Hank Greenberg. Steve's many admirers in baseball rave about him, wanted him to run, and believe he'd have won in a breeze.

But he didn't want it, still more proof, in my book, of how smart he is and how good he might have been.

This bothers me. Having no clue about what makes the wild and crazy world of NASCAR tick I've no means of comprehending the fall-out from the exhaust circuit's latest mindless abomination, the fatal encounter of hotshot rookie Kevin Ward Jr. and swashbuckling old pro Tony Stewart in the middle of the Canandaigua dirt track on a dark summer night at speeds well in excess of 100 mph.

You're no doubt aware of the dirty details. Of how Stewart ran Ward into a wall (no big deal in this amiable dodge) and how an incensed Ward jumped from his disabled buggy onto the track, aiming to give Stewart a piece of his mind on his next pass. Other drivers managed to swerve around the foolish youth but Stewart, three time NASCAR Driver of the Year and certified legend of this delightful sport, was somehow unable to avoid him. Literally pulverized, Ward

died instantly.

Stewart has a well-documented history of colorful race-track rages. But no one argues he nailed Ward with malice aforethought, assuming, that is, that true "thinking" takes place in this business. Still, this tragedy featured factors indisputably reckless and Ward wasn't guilty of all of them.

Was any of it even faintly criminal? It's a legitimate question no one vaguely involved seems willing to ask. It's no surprise the local sheriff wants no part of it nor the local DA either,, likely worried about being re-elected. But governing agencies, principally NASCAR itself, should be insisting on answers, assuming this nutty sport is remotely governable. The issue is manslaughter. It has to be explored.

Recent accounts describe Stewart, who has dropped from sight, as "inconsolable" in "profound grief." Among the sport's undisputed titans, he's getting lots of sympathy. He has missed three races and the circuit is anxious for his return. AP lately quoted one official saying, "Right now it's a question of getting Tony in a better place than he is." Indeed! Meanwhile, many expect the Ward family to be weighing in with a huge civil suit.

In every other sport, the heat is on to curb excessive violence, rampant injury, and needless vulgarity. Hockey players are badgered for raising their sticks. All of football is under the gun for late or mean hits by padded players. In baseball, strenuous efforts are aimed at keeping baserunners from crashing into catchers. The beanball has been virtually outlawed.

But in the never-never land of hot wheels nobody poses a question when somebody gets run over and left dead in the dust in the wake of a spectacular tantrum before thousands of horrified onlookers. Absolutely amazing!

Returning to actual sport. And again, the Red Sox. In their passionate yearning for the dear home team, you'd think our exuberant local baseball would have learned a little lesson from the Jackie Bradley Jr. experience. It has been two

full seasons since the keyboard knights essentially nominated Bradley for the Hall of Fame before he'd played a single major league game. Now he's back in the minors after a miserable season in which his puny offensive skills cast considerable doubt about his chances of surviving, his sparkling gold-glove defensive brilliance notwithstanding.

It's nothing new. A couple of years ago media cheerleaders committed the very same folly in proclaiming Daisuke Matsuzaka's immortality before they'd seen him toss a single pitch. You well know the rest of that story.

Baseball management always over-hypes promising youth. It takes the heat off them. Buys time. Keeps the yahoos happy. It also makes hot copy, especially in a bad year. But it's not the media's job to carry management's water in this frisky business.

Enter Rusney Castillo. And here we go again. His signing has prompted glowing reviews raising high expectations mixed with sheer raves for the wisdom of management, all written by chaps who've never seen the Cuban expatriate take a single swing, let alone play a single game. As usual, they're predicating their runaway optimism on the inside world of alleged experts – nameless scouts and evaluators pleased to emote grandly as long as none of it is attributed, which means they'll be spared embarrassment should they prove wrong.

Although he was once decidedly a prospect, very, very few have seen Castillo play because he hasn't played –not in a real game – for two full years while his extrication from the clutches of the Brothers Castro and defection to MLB have proceeded slowly. In that period he has packed on 20 pounds, lots for a chap only slightly taller than Dustin Pedroia. Yet that he remains promising is fair enough to say. Is he, therefore, worth the gamble? Let's put it this way. In baseball, \$72 million doesn't buy you as much as it once did.

It's an interesting move that will be further interesting to watch evolve. But spare me the rave notices. They are just bad journalism!

Back to “Ole Cottage”

By James W. Dolan

Special to the Reporter

Our second “Ole Cottage” encampment took place in July. The same family with more gear than the average fire department and enough food and drink for three weddings. As usual “Cool Nana” – a name given to her by her grandchildren because she texts them – was in charge. Each couple is designated to prepare and serve an evening meal.

In what I view as a commentary on my skills, I am in charge of trash, or as I like to think of it: “environmental protection.” It is staggering just how much trash we can produce in a week.

The adults would gather in the living room overlooking Vineyard Sound each morning for a couple of hours of “coffee talk.” Some of us believed that was the best time of the entire week. The conversations were varied, lively and laced with outbursts of laughter.

Yes! Your kids can still be fun even when they've grown up and some are republicans. I don't know where that came from; probably just a case of post adolescent rebellion.

My only son, the last of our five children, is getting married at Mt. Washington, NH on Labor Day weekend. There is much discussion about the “destination” wedding. I prefer to stay out of it as much as I can although I hope that before too long we will see our tenth grandchild.

Most of the grandchildren – now ranging from 21 to 11 – sleep in a large third floor dormitory. This year there will be three in college, two freshmen and the oldest a senior at Notre Dame. While their memories of “Ole Cottage” will fade over time, I hope the shared experience will be embedded in their character and in some way be passed on.

Early each morning I got up and walked a mile-and-a-half down the bike trail to Woods Hole to pickup the *Boston Globe*. The Woods Hole to Falmouth bike

trail is right behind the cottage. The trek to Woods Hole is quiet and peaceful at 6:30 a.m.; the village almost deserted at that hour as it prepares itself for the daily invasion.

Like the grand dame she is, “Ole Cottage” sits on a bluff not far from Nobska Light. She has all the character and warmth that one might associate with a rich, elegant, dowager aunt that likes things the way they were when she was young. Nothing fancy; just a little outdated, cozy and comfortable.

If you were expecting Downton Abby, you'd be disappointed. It's more like This Old House before all the “improvements” overwhelmed its historic style and grace. She retains her dignity among the elaborate new structures in the neighborhood. Despite their presence; it's still her beach.

There is a lovely patio where you look out on Martha's Vineyard as the ferries mark time, like waterborne metronomes, as they shuttle back and forth across the sound. Their peaceful passing sets the rhythm of a lazy summer's afternoon. I fall asleep.

Every night we gathered around a bonfire on the beach and talk, sing, laugh or just enjoy the quiet presence of family. There are few magical moments in life but none so precious than those you share with the ones you love. As I watch the light flickers off their smiling faces, I know how fortunate I am.

“Ole Cottage” is a part of old Cape Cod; before the highways and bridges when the tempo of life on the Cape was slow and the residents few. She liked the way it was back then and disapproves of the many changes that have disrupted its muted cadence.

So farewell old girl; we plan to return in 2016 to once again capture for a week the Cape the way it used to be. Till then cast your sad eyes to the sea where time rests easy like in the old days.

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Irish peacemaker, ex-premier Reynolds dies at 81

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBLIN – Albert Reynolds, the risk-taking Irish prime minister who played a key role in delivering peace to Northern Ireland but struggled to keep his own governments intact, died on Aug. 21 after a long battle with Alzheimer’s disease. He was 81.

His eldest son, Philip, said he died around 3 a.m. at his Dublin home, where in recent years he required 24-hour care. The government ordered flags to fly at half-staff until Reynolds’ state funeral on Aug. 25.

Reynolds, a savvy businessman from rural County Roscommon who made millions running rural dance halls and a pet food company before his election to parliament in 1977, led two feud-prone coalition governments from 1992 to 1994.

During his turbulent tenure, Reynolds made peace in neighboring Northern Ireland his top priority. With British Prime Minister John Major at his side, he unveiled the Downing Street Declaration, a 1993 blueprint for peace in the predominantly British Protestant territory. To drive it forward, he successfully pressed the outlawed Irish Republican Army to call a 1994 cease-fire.

“Everyone told me: You can’t talk to the IRA. I figured it was well past time to bend some rules for the cause of peace,” Reynolds told The Associated Press in a 1994 interview, when he was being touted as a Nobel Peace Prize candidate.

Yet within months of that peacemaking triumph, a stunned Reynolds was forced to quit as leader of Ireland’s centrist Fianna Fail party after his coalition partners in the left-wing Labour Party withdrew from the government in protest over his dismissive management style.

His longtime press secretary, Sean Duignan, described Reynolds as “a born gambler – at the track, in business and politics.”

That appetite for walking a political tightrope worked wonders in Northern Ireland, where a quarter-century of conflict had left more than 3,500 dead. Reynolds built alliances with US President Bill Clinton and Irish-American leaders, who wanted to coax the IRA-linked Sinn Féin party in from the political cold. Pushing from one direction, Reynolds demanded that Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams deliver an open-ended IRA truce; from the other, he cajoled a skeptical, reluctant Major toward direct contact with Sinn Féin.

“We’ve been able to have the fiercest of rows without leaving scars. I understood Albert’s difficulties and he understood mine,” recalled Major, who described his Irish counterpart as “a lovable man.”

Some of Thursday’s warmest tributes to Reynolds came from business leaders, who conjectured that his decisive style would have been ideal to oversee Ireland’s emerging Celtic Tiger economy, rather than his Fianna Fail successor, Bertie Ahern. That decade-long boom ended in a 2008

burst property bubble, crippling bank rescues and Ireland teetering on the brink of bankruptcy.


Reynolds “wasn’t perhaps the greatest politician in the world. He managed to blow up two coalitions in a relatively short period of time,” said Michael O’Leary, chief executive of Ireland’s budget airline Ryanair.

“But if you ask Irish people now if you could have visionary, dynamic and bold leadership like Albert Reynolds, or the 10 years of dither, fudge and buying off of various stakeholders that came



Albert Reynolds after him under Bertie, I think everybody would go back and have Albert in a flash” he said.

Reynolds leaves his wife, Kathleen, and seven children.




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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

In the past several columns you have learned the names of some nations and the languages they speak. “Ireland”, for example, is **Éire** or **Éirinn**, the citizens are either **Éireanach** for one or **Éireannaí** for more than one. However, the language is **Gaeilge** /GAHL-guh/ and in proper English is always referred to as “Irish”, not “Gaelic.”

You have also learned the vocabulary associated with “speaking”: **abair** “to speak” – “I speak” **deirim**, “we speak” **deirimid**, and for all others (he she, you-all, they”) **deir** /jeer/. In the **past** tense **abair** becomes **dúirt** /joort/ and in the **future** tense **déarfaidh** /JEER-ee/ for all persons. Remember that the -f- is “silent”. You also learned **cant** “speech” or “language” and **cainteoir** “speaker” as well as the verb “to learn” **foghlaim** /FOH-luhm/.

“to learn to do something” is ...**an doigh a fhoghlaim** ... “I am learning Irish” is **Tá mé an doigh a fhoghlaim Gaeilge** /TAH mey uh doy uh OH-luhm GAHL-guh/.

“I have (skill)”. You already know how to say, “I speak Irish” or “I have Irish” is **Tá Gaeilge agam**. To ask, “Do you speak Irish?” is simply “Do you have Irish?” **A bhfuil Gaeilge agat?** To say, “Sean knows how to swim.” is simply “Is swimming at Sean” or “Sean has swimming” – **Tá snámh ag Seán**. “He knows how to swim” is **Tá snámh aige** “He has swimming.” Some verbs are “two-word verbs” just as English “turn off” or “shut down,” An example is “to dance” which is **dean damhsa**, to “do/make dancing”.

This is different from the other ideas associated with English “knowing” as, “I know a fact; I know Sean” or “I know Dublin.” Each of these can take as many forms as there are of the verb “be” – positive, negative, question, and negative-question in the present, past, and future tenses, twelve in all.

Positive	Negative	Question	Negative Question
“Is” Tá	“Is not” Níl	“Is?” An bhfuil	“Isn’t” An
“Was” Bhí	“Wasn’t” Ní raibh	“Was?” An raibh?	“Wasn’t?” Nach raibh?
“Will be” Beidh	“Will not be” Ní bheidh	“Will be?” Anmbeidh?	“Won’t be” Nachmbeidh?

Hang on to this chart if you haven’t already memorized it.

Now you are ready to see a few more examples of the Irish equivalents of English “know.”

“to know a fact”
Tá a fhios ag+Noun or Pronoun and the fact(s).
“I know that the world is flat.”
Tá a fhios agam go bhfuil an domhan árasán.
TAH ees AH-kuhm goh weyl uh DOH-wahn AHR-uh-SAHN/

“to know/be acquainted with or “to know” someone”:
Tá aithne ag+Noun/Pronoun and **o + Noun/Pronoun**
“I know Sean” **Tá aithne agam o Sheán.**
“Sean knows me.” **Tá aithne ag Seán uaim.**
“He knows me.” **Tá aithne aige uaim.**

In case you have forgotten **o** “from” and its amalgamation with the **personal pronouns**, they are **uaim** “I”, **uait** “you”, **uaidh** “he”, **uaithe** “she”, **uainn** “we”, **uaibh** “you-all”, and **uathu** “they”.
“to know/be acquainted with a place”
Tá (Subject) eolach ar (Place).
“I know Dublin”
Tá mé eolach ar Baile Atha Cliath.
/TAH mey OH-lahk ahr BAH-luh uh klee/

Now let’s practice these (and some old things) in sentences. Translate from English in to Irish: 1.) “Do you know Derry?” 2.) “My grandfather used to know Dublin.” 3.) “Excuse me. What time is it?” 4.) “Wasn’t that girl your sister?” 5.) “Yes. Do you know her?” 6.) “No. But I’d like to.” 7.) “Do you dance?” 8.) “Do you speak Spanish?” 9.) “Yes. I also speak French.” 10.) “My daughter knows how to swim.”

And, see if you can put these in to English: 11.) **Nach raibh an bean sin do mháthair?** 12.) **Bhí. Agus bhí mo dheirfiúr léi.** 13.) **Tá aithne agam uaithe.** 14.) **Bhí dean damhsa ag Liam.** 15.) **Nach raibh Sinis ag an cainteoir?** 16.) **Ní riabh. Bhí Seapánais aige.** 17.) **Chuaigh mo sheanathair agus an tseanmháthair ó Éiríann.** 18.) **Ciarrí. Agus bhí Gaeilge acu.** 19.) **Nach raibh Beurla acu?** 20.) **Beagan. Ach bhí siad an doigh a fhoghlaim anseo.**

You will have to wait a month for the answers since I am “out of space” for now!

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Traveling People

Mayor Walsh knows all about Connemara's picturesque beauty



There was a very large billboard in Carna, Co. Galway, this spring celebrating Boston's Irish Mayor Marty Walsh. The Connemara area will be thrilled to have him visit this autumn.

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Boston Mayor Martin Walsh has already taken Connemara by storm and he hasn't even touched down on Irish soil for his first "official" visit. This spring, we came across a huge billboard applauding Walsh's mayoral run at an intersection in Carna (Connemara, Co. Galway) where his father, John, was born.

Connemara is just one of many areas Walsh plans to visit when he lands in Ireland later this month and it's an area he knows well from childhood visits to his grandparents' home in Rosmuc.

Isn't Walsh a lucky man? You could scarcely find a more varied or picturesque area of this stunning country to visit than Connemara—and he has familial roots there to boot.

Connemara really has it all – bogs, mountains, seashore, a fjord, wonderful hotels, lodges and B&Bs, great fishing, golf and many other sports, delicious food, friendly people, so-called green gold (Connemara marble), colorful towns, tourist attractions, including the first transatlantic radio station, and Connemara ponies – what more could anyone want?

It's all very exciting for Boston – and for Walsh, his family and Connemara. We wish the mayor a wonderful trip and we know he'll enjoy every minute.

And, in case you missed the story, there's another Boston Walsh grabbing headlines in Ireland these days: Philadelphia's Rose, Maria Walsh, a Boston native, has been crowned as the 2014 Rose of Tralee. Maria moved to the south Mayo village of Shrule in 1994.

Her father, Vincent, is from Carravilla, Roundfort, Co. Mayo, but lived in Boston for a number of years. Her mother was born in Boston but moved to Leitir Mor in Connemara when she was seven and returned to Boston in her early twenties.

PATRICK PEARSE

Students of Irish history will no doubt be well acquainted with the

writer and poet Patrick Pearse, one of the patriots who led the 1916 Easter Rising. Although Pearse was executed along with 15 others for his involvement, the Rising was far from his only claim to fame. He was a teacher, writer, poet, and barrister. He devoted much of his life to preserving the Irish language and started an Irish-speaking school for boys in Dublin called St. Enda's.

On his first visit to Connemara in 1903, the warmth of the people, their unique traditions and rich culture, and the beauty of the landscape captivated him. He later bought a site in Inbhear, near Rosmuc, with a view of Lough Eilíarach and distant mountains, and had a two-bedroom thatched cottage built as a summer residence and summer school for students from St. Enda's. That cottage, now a national monument, attracts thousands of visitors every year when open to the public from April to September.

Pearse's cottage and its surroundings will soon be the focal point in a major project by Udaras na Gaeltachta, a regional state agency responsible for the economic, social, and cultural development of Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) regions of the country. Plans include construction at Pearse's homestead of a Connemara Cultural Center and interpretive institution with two new buildings that will have exhibition space, education rooms, a library/archive, AV room, and café. The new center has been designed to be sensitive to the rural environment and planners hope it will draw many more visitors to this Gaeltacht area of Connemara and encourage economic activity within the community.

UNDISTURBED VIEWS

We recently met with Sonya Nic Lochlainn, Udaras senior executive for policy and planning, to talk about the project and the extensive amount of research that was undertaken before any plans were put forward. Part of that focus involved

looking ahead to commemorations planned for the centennial of the 1916 Rising.

One of many reasons the Pearse cottage site was chosen, she said, was because it is among just a few places "where there are the same undisturbed views today that he would have had 100 years ago" when the cottage was built. The simple white-washed cottage looks out on a spectacular natural panorama of pristine lakes and the rugged Twelve Bens mountains.

"Why did he come here in the first place? Was it the people, the culture, the language, the sea-scape – or all of those? We'll turn it on its head and investigate those various themes through the eyes of Patrick Pearse as a visitor. This was the cottage where he drew inspiration for his writing and where he wrote his short stories." She added that he wrote in English and Irish.

Pearse's father, James, was English but moved to Dublin as a mason and sculptor. Patrick had "a culturally rich background in the arts," Nic Lochlainn said, "and he would have traveled extensively."

On 10 acres around the cottage, she said, Udaras will develop a visitor center with other attractions such as walking trails, a woodland building, and guided tours. Extensive research was done to determine what kind of project might be sustainable and also meet expectations of residents and visitors.

The project will include gradual paths and walks through the ten acres and native flora and fauna will be preserved. "We want to tie in the nature of the landscape with his view of education and leave the site as close as possible to what it was," she said.

The new center, according to Udaras, "aims to become a hub for celebrating Gaeltacht culture and Irish as a contemporary, living language while highlighting the Connemara region's outstanding natural beauty. It will also provide expanded interpretation about Patrick Pearse."



The site around Patrick Pearse's summer home in Connemara is about to undergo extensive development and will eventually include an interpretive center, entrance building, walking trail and more. *Judy Enright photos*

Nic Lochlainn added that the Connemara Center "will have something for everyone." There will be event space, a small library area for those researching local genealogy, an exhibit section, and a small retail area and café. She anticipates that the Center will become a hub for walkers and cycle tours.

"One of the benefits we see is that it will generate new business and create jobs and social enterprises in the area and cottage industries like crèches and other child care facilities," she said. "We want to ensure that there is sufficient strength in terms of Irish language and contemporary culture, celebrate the vibrancy of the language, and tell all the stories."

The Irish government has included the Connemara Cultural Center as one of the flagship capital projects under the 1916 Commemorations' Pro-

gram. Half a million euro have been provided this year alone to advance this project, she said. Work is expected to start next spring and the Center is targeted to open in 2016.

SEPTEMBER IN IRELAND

Don't forget, if you're fortunate enough to be visiting Ireland in September, that there are still many events to enjoy all over the country even though summer is just a memory.

• Dunmanway, in Co. Cork, celebrates the life of Sam Maguire, who gave his name to the most coveted trophy in Irish sport, on Sept. 12. There's a festival and welcome home gathering that features open air dancing, a parade, and vintage exhibit. See dunmanway.ie for details.

• On Sept. 19, more than 900 venues across the country will take part in Culture Night, from 5 to 11 p.m., and

offer hundreds of free events for every age and interest including music, theatre, tours, talks, and performances. Go to culturenight.ie for more information and to find special events in the area you're visiting.

• If you're in the Galway area from Sept. 25 to Sept. 28, don't forget the 60th International Oyster and Seafood Festival at the Spanish Arch in Galway City. For details, visit galwayoysterfestival.com

• Dunshaughlin's Harvest Festival in Co. Meath will also run from Sept. 25 to the 28th and feature dancing, music, drama, food, crafts, sports and games for children. See dunfest.com for more.

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