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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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‘THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS’



Ian-Lloyd Anderson, Lloyd Cooney and Liam Heslin in the Abbey Theatre production of Sean O’Casey’s “The Plough and the Stars,” playing the American Repertory Theater from September 24 to October 9.
Ros Kavanagh photo

Wherein Sean O’Casey takes the measure of ordinary folk in times of great upheaval

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

“The Plough and the Stars” has a long history with Dublin’s legendary Abbey Theatre – Ireland’s national theater. Sean O’Casey’s absorbing play about the liberation of Ireland had its debut at the Abbey in 1926 and has been produced there more than 50 times in the years since.

In “Plough,” named for the Starry Plough banner flown by the Irish Citizen Army, the story begins in November of 1915 and then moves to the Easter Rising in April of 1916.

As tension builds, the residents of a Dublin tenement take shelter from the violence that is sweeping through the city streets. The action is focused not on the revolt raging against British imperial rule but on the impoverished characters struggling to survive in a seemingly doomed existence.

Throughout, O’Casey examines the rhetoric and dangers of patriotism, self-deception, and the bleak existence of tenement life. “Plough’s” first production was not met with open arms. The controversial play triggered full-scale rioting at its premiere.

In marking the Easter Rising centenary, a newly envisioned “Plough” was part of the Abbey’s most recent season. That acclaimed production then played the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. on its way around the States. This month it comes to the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge for a run from Sept. 24 to Oct. 9.

Olivier Award-winning director Sean Holmes has re-set the piece in contemporary Dublin. *The Washington Post* said Holmes’s decision “honors the play’s historical underpinnings while giving it a powerfully relevant modern significance.”

(Continued on page 12)

Abbey Theatre’s production begins two-week (Sept. 24 - Oct. 9) run at American Repertory Theater, Cambridge

Cork’s O’Donovan boys capture Olympics spotlight A silver in rowing, a worldwide salute for style and wit

CORK – For many across the world of Olympics-watching, Paul and Gary O’Donovan have taken home to Ireland not only a silver medal for rowing at the August Games in Rio de Janeiro but also a medal of another sort for the ebullience and Irish wit they displayed in front of tens of millions after their second-place finish.

Images of the happy brothers openly chatting to Irish television via satellite after the race about urine tests, “podium pants,” and how they plan to celebrate their achievement instantly spread around the earth.

Viewers heard them ask the interviewers, “How are tings?” and “What’s the craic? We’re in Rio, the

background might look superimposed, but it’s very real,” offered Gary before his brother Paul delved into questionable detail about his test for doping supplements.

The brothers arrived in Cork to a raucous welcome on Monday night, Aug. 29. The airport management had arranged for “an honour welcome” for

the rowers,” the *Irish Independent* reported, “and (Continued on page 16)

Gary O’Donovan and Paul O’Donovan, of Ireland, celebrate their silver in the men’s rowing lightweight double sculls during the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

AP Photo/Luca Bruno



I work in Hollywood but I keep my money
in my hometown-Kevin Chapman

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Irish fest planned for Marshfield on Sept. 10-11

September is the month for Irish Festivals in the Greater Boston area.

In addition to the Dropkick Murphys festival in New Hampshire, the BIR is looking forward to raising a pint at the

South Shore Irish Festival on Sept 10 and 11 at the Marshfield Fairgrounds, 140 Main St in Marshfield, MA.

This two-day event (Saturday 11a.m.-10 p.m. and Sunday 11a.m.-8

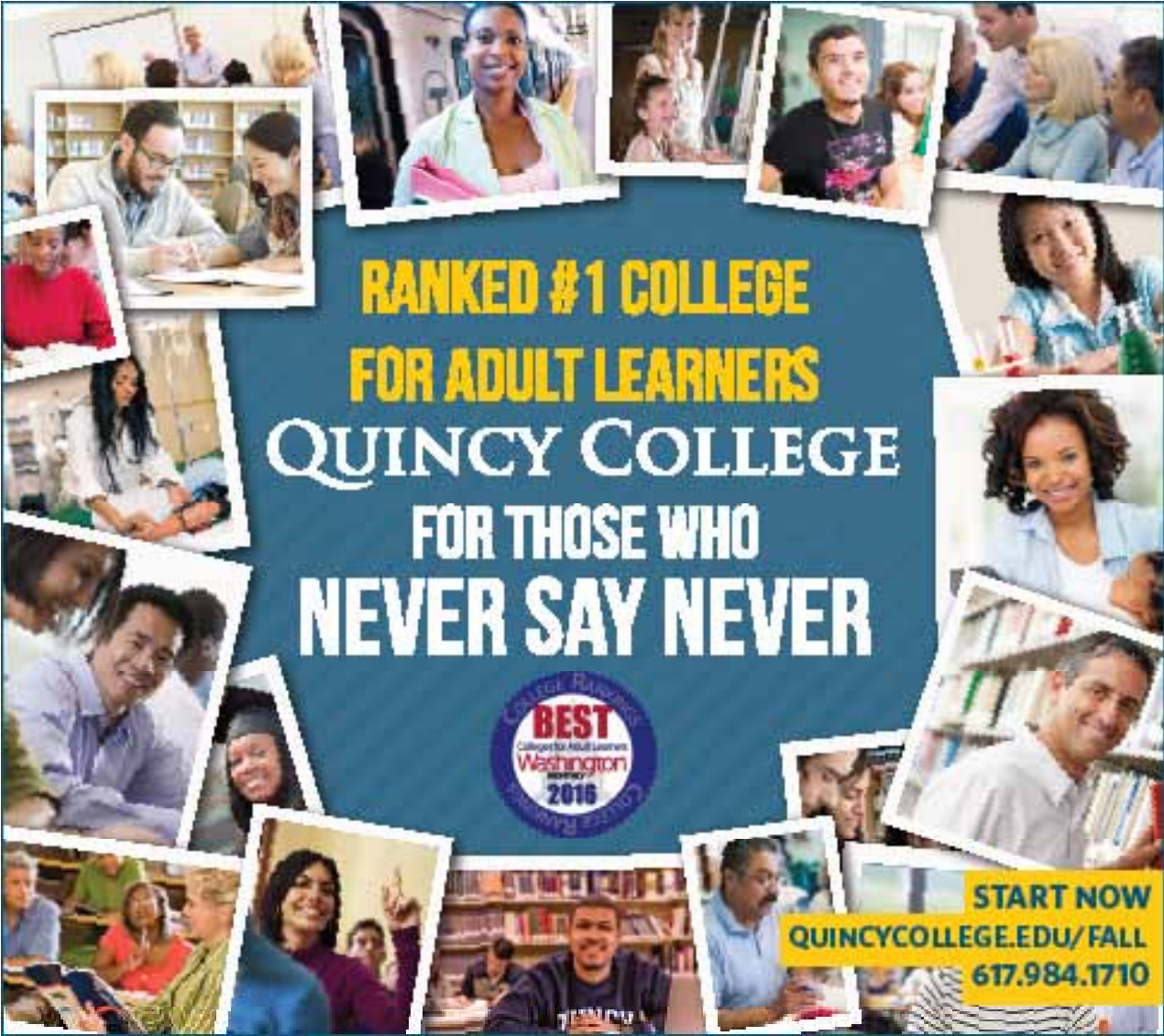
p.m.) will feature live performances from such local favorites as John McDermott, Erin's Melody, the Fenian Sons, Aoife Scott and the Fighting Jamesons.

Special events for the

weekend also include the Battle for the Claddagh Boxing match on Saturday, and the Viking Irish Show, a group that highlights the Norse raiders who settled in Ireland and made a huge impact on the

culture of the island.

Tickets are \$15 per day in advance, 2-day passes are \$25; kids under 12 are free. For more information, the full schedule of events, and to purchase passes, go to southshoreirishfestival.com.



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2016 Rose of Tralee Maggie McEldowney from Chicago.

Fuss breaks out at Rose pageant

The Rose of Tralee pageant is known for its quiet elegance as ‘Roses’ from around the world compete every year to be deemed *the* Rose of Tralee in the final assembly during late summer in Ireland.

‘Quiet’ was not the description for this year’s pageant due to the fallout from remarks made by Brianna Parkins, the Sydney Rose, who said she “would love to see a referendum” on the vexing issue of abortion in Ireland “coming up soon,” a stance that stirred critics to take to their keyboards and decry the introduction of social issues into the Rose proceedings

There was also some loud grumbling by contestants over bureaucratic maneuverings during the competition.

But the show went on for all that, and the Chicago Rose, Maggie McEldowney, took home the honors.

Massachusetts laid claim to two entrants in the festival: Grace Schiller, the Boston New England Rose, and Erin Moran, a Brockton native and now weekend weather anchor at a television station in Myrtle Beach, who was the South Carolina Rose.

IRISH FESTIVAL

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FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS

JAMES FEARNLEY OF THE POGUES
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MARK DELUCA
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

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 **Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion**

DOORS 2:30PM / MUSIC & BOXING STARTS AT 3PM

Boston Irish Honors event set for Oct. 28

A former United States Senator, the region's newest Irish American CEO, and a pioneering Boston Irish family will be the honorees at next month's Boston Irish Honors luncheon, the season's premier celebration of Irish-American achievement in Massachusetts. The luncheon, which serves as an anniversary celebration for the *Boston Irish Reporter*, will be held at the Seaport Boston Hotel on Friday, Oct. 28.

Former US Senator Paul G. Kirk, Jr., who succeeded his longtime friend and mentor Edward M. Kennedy upon his death in 2009, is an outstanding public leader in Massachusetts. An attorney, Sen. Kirk served as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee and as a trustee at Stonehill College. A great-nephew of the late Cardinal William O'Connell, Sen. Kirk is the son of Josephine Elizabeth (née O'Connell) and Judge Paul Grattan Kirk Sr., who served as an associate justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. Sen. Kirk serves on the board of directors of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate and chairman of the

board of directors for the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation.

Jim Judge will be honored by the Irish Reporter for his excellence in business and philanthropy. Last April, Judge began his duties as the president and CEO of Eversource Energy, the utility company with a market value of over \$18 billion that serves more than 3.6 million customers throughout New England. A native of Dorchester and the son of a school librarian and Boston Police officer, Judge worked his way up the ladder at Boston Edison to become one of the nation's leading chief executives in the energy industry. Along the way, Judge has inspired his peers with his devotion to helping young people in his Boston neighborhood by serving as a board member at College Bound Dorchester and leading an annual walk to benefit Children's Hospital. Judge personifies the Boston Irish ethos of doing well by always doing good for others.

The Leary family – including Irish American Partnership founder Joe Leary, philanthropist Kevin Leary and their sisters, Mary Patricia Leary

Dowling and Elizabeth Ann Leary Horrigan – will be honored by the Irish Reporter for their exemplary work in better connecting Boston and Ireland through philanthropy, education and business. The Leary siblings have devoted their personal and professional careers to celebrating the best qualities of the Irish American experience, working for peace through commerce and grassroots support for cross-cultural projects on both sides of the Atlantic. Together, their philanthropic efforts have been essential to the work of the Irish American Partnership, the Ursuline Sisters, Nativity Prep School, Boston Health Care for the Homeless and many others.

Attendance at the luncheon is expected to top 400 with top business, civic, and political leaders in place.

The Boston Irish Reporter is one of the region's few remaining family-owned and-operated publications and, in keeping with our own heritage, the newspaper tells the story of Boston Irish individuals and families for special achievements in public service and busi-



Boston Irish Honors awardees: From left, above: The Leary family – Mary Patricia Leary Dowling, Irish American Partnership founder Joe Leary, Elizabeth Ann Leary Horrigan, and Kevin Leary. At left, Paul G. Kirk; at right, James Judge.



ness, and exemplary Irish families who share our common roots in Boston and Ireland.

The 35-member luncheon committee is chaired by William Reilly Jim Brett. Serving as honorary chairs are US Sen. Edward Markey, Boston Mayor Martin

Walsh and the Consul General of Ireland, Fionnuala Quinlan. The program moderator will be Boston Red Sox "poet laureate" Dick Flavin.

"This inspiring luncheon allows us to recognize and celebrate exemplary Irish individuals and their families who

share our heritage in Boston and Ireland," explained Ed Forry, the founder and publisher of the Boston Irish Reporter. For tickets or to sponsor the event, call 617-436-1222 or email bostonirish-honors@bostonirish.com.



From left, Eamon McGrath (ICC executive director), Seamus Mulligan (ICC president), Sinéad Barry-O'Brien (daughter of photographer Bill Barry), Ian McDonald (photographer), Fionnuala Quinlin (Irish consul general), John Foley (ICC Board member).

Portland, then Boston will host photo exhibit of 100 years of Galway history

The Galway 100 to One Project, an imaginative presentation of portraits celebrating 100 years of Galway history, will end its run at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton on September 2 and set up shop first at the Irish Heritage Center in Portland, Maine, then in Boston City Hall through the end of

October.

The exhibition, culled from the book "Rising Beyond - Celebrating a Century of Galway People," was released in Dublin earlier this year as part of the 100th anniversary commemoration of the Easter Rising.

Galway photographers Ian McDonald, Bill Barry, and Enda

O'Loughlin are the brains and eyes behind the project which, through black and white photographs of its people, the everyday and the well-known, captures a sense of the progression of Galway history over the past century.

In a statement, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh welcomed the exhibition

to his city. "I want to thank everyone involved in the Galway 100 to One Project for bringing new visibility and new understanding to the people and the communities that make up our shared history. I am honored to be included, as I am continually honored to be a part of the great Galway diaspora."

Bertie Ahern to speak at Kennedy Institute forum

The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate will welcome former Prime Minister Bertie Ahern to a discussion on Irish cultural identity after the 1916 Easter rebellion next month. The forum at the Dorchester institute is set for Thursday, Oct. 6 at 6 p.m. and will be titled "100 Years of Freedom: Ireland Then and Now." The program is a collaboration

among the Irish Consulate in Boston, the Edward M. Kennedy Institute at Maynooth University, and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate.

Ahern will deliver the keynote address at the event, which will also feature former Massachusetts Senate President Therese Murray, and Professor Robert Savage of Boston College,

in a panel discussion moderated by Kevin Cullen of The Boston Globe.

Registration and doors close 15 minutes after the start of the program. Seats in the chamber are available on a first come, first served basis. If needed, an overflow room will provide guests with a live stream of the program.

Get more details and register at jfklibrary.org.



Bertie Ahern, former Irish PM

BFD's Kelly elected to serve in national firefighter union role

**BY COLIN A. YOUNG
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE**

Boston firefighter and organized labor leader Ed Kelly has won election to a leadership position in the International Association of Fire Fighters, a union that says it represents "more than 300,000 full-time professional fire fighters and paramedics in more than 3,100 affiliates" in the United States and Canada.

At the IAFF's annual convention at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on Aug. 17, Kelly was elected by acclamation as the union's general secretary-treasurer, the Boston Fire Department announced soon after the vote.

"Honored to be present for FF Ed Kelly's election by acclamation as General Secretary Treasurer of the IAFF. Congratulations!" BFD Commissioner Joe Finn tweeted.

As general secretary-treasurer, Kelly, known locally as Edzo, will serve as the union's chief financial officer and supervise "all financial activities, reporting required for federal and state authorities, human resources and gen-



Ed Kelly, new general secretary-treasurer

eral administration, and membership services," according to the IAFF.

Kelly will replace retiring general secretary-treasurer Thomas Miller, who has served the union in that position since 2010. Kelly works on Ladder 17 in Boston's South End and he has been president of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts since 2011.

Kelly had previously served as president of Local 718. Before joining the Boston Fire Department in 1997, Kelly joined the U.S. Air Force in 1994 and went to the U.S. Department of Defense fire academy.

Dropkick Murphys to host NH festival

The Dropkick Murphys will host an Irish Festival at the Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion in Guilford, NH, on Sat., Sept. 17. The event will feature two stages of music with James Fearnley of The Pogues, Blood or Whiskey from Dublin, Old Brigade and more.

Also on site during the festival will be Murphys Boxing, bringing eight

bouts of professional boxing. VIP packages include great seats to the main stage show, great seats to all the boxing matches as well as a VIP reception area available throughout to mingle with the band and their friends and family.

For ticketing information, go to banknhpavilion.com.

All of Ireland has lost a friend

Robert J. (Bob) Dunfey, Sr.'s pride and joy was the house he had built in Ballyferrier, Ireland, with the most amazing view of ocean and cliffs. His purpose was to have new generations of family reconnect with Irish relatives. His school master and archeologist cousin, Denis O'Connor, helped Bob select the perfect Irish name: Feorann: "Edge of the sea, a verdant bank on a mountainside." Over 35 years, Mr. Dunfey expanded that word's meaning to include "a bit of heaven to be shared with all!"



Robert J. Dunfey, Sr.

He generously opened his Irish home to family, countless friends—even friends of friends. He introduced US Senators George Mitchell, Ted Kennedy, Patrick Leahy, and Chris Dodd to the expansive beauty and warm hospitality of the Dingle Peninsula, believing as every Kerryman does, that there are only two kingdoms: The Kingdom of God and The Kingdom of Kerry; "One is of this world and one is out of this world!"

Mr. Dunfey of Portsmouth, NH, father of five and a highly successful man of the world of business with special ties to Ireland, died peacefully on Tues., Aug. 23, after a long and valiant struggle against Parkinson's Disease. He was 88.

The seventh child in a family of 12, he knew from the beginning that his life would be that of bridge builder, connector, supporter of worthy causes. His closest friend and partner, his brother Jack, credits Mr. Dunfey's energy and hard work as the distinct factor that grew the family business from one small outfit to fried clam stands at Hampton Beach then on to restaurants, motels, and hotels throughout New England, an evolution which led to the purchase of Boston's famous Parker House in 1968 and later became Omni Hotels International.

Mr. Dunfey's concern for Ireland's welfare was central to his extraordinarily busy life. He worked tirelessly to support initiatives in Northern Ireland and cultural preservation projects in the South of Ireland. For his extraordinary efforts over 40 years on the Isle of Ireland, he was honored with several major awards by all the parties to the Peace Process as a trusted, behind-the-scenes partner for all who were interested in moving beyond "The Troubles."

He served as an advisor for the White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland. He participated with Sen. George Mitchell, President Clinton's Special Envoy for Economic Initiatives for Northern Ireland, on the senator's first tour of Belfast, Derry, and the border towns.

Mr. Dunfey's granddaughter summed up the thoughts of his family, friend, and admirers on the occasion of his death:

"Our Papa leaves an amazing legacy as a humanitarian and activist. He touched so many lives and made such a memorable impact in this world. He will be immensely missed by his loving family and wide circle of friends."

A celebration of Mr. Dunfey's life will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 100 Chapel Street, Portsmouth, NH at 11 A.M. on Sat., Sept. 10, 2016.

— RIR Staff



Long ago days: Dunfey's clams at Hampton Beach.

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Commentary

Brexit may not happen as many are anticipating

By JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The surprise vote of the British people to leave the European Union known as "Brexit" has caused much confusion, turmoil, and regret throughout Ireland, Britain and all of Europe. The reaction to the decision by the UK both inside and outside of Europe has caused serious doubt that a full Brexit will ever happen. It certainly won't happen in the form that the people who voted for it expect it to.



Joe Leary

Many of the most outspoken advocates of Britain leaving Europe are now modifying their positions as they come to realize what exactly it will mean.

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that European Central Bank policy makers now warn that "Brexit could affect the world economy in unpredictable ways and it was too soon to discuss stimulus measures." For such experts to express concern but not know what to do about it underlines the difficulties that British and European leaders are facing.

In Northern Ireland, for instance, Stormont's First Minister, Arlene Foster, leader of the DUP and a loud voice in favor of leaving, has signed a letter with Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, no fan of Brexit, that cautions the London government against placing restrictions on free trade and open people movement with the Republic of Ireland.

Today a business in Belfast can hire a man or women from Dublin to fill one of its jobs. But the Brexit voters are opposed to "migrants" crossing the border. Northern Irish employers want continued access to both skilled and unskilled labor in the South. They also do not want to pay customs tariffs when they sell their goods to the Republic. No one seems to want a return to closed borders between the North and South. But that is the subject of negotiation.

The financial services industries in London is planning their moves if Brexit begins to encumber their ability to operate throughout Europe. Merrill Lynch is looking at several new locations to move at least part of their operations. The CFA institute – a Global association of investment professionals – conducted a survey of 2,000 of its members indicating that Dublin would be an attractive alternative to London

after Brexit.

These issues and many more will have to be discussed with EU leaders within the overall talks determining border control policies between all EU countries and Britain. Not an easy task when European negotiators are already offended by the Brexit vote and want Britain to pay a price to help discourage others from leaving the EU.

One of the most significant problems with Brexit is the time and effort that it will take to accomplish its aims. Britain must invoke Article 50 of the EU agreement, thus notifying the Europeans that it wants to leave. The new prime minister of Britain, Theresa May, says that notification invoking Article 50 will not occur until sometime next year. After that there is a two-year negotiation period, bringing implementation to 2019 at the earliest. It is estimated that some 400 British and European civil servants will be necessary to form the team to negotiate.

Lord Kerslake, Britain's former head of civil service, has been quoted in the British newspapers as saying Brexit will take at least five years "because of its staggering complexity." He said he would be amazed if it were completed before 2021. This is disastrous for businesses that must plan in the long term for their companies. Opel, the German car maker, announced that it is cutting its workers' hours this year because it expects Brexit to hurt its UK sales. Other businesses are cutting payroll and limiting investment until they see more definite plans.

European leaders Angela Merkel of Germany, President Hollande of France, and Matteo Renzi, prime minister of Italy, met last month to discuss strategy and the positions they will take before entering negotiations with British leadership. All of this is going on while the real business of running governments continues. Even the various security forces must think about how they will cooperate going forward.

The shame of Brexit is that it is unnecessary. If British political leadership had properly informed its people, millions of Euros and British pounds would have been saved and the economy would not have to suffer such damage. Britain will still have to trade with the world and invite expert employees and tourists to visit. The British people cannot afford to wall themselves off from Europe.

For all that, it is highly doubtful that Brexit will live up to its promises to them.

Off the Bench

Take care when citing matters of 'principle'

By JAMES W. DOLAN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

As a mediator, I am often surprised when people raise objections "as a matter of principle" on issues far removed from things I would consider of such overwhelming importance to invoke that noble standard. Defined as "a moral rule or belief that helps you know what is right or wrong," a "matter of principle" certainly applies in areas of virtuous and ethical behavior but rarely to less consequential issues.

When principle interferes with communication, cooperation, common sense, or compromise, it can be an impediment to progress. It can become a refuge for those who do not wish to engage or an excuse for behavior not otherwise explainable. In response to a party raising the principle issue in a matter that involved assessing the strengths and weaknesses of a particular case and the likelihood of his prevailing, I recently suggested the concept was misplaced.

There are about a half dozen issues I can think of that rise to that level, but this isn't one of them, I explained. Principle just doesn't make sense where parties are trying to settle a civil case and avoid the expense and unpredictability of a trial. There may be sound reasons for rejecting a proposed settlement, but principle is not one of them. If a dispute involves money or family discord, chances are it's not a matter of principle. To elevate its status just makes it more difficult to resolve.

Too many in Congress now cite "principle" to justify an ideological unwillingness to engage in serious negotiations. A lofty concept becomes the excuse for failing to participate in the essential give and take of governance. It's not a high road but an exit when used to frustrate the process.

One method of assessing whether or not to invoke principle to explain one's conduct is the effect of that decision. Often a choice based on principle will have an adverse effect on the person taking that stand. It appears to be contrary to his perceived interests, yet he is willing to accept the consequences, given the issues at stake. "Profiles in Courage" by John F.

Kennedy provided several examples of such righteous, high-minded behavior.

Principle should apply only in matters of consequence; there is little place for it in the routine, mundane aspects of daily life. It should be reasoned; it's not a rationale one puts forward when logic fails. It should be difficult; if not, it may not be as high-minded as you think. It should be questioned, to make sure it is not simply an excuse.

When exercised properly, principle is thoughtful, strong, and virtuous, a decision grounded on integrity. It affirms interests beyond what is comfortable or popular. A principled decision assumes character, judgment, discipline, and, often, sacrifice, all qualities Donald Trump is so obviously lacking. With some justification, leading Republican office holders have been criticized for rejecting principle and endorsing Trump. Their explanations are transparently self-serving when measured against the risks of his being president. Obviously wary of Trump, US House Speaker Paul Ryan could have refused to endorse him, but to do so would likely have resulted in his losing the speakership, even an opportunity to be president. A principled stand would have come at a steep price. Unfortunately, ambition triumphed and Ryan, albeit reluctantly, chose to protect himself.

One can live a lifetime without having to assert principle as the reason for a difficult decision. It should be a last resort. When all else fails to achieve an important objective, and only then, should one resort to principle. Before asserting it, one should acknowledge and accept the harm, personal and otherwise, that may flow from the decision. If the personal consequences are not likely to be painful, perhaps the conflict is not a matter of principle.

I'm not against principle. In fact, I'm strongly for it, but in my career as a judge and now as a lawyer, I'm afraid it sometimes is used as justification for actions that do not rise to that level of importance. Most compromises, modifications, adjustments, and settlements are examples of sound judgment applied to difficult, often complex, problems. Principle misapplied undermines progress.

There may come a time to stand on principle, but carefully pick your ground.

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



James W. Dolan

HISTORICAL MYOPIA

As a majority of Irish Americans reportedly embrace Trump, lessons hard-learned by our immigrant ancestors are evaporating

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

In politics, the word “pivot” evokes breathless excitement in the media. Now, the “Trump pivot” draws nigh, his acolytes and witting or unwitting political pundits salivating that they can pretty up the Pompadoured One and convince voters that all of his racist, sexist, religious, and ethnic bile matters not a bit, that what he says now is all that matters – even if it is 180 degrees from previous rant. “Never mind,” as arch-comedienne Gilda Radner used to say. For the true-believer Trumpite, his cant of the Wall, mass deportations, and so forth, is what counts. In short, “pivot” is merely a five-letter synonym for a four-letter word – “lies.”

Perhaps it is no coincidence that the new spinner-in-chief for the would-be commander-in-chief bears the decidedly Hibernian moniker of Kellyanne (Fitzpatrick) Conway. For months, as readers of this space can attest, this scribe has ranted and raved about the historical myopia of Irish Americans who have swallowed whole the noxious brew of Trumpism. Even though the stupendously flawed candidacy of Hillary Clinton does not sit well in this corner, a vote for Trump – a man who mocks African Americans, women, Hispanics, Muslims, and so on and so on – is out of the question. Recently he exhorted African Americans – “you people,” to quote The Donald – to abandon Hillary. “What the hell have you got to lose?” he bellowed. I’ll leave that to others to unravel, but back now to Kellyanne Conway. In the Irish American community, she is one of many who are dancing lock-step behind the Pied Piper of Trump Tower.

On Irish Central, Niall O’Dowd, Tom Deignan, and others have been charting the fact that a majority of Irish Americans



have embraced Trump. O’Dowd astutely points out: “The belief among many of the of 7,000 Irish Americans interviewed for a recent Irish Central poll is that America today is fading fast because of overly intrusive government, too many handouts, minority mollycoddling, and a fear of saying the wrong thing. The poll indicates that 45 percent of Irish Americans plan to vote for Trump, 41 percent for Clinton, and the rest are undecided.

“The break with traditional ties to the Democrats and Clinton comes from a culture in which pulling yourself up by the bootstraps has become a powerful belief,” said O’Dowd. “Most Irish Americans spoken with had experienced a remarkable uplift in their lives.”

From historical, cultural, and religious standpoints, a historical miasma has clouded the memories of many Irish

Americans. Trump blusters that he is about change and something new, but the harsh reality is that when it comes to Donald Trump and the venom he spouts, what’s old is new. Boston Irish ancestors who first departed the old sod in search of something better would recognize and recoil from The Donald. In many cases, they would likely let loose with a tirade against their Trump-supporting descendants. The immigrants of old might remind them that back in the day, a band of “real Americans” bellowed, “I want my country back!”

Our immigrant ancestors might remind us of the coffin ships that carried them from Famine-wracked Ireland, of the “Irish Need Not Apply” signs they encountered, and of worse. In their day, the 1840s and 1850s, the Nativist Party infected the local and national landscape,

a hate-filled group that not only appeared locally and nationwide, but also ruled the political roost for several years. They called themselves the “Know-Nothings.”

Our immigrant forebears knew all too well that “real Americans” loathed anything Irish, anything Catholic, any immigrant, anything they deemed “un-American.” They proclaimed the need to save the nation from going broke to pay for “Paddy and Bridget,” who were arriving in unprecedented waves. Sound familiar? All you need to do is substitute Hispanics and Muslims for Irish.

In Boston for much of the nineteenth century, anyone who was not native-born Anglo-Saxon was the outsider, the other. Our Irish ancestors would not be fooled by Trump’s Nativist cant and xenophobia. They might, however, be somewhere between baffled and enraged by descendants who have either chosen to forget or to ignore that once it was the Irish who were the target of the anti-immigrant and religious prejudice.

I believe that for Irish Americans, there’s a historical line from the Know Nothing/Nativist movement of the nineteenth century to the current candidacy of Donald Trump. That’s why today’s Boston Irish should think long and hard and remember their own families’ histories before buying into the bigotry of Donald Trump. It’s not really a matter of Republican versus Democrat. Trump derides Hillary Clinton as the past, a charter member of the political elite. His contention is not completely wrong. Still, Donald J. Trump also embodies the past—a dark, murky embrace of the Nativism that once poisoned the United States as the Irish arrived in droves.

As countless adages preach, we ignore the past at our peril. Hopefully, the Irish American vote will not follow Trump over the top and off the cliff.



Save the Date!

7th Annual Boston Irish Honors Luncheon

The Boston Irish Reporter will observe our 26th anniversary at a Celebratory Luncheon on

Friday, October 28, 2016

Plaza Ballroom, Boston Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center

2016 HONOREES

LEARY FAMILY – Joe, Patsy, Betty, Kevin

SEN. PAUL G. KIRK, JR.

JAMES J. JUDGE



With an expected attendance of some 400 top Boston business, civic and political leaders, the luncheon event will present the 2016 Boston Irish Honors. The Boston Irish Reporter is one of the

region’s few remaining family-owned and-operated publications and, in keeping with our own heritage, the newspaper tells the story of Boston Irish individuals and families for special achievements in public

service and business, and exemplary Irish families who share our common roots in Boston and Ireland.

Please contact Ed Forry at honors@bostonirish.com 617-436-1222.

Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By Bill O'Donnell

RIP to a Priest, Pastor, Patriot—Although **Bishop Edward Daly**, who died last month at 82, was best known beyond Derry's walls for the iconic image of him bravely waving a blood-stained hanky while giving cover on Bloody Sunday, he was best known in this Northern Irish town as a humble parish priest, the Minister of Faith. "Ned" or "Eddie" to intimates, he served for 20 years as the Catholic bishop of Derry.

If anyone believed that his appointment as bishop following Bloody Sunday would change their neighborhood priest, it never happened. He could still understand the frustration and anger of his Irish nationalist parishioners, and he could, and did, forge links with Protestant church leaders. He was a man of the people, a man of peace, a quiet reformer who never as bishop pulled rank. Nor did he seem to know how to "act the bishop."

At Bishop Daly's funeral Mass in St. Eugene's Cathedral, the celebrant, **Bishop Donal McKeown**, memorialized him eloquently: "Bishop Daly served, without any concern for himself, throughout the traumatic years of the Troubles, finding his ministry shaped by the experience of witnessing violence and its effects; through this dreadful period, he always strove to preach the Gospel of the peace of Christ. ... His ministry was characterized by his deep love for the people of this diocese, his dedicated visitation of parishes, and his constant availability to others. The bishops, priests and people of the diocese were blessed to have such a dedicated and faithful priest among them."

And blessed they were, for Bishop Daly's apostolic and very human presence made all the difference during those tortured years. He was truly the people's bishop!

Four NI Parties Seek To Challenge Brexit – Their future viability and their possibilities uncertain, a firm of solicitors has been engaged to represent four Northern Ireland political parties who are attempting to challenge the legality of the UK's exit from the European Union. The four parties, Alliance, Green Party, SDLP, and Sinn Féin, lodged papers on Aug. 19 in High Court in Belfast seeking to apply for a judicial review centered on activating Article 50, the rule that would allow the United Kingdom to officially leave the EU.

The review, if granted, would look at the legality of Article 50 and determine if it could be legally applied in the Brexit challenge case. The law firm challenging Brexit, Jones Cassidy Brett, said that while there are other challenges now being taken up in London, these likely "do not deal with the unique requirements of Northern Ireland," in particular, the statutory recognition of the Good Friday Agreement.

Article 50 comprises five paragraphs in the Lisbon Treaty, dictating how the members of the EU might voluntarily leave the Union. The treaty language in the article has been described as "obscure" and the wording "vague." No member country of the EU has invoked it to date.

Update on the Bobby Sands Film, '66 Days' – The Bobby Sands documentary that opened in 25 locations in the Republic and the North enjoyed the highest ever opening weekend sales for an Irish-made documentary. It is widely described as "controversial" and contains (some viewers say) graphic scenes leading to the ultimate death of the IRA volunteer in the Maze Prison. The Sands movie overtook the previous highest grossing Irish film opening, "The Queen of Ireland," in opening weekend box office receipts." Among non-Irish international documentaries that were screened in Ireland, the Sands film opening box office take is second only to Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11."

The Peacemaker
On the subject of documentary films it should be noted that **Padraig O'Malley**, subject of the widely praised doc "Peacemaker," and **James Demo**, the producer and director of the O'Malley story on film, were back in Dublin and Kells for an inaugural screening last month. The film, which was well received at Guth Gafa ("captive voice"), Ireland's only independent documentary film festival, made a return to O'Malley's home port, Dublin, across the water from his Cambridge home and his position as a distinguished fellow at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

Anniversary of 2013 Death of Seamus Heaney – A few days ago, on August 30, marked Year Three since the Nobel laureate Seamus left us, but we have his memories, his words, and that generous spirit and gracious genius he left behind. There are hundreds of stories about the celebrated warmth and kindness of the Master. A short tale:

Some years ago, while Seamus was the Boylston Professor at Harvard and I was trying to help raise some money for Boston Irish Ventures (BIV), I took a flyer and asked Seamus at a book signing if he might be able to clear his schedule to spend an evening (I think I said "an hour or two") at a BIV fundraiser in support of the Derry, Boston, Galway charity. Maybe it was the mention of Derry, Seamus's home county, that got him, and he (wow!) consented to come to former Mass. Attorney General **Bob Quinn's** home in Milton to talk about anything he wanted, or to do a reading or two, sign a few books, or whatever. Then I would get him out of there in quick fashion.

To cut to the chase, Seamus was a fundraiser's treasure. He beat no quick exit home. Instead, he



Bishop Edward Daly

was part host, part Derry son, and he stayed until the evening got late, had a glass or two along the way while he smiled and chatted and charmed a bulging roomful of fans. It was a memorable night that all of us would remember. God Bless the mark!

Orange Halls Target Of Un-Christian Attacks – There is a shameful scourge taking place today in Northern Ireland, and in some border counties. Shaming us all and registering high up on the despicable list of hate crimes, it involves renegades who think (if they ever do such a thing) that Orange Order halls are fair game for real or imagined acts of violence or other insults by members of a different "Christian church." The arson and similar malevolent destructive acts sadly constitute some ageless payback for insults or slights of the distant past.

What a desolate, mindless, vacuous, violent shout-out to differences among those who would torch the halls where other humans, sometimes their neighbors, congregate. The animus has dislodged reason and hate and contempt have replaced human values and a gross miscalculation of what life is all about.

All of which brings me to the increased reports in the Irish media that spell out in horrific reality that attacks have grown in number and intensity. The latest (and sadly growing) tally is 21 attacks in less than seven months, mostly in the North. The targets have run the gamut from Derry to Antrim, Ballymena to Magherafelt, Belfast to Banbridge. Most of the targets are Orange Halls, unattended buses, or paint attacks or graffiti on unguarded buildings associated with nationalists. Targets all. The assailants' aim is not only to destroy, but also to intimidate or assert tribal superiority.

However, there are community leaders, clergy, and others who resist that mindless route. Rev. **Peter Donnelly**, a Catholic parish priest in Ballinderry, was outraged at the arson attack on a century-old Orange Hall in Salterstown. He is one of a growing number who are speaking out against what appears to be Catholic violence against Protestant property, although there's no solid proof of that yet.

Grace Notes & Outreach For The Homeless – There is a warm-hearted, generous movement that is gaining at least a temporary toehold on bringing respect and help to the homeless in the North. In short, a move is on by a Belfast barber to treat the homeless to free haircuts. Armed with the tools of his trade, **Joshua Fuller** hits the bricks and offers the homeless and other down-and-out street people whatever style haircut they want. There is never any charge and Joshua enjoys his street travels and the change of clients.

The 21-year-old barber, originally from London, moved to Northern Ireland nine years ago. He is a qualified barber and hairdresser with a salon van who sets up his mobile shop, often near a Salvation Army post or similar venue where he spends a few hours giving his free haircuts.

"I like helping people," he says, adding that since he began cutting the hair of the homeless, his "eyes have been opened to the harsh reality of a street life. We don't get too personal with the clients, but we listen and it makes you realize how privileged you are."

The Irish media have stories of other barbers offering free haircut to street people or the homeless. Maybe it's a sign of the times; it's certainly a welcome addition to the Random Kindness ledger.

Update: Berkeley Survivors Recount A Hard Year – It was a year of painful struggle and **Aoife Beary**, 21, had a difficult time trying to keep her emotions in control as she testified recently before the California State Senate hearing on the lethal collapse of an attached balcony in Berkeley in June 2015. Five Irish students, in the US on J-1 visas, were killed in the collapse, and seven others were seriously hurt.

For Beary, who was celebrating with other students on the porch the night when it collapsed, was in the Senate chamber urging lawmakers to pass legislation stiffening construction rules and increasing safety guidelines. She detailed the consequences of the collapse that took such a horrific toll. Critically injured in the fall, Beary suffered a traumatic brain injury, broken arms, hands, pelvis, and has had open-heart surgery. "None of this needed to happen," she told the senators. "Some of my injuries will be with me for the rest of my life. I have lost a lot of my independence."

In her testimony, Aoife summed up her injuries and her future and stressed the need to improve safety on California's balconies and porches. "I cannot believe that you are even debating this bill. People died. You should make sure that balconies are scrutinized in this state to prevent this happening again. Thank you for listening to me," she said.

The civil case that the survivors and families have brought against the apartment owners with be a months-long process. Meanwhile, all those impacted by the collapse have lives to live and health to be repaired.

O'Donovan Brothers Row to Silver In Rio – The O'Donovan brothers, **Gary and Paul**, from the Skibbereen Rowing Club, went to the Rio Olympics and came home with Silver medals. From watching

a glimpse on TV of the Irish rowing duo from County Cork, it seems to me that they are good kids, smiling away as their grandmother, **Mary Doab**, says there was nothing special about her brown bread and soup. It was the weeks of training and hard work – and putting the money away for the airfare. Congratulations to the O'Donovans, Gary and Paul, on their success in Rio. And as the lads' grandmother put it. "Time to start saving for the Tokyo Olympics."

Alex Beam, Once Again 'Out To Lunch' – Let me say up front that I have often been entertained by the *Boston Globe's* **Alex Beam**. On rare reading moments, I have even been informed by Mr. Beam. But his facile denunciation of **John Kerry** in an August column headlined "Voter Indecision in a Deep-Blue Ocean" was nothing but a pathetic mish-mash of items in search of a column. This rant on Kerry is a top contender for Mr. Beam's worst column ever. And that's saying something. Now, we have all had a few good laughs at Kerry's career bumps, his photo-ops, his good fortune in marriage, but calling him a ponce after you confessed to voting for **Ralph Nader** – twice – is, even for Beam's stylish walkabout, a bit much.

John Kerry had a lengthy, productive, and honorable career in the US Senate, working quietly with at least two presidents in numerous foreign treaty meetings and negotiations. He was just enough of a ponce to pull off the Iran deal, which took that thorny situation off the table and out of our nightmares.

Kerry's lasting blunder was losing the 2004 election to the worst American president since Millard. What's His Name and not defending himself when the Swift Boat assassins went after him with a basket full of slanderous lies by fat cat market manipulators trying to pass themselves off as patriots. Why did you, Mr. Beam, in your search for truth, not demand that the swift boaters go public with their service records. Oh, I forgot. You were delving into the Nader files. Good call, Alex.

But you're not done yet. There remains the unfinished business of your desire to vote **Bill Weld** into political obscurity. Now, Alex, that's a day's work. Are you up for the heavy lifting?

Redemption. How Sweet It Is For Donegal TD – There was laughter and brickbats aplenty when Donegal Dail member **Joe McHugh** was appointed Ireland's government Minister for the Gaeltacht and the diaspora two years ago. The cause of the derision was that McHugh had one seemingly fatal flaw on his resume:

He didn't speak Gaelic, or "Irish," as the natives call it, and the job called for an Irish speaker.

There were demands for his resignation but McHugh hung in there, promising to learn and use the language. Few believed he could keep his promise. A quick jump ahead: He took to his Gaelic classes and today Minister McHugh has not only become virtually fluent but he has also vowed to continue his study of the language.

He has become so good at the Gaelic that when he was in Glencolmille representing the government, he was upgraded to the Ard Rang, the highest class. Many doubters now call McHugh an inspiration. Says he: "I didn't know it at the time but An Taoiseach gave me an enormous gift."

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Young and apparently still callow, **Ian Paisley's** son and namesake is out to scrap Radio Foyle and merge the well-respected nationalist radio station with Radio Ulster. SDLP Assembly member **Mark Durkan** termed Paisley's action "reckless and irresponsible." ... Still no resolution of the continuing clashes over the preservation of the historic 1916 Moore St. site. ... Irish President **Michael D. Higgins** addressed the Michael Collins commemoration, becoming the first sitting Irish head of state to deliver the oration. (I believe he wants and deserves a second term out in the Park). ... Looking to become Ireland's version of Starbucks, Caffè Nero is expanding with three new shops in Belfast and others are opening across the North. ... Banks in Italy, Ireland, Spain, Austria fared worst in the latest round of Euro bank stress tests. ... There's strong resistance by US phone companies against cracking down on robocalls, which is no huge surprise to consumers who know phone firms are interested only in their bottom line. ... Anyone who saw or read former CIA official **Michael Morell's** scathing opinion of the NY real estate mogul who wants to be our president and still plans to vote him isn't playing with a full deck. ... We already knew it but Galway and Dublin are Conde Nast picks as among the "friendliest" cities in the world.

This sounds about right: Ireland spends less on its military than Luxembourg. ... Some 73 percent of Irish respondents believe it's time for a United Ireland poll. ... Britain, post the Brexit vote, has cut interest rates to a record low. ... Back in Chunnel time, Irish engineers were poached to work in the UK; today, after Brexit, Ireland is reaching into Britain scooping up their talented university types. ... It's still developing but Dublin Archbishop **Diarmuid Martin**, unhappy with a "gay climate" at Maynooth seminary, is sending some students there to Rome for their studies. ... Irish passport applications are still surging, with latest numbers up 21 percent. ... **Michael Bloomberg**, politician & billionaire, has described the NY real estate mogul as "risky, reckless, and radical." ... Three top execs at Mr. Drumm's former bank, Anglo-Irish, were convicted of participating in an \$8 billion conspiracy. ... Comeback Irish Political Party of the Year: Fianna Fail, leading the pack at 29 percent, 3 points ahead of Fine Gael.

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



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Website:iiicenter.org Email: immigration@iiicenter.org

This month’s legal clinics

Tues., Sept. 6, and Tues., Sept 20 – IIIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston. (Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street).
Mon., Sept. 12 – The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton Center
Wed., Sept. 28 – St. Mark’s Parish (School Hall) 1725 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester.
For additional information about the Legal Clinics, call the IIIC at 617-542-7654.

Tax and immigration scams

Two Federal agencies, the Internal Revenue Service and the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), have issued warnings about an increase in telephone and email frauds to victimize taxpayers and immigrants. The IRS has seen an increase in “Robo-calls” where scammers leave urgent callback requests through the phone, telling taxpayers to call back to settle their “tax bill.” These fake calls generally claim to be the last warning before legal action is taken. Once the victim calls back, the scammers may threaten to arrest, deport or revoke the driver’s license of the victim if they do not agree to pay.

Immigrants all over the country are being targeted in such swindles as well. Since these bogus calls can take many forms and scammers are constantly changing their strategies, knowing the telltale signs is the best way to avoid becoming a victim. Neither the IRS nor USCIS will ever ask for credit or debit card numbers or demand payment over the phone.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS or USCIS and asking for money, do not give out any information and hang up immediately. Remember, you are the first line of defense to these scams—so be aware!

Irish passport renewal will soon be online

Irish citizens will soon

be able to renew their passports online from anywhere in the world under a new service to be introduced shortly. The Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has confirmed plans for an online application service, which forms part of a major reform program announced for the passport service late last year. It is expected that a service allowing for passport renewals could be in operation as early as the first quarter of 2017 with the rollout of a full service available for all applicant types by early 2019. Currently, no passport applications can be processed online with the majority being made by mail.

Do You Speak Irish?

The IIIC and Cumann na Gaeilge imBostonn (CnaG) are pleased to offer a new Irish language course as part of IIIC Education Services. The eight-week course will be on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., beginning on Sept. 29. The level of the class is aimed at advanced beginners who have already completed the beginners’ course. A new beginner’s class will be scheduled for next January. The course fee is \$112 for CnaG members and \$128 for non-members. Contact: Deirdre McCann at 617-542-7654, Ext. 32 or email: dmccann@iiicenter.org

Learn Basic Computer Skills at the IIIC – September 26 –

In this 10-week class, students will learn basic computer skills, including Emailing; Searching the Web; Basic Microsoft Word and Excel; Google Docs
When: Sept. 26 – Dec. 5. Mondays, 6-8 p.m.
Where: Irish International Immigrant Center, 100 Franklin Street, Lower Level, Boston. (Enter at 201 Devonshire Street). Fee: \$ 25. Contact: Bonnie Greenwood 617-542-7654, Ext. 36. bgreenwood@iiicenter.org.

Immigration Q&A

Passport situations: When time is short

Q. I recently became a US citizen but have not yet obtained a US passport. I have a family situation that will require me to travel abroad as soon as possible. What do I do?

A. Normal processing time for a US passport application is currently around six weeks, according to the State Department. There is an expedited processing option available, which is currently estimated to take three weeks. This option can be used for new passports, renewals, name changes, and the addition of extra pages.

In addition to the usual fees totaling \$135 for a new adult passport, expedited processing requires a fee of \$60 plus the costs of an overnight delivery service.

The forms, required evidence, and all other details concerning passport applications are found on the US State Department website at travel.state.gov. Click the Passports link and navigate the topics on the page to find precisely what is needed for adults, minors, and changes to existing passports.

US passport applications are submitted by mail. However, for individuals who need a passport for foreign travel taking place within two weeks or for an application for a foreign visa within four weeks, it is possible to make an appointment to handle the process in person at a local Passport Agency. The mechanics for scheduling an appointment for expedited processing under these circumstances are covered on the State Department website as well.

Foreign citizens without valid passports who urgently need to travel to the US or to leave the US and return should consult the website of their country’s department of foreign affairs or its embassy or consulate in the US. There, they will find the information they need on emergency passport issuance. For Irish citizens, the local Irish Consulate can be contacted at 617-267-9330 or consulategeneralofirelandboston.org.

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

Matters of Substance

Working to cope with the effects of mental illness



Niall Breslin

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The IIIC is sponsoring two events this month to emphasize the importance of recognizing and treating the debilitating effects of mental illness. All proceeds from these events will go to the IIIC’s Wellness Services building suicide awareness work, including free counseling for those considering suicide and for survivors, crisis case management and suicide prevention workshops.

Together for Hope Walk 2016

Suicide has become a disturbing trend in our community, and we are passionate about preventing it. With this issue close to our hearts, The Irish International Immigrant Center invites you to join us or sponsor a friend to raise awareness about suicide and how we can help those at risk.

You can join us in walking towards a world without suicide in our Walk for Hope, a 5K at Carson Beach (William J Day Blvd.) in South Boston on Sun., Sept. 25. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and the walk start time is from 10 a.m. to noon. Registration is \$30. Ask your friends to sponsor you and your impact will be even greater. Proceeds from the walk support the IIIC’s suicide prevention work, including



free counseling for those considering suicide and for survivors, crisis case management and suicide prevention workshops.

Register here: crowdrise.com/TogetherForHope2016 or day of the event day at 9 a.m.. Donations can also be accepted offline, please contact Deirdre at dmccann@iiicenter.org for details. We walk to honor loved ones and to save lives. Please plan to join us!

Bressie’s Story – In His Own Words

“It began when I was a teenager. I went through a period where I suffered from daily panic attacks—one came on pretty much every time I lay down. I suffered from insomnia and my hair started to fall out. I didn’t tell anyone what was going on. At the age of sixteen, I intentionally broke my own arm.”

This is Niall Breslin, “Bressie,” talking about his fall into generalized anxiety symptoms, depression, and self-harm, “I simply did not have the capacity to cope with an utterly dominant anxiety disorder that seemed hell-bent on robbing me of my character

and personality at every available opportunity. Crippling insomnia, harrowing panic attacks, and incomprehensible self-harm dictated my life, all disguised behind a mask of normality.”

Not understanding what was happening to him and the fear of being sent to a mental institution meant locking the door so the outside world would not see his suffering and this proved to be the most difficult thing of all. “For fifteen years of my life, it was never my depression or anxiety disorder that was impossible to cope with; it was hiding it all the time that was the hardest part.”

Bressie is a retired professional rugby and football player, a multi-platinum selling songwriter and music producer, public speaker and documentary filmmaker who comes from the midlands town of Mullingar in Co. Westmeath. He is currently a coach on The Voice of Ireland TV Show and an active and extremely passionate mental health advocate. His recent book, “Me and My Mate Jeffery” which he wrote about his jour-

ney with mental illness, became a bestseller. He is currently filming a number of documentaries regarding the subject of mental health and emotional wellness in Ireland.

His journey through the hell of mental illness is not over, but he has managed to empower himself and inspires others to do the same. He is particularly concerned about young students facing the challenges and the stress of college life. “I’d urge students to try and find a group where you can take your mask off, be who you want to be. If you are struggling with something, don’t repress that. Because it will eat you alive. It will keep coming at you, so engage with it,” says Bressie. “Talking is massively helpful. I think it is important to look at talking to a professional because they will give you the tools to not just talk, but to build.”

The Irish International Immigrant Center invites you to “An Evening with Bressie.” Come and hear an inspirational story about how he was challenged by depression and anxiety. We will follow this with a panel discussion on the issues of mental health and well being and how being an immigrant away from home, can greatly affect mental health.

Doors will open at 6.30 p.m. and the event will start at 7 sharp. All proceeds from this event will

benefit IIIC’s Wellness Services work supporting suicide awareness.

When: Thurs., Sept. 8, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Where: Somerville Theater - 55 Davis Square, Somerville. **Suggested**

donation: \$20.

For further information, contact Deirdre McCann at 617-542-7654, Ext. 32. To make a reservation go to the IIIC website – “An Evening with Bressie” at iiicenter.org.

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Davis Square
www.iiicenter.org
Suggested Donation \$20

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For more information on recruiting an Irish intern, please contact J-1 Intern Placement Service, Irish International Immigrant Center, 100 Franklin St., LL-1, Boston, MA 02110 Tel: 617-542-7654, Ext.23. iicenter.org, or via email at J1placements@iicenter.org

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Shannon Heaton to look at ‘heritage, authenticity,’ “expression” in launching ‘Irish Music Stories’ as individual narratives



Shannon Heaton: “I think it’s amazing that so many of us have come to Irish music in different ways. I’m eager to tuck into the backstory behind so many influential, innovative, important voices in the tradition.” *Andy Cambria photo*

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Irish musician Shannon Heaton knows that a good story told well can entertain, illuminate, even educate. It’s something she’s experienced as a singer of songs from Irish, English, Thai and other folk traditions, as a writer of her own songs and prose, and, in more recent years, as the parent of a young child. Now, supported by a Massachusetts Cultural Council fellowship grant, Heaton has embarked on a project that aims to tell the story of Irish music today through the individual narratives of people who are active in the tradition as performers, teachers, or simply enthusiasts who play purely for the joy of it. Heaton plans to launch “Irish Music Stories” as a podcast this January; she also envisions it as a solo stage show, incorporating pre-recorded interviews, images, and narration with her live music performance. “I’ve spent decades learning about traditional music, how to hear it, how to play it, how to lock in with other people. From Chicago to Clare to Colorado to Cambridge, I’ve found many layers of meaning along the way – a lens through which to view the world,” she explains. “I think it’s amazing that so many of us have come to Irish music in different ways. I’m eager to tuck into the backstory behind so many influential, innovative, important voices in the tradition. And to share that with a wide range of listeners, from the Irish music enthusiasts to the people who don’t already know about the global Irish music movement. “I am so honored and grateful that Massachusetts has this program – these MCC fellowships are an investment in artists,

an affirmation that the work we do has value and significance. Receiving this fellowship makes me want to sit up straight and do my part, and hopefully bring a new perspective to the art that we’re doing.” At the core of this project, Heaton says, are some basic questions: “Why do we play traditional Irish music? Why is there such an attraction to it, even for people who have no Irish roots whatsoever? I want to dig into the identity, the community, that comes with Irish music. And the best way to do this is to talk to people and see what stories emerge.” Weaving through the stories, as told by the protagonists themselves, will be passages written by Heaton that provide context and color – describing, for example, the sights and sounds of a session and its musicians. Heaton’s own Irish music story is compelling enough, rooted as it is in places like Chicago and Boston but also shaped by sojourns in Ireland and even Thailand. She has spent most all her adult life devoted to the music via flute, whistle, accordion and song, as a soloist and in a duo with her husband Matt, in collaborations such as Long Time Courting and Childsplay, and through a bevy of other projects – from After the Morning, a repertoire of songs arranged for flute and string quartet, to “Trad Kids: The Cupcake Ball,” a musical for young children. She’s also the co-founder and a co-organizer of BCMFest (Boston’s Celtic Music Fest). “Irish Music Stories” is in many respects familiar territory for Heaton, but it’s necessitated making use of her other, non-music skills and experiences, notably writing and jour-

nalism. Heaton comes by these honestly, as the daughter of parents who wrote for publications such as *The Milwaukee Journal* and *Mother Jones*, co-published ethno-journalism books, and taught at universities around the world. She remembers them giving her her first journal at age 6, when the family was in Nigeria. A few years after that, Heaton was given the task of reading their students’ term papers; for every error she found, she received a penny (she eventually got a modest raise). “I was always encouraged to write and express myself,” says Heaton, whose writing pursuits nowadays include her blog Leap Little Frog [leaplittlefrog.com]. “My mom has always been my most trusted editor, offering thoughtful, respectful advice.” Now, Heaton is having to add a new skill set: planning, recording, editing, distributing, and promoting a podcast. “It is challenging,” she says. “Each episode will be about 15

to 20 minutes long, and that seems like a lot, but you almost always have far more material than you need. So what do you use, and how do you use it? And, of course, there are a lot of podcasts out there, so how do you find an audience? How do you get people, especially those unfamiliar with Irish music, to listen?” One way to do that, Heaton says, is the stage version of “Irish Music Stories”; she also hopes to develop a comprehen-

sive resource website as a companion to the podcast, so listeners can explore further the themes and ideas on each episode. It’s certainly a challenge, Heaton acknowledges – especially when she’s already got a pretty full schedule performing and teaching, not to mention a family life that brings its own special level of commitment. But she sees “Irish Music Stories” as something worth doing. “You look at what we have here in Boston,

whether it’s all the sessions, the concerts, BCMFest – you see a community right before your eyes. So I view this project as a window onto these community pursuits: heritage, authenticity, and real expression. It’s a way to recognize and show appreciation for the people who help make this happen, whether in Boston or elsewhere.” *Learn more about Shannon Heaton at shannon-heatonmusic.com.*



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Sean O'Casey takes the measure of ordinary people in times of great upheaval

(Continued from page 1)

Fiach Mac Conghail is the Abbey's director and CEO. His role is to program, produce, and be fiscally responsible for the more than two dozen productions mounted each year on the company's two stages. He spoke at length with the BIR about "Plough" in a phone interview from Ireland.

After studying politics and science at Trinity College, Mac Conghail worked as a freelance stage manager. With a sense of public service, he believed his contribution to Irish society would come by supporting artists and writers as they worked to understand and interpret the constant changing nature of society.

"Often poets and playwrights and artists are the first to get a sense of what's happening," he said, "even though sometimes they may not know it themselves. But they can open us to our subconscious, and that's something I've tried to

work with over the last 25 years."

Q. Why does "Plough and the Stars" remain so vital on the theatrical landscape?

A. It's one of those plays that every generation should see because it is an extraordinary play about a particular people at a time in history. About revolution. About idealism. About how to portray art, to portray poverty.

Q. Tell me about the importance of O'Casey's use of language.

A. He had a great ear for the musicality of the Dublin dialect . . . What he's achieved extraordinarily well in all his plays . . . and in particular in "The Plough and the Stars" is that he's managed to achieve the musicality of the language. For people who are not used to hearing it, all they need do is attune their ear for the first five minutes and then go with the music of the play . . . They'll find it very, very rewarding.

Q. How did you choose Sean Holmes to direct this



Janet Moran and Eileen Walsh strut their stuff in Sean O'Casey's "The Plough and the Stars." Below, Fiach Mac Conghail, Director and CEO of the Abbey Theatre, Ireland's national theater.

Ros Kavanagh photos

production?

A. Sean is one of the most extraordinary and gifted directors working in England. What we wanted to do in this centenary production was to invite a director who wasn't Irish, who might give us a different perspective or a different view of this classic Irish play. In this year of centenary and history, I thought it would not only be an important gesture

but a important symbolic invitation. The fact that Sean's grandparents come from Ireland . . . he has both an Irish sensibility but is truly English in terms of his cultural context. I thought that would add to the understanding of this play.

Q. O'Casey seemed to be ahead of his time in creating female characters. They may not have traditional power in "Plough," but they're clearly the protectors, the nurturers.

A. I think Sean O'Casey is a feminist. He has portrayed the men of "Plough and the Stars" as men of vanity, men of cowardly inaction, more happy to espouse political doggerel in a bar than take action. And the strength of the women was, for O'Casey, a key glue to society. He has shown that without the women – the strength of the women – society would crumble.

Q. Whether discussing Brexit or the American presidential campaign, many feel we're still being misguided by political rhetoric and manipulation. Would O'Casey be surprised or saddened that the more things change, the more they remain the same?

A. That's a good point. I think he was saying that political leadership has a huge responsibility. And often the use of language, or the use of rhetoric, can be harmful and can lead to awful consequences. It happened in the first World War, the second World War. Leaders of today have to be mindful of what they're saying . . . if they're in any way ambiguous or open to incitement of hatred, then it can lead to awful consequences . . . I think O'Casey would be angry at the fact that there isn't a universal kind of solidarity of the people. And that leaders are not responding well to the responsibility of their *being* leaders.

Q. American audiences may not be as familiar with the Easter Rising as theatergoers in Ireland. Is that a challenge for you on tour?

A. I think the key to any production is that any play needs to succeed on many levels. It has to have a very good story, but it also needs to have a universality about it. I think American audiences realize that, happening all over the world, there are ordinary folk trying to live their lives against



major political upheaval. Whether it's in Turkey . . . in the US . . . in Syria . . . in Paris . . . This is what Sean O'Casey was interested in . . . He wanted to investigate how ordinary folk eke out their existence against the background of major historical or political change. I think American audiences will get that.

R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of on-stageboston.com.

•••

"The Plough and the Stars," Sept. 24 - Oct. 9, American Repertory Theater, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Info: 617-547-8300 or americanrepertorytheater.org.



Lloyd Cooney and Liam Heslin raise the flag in the Abbey Theatre production of Sean O'Casey's "The Plough and the Stars." Ros Kavanagh photo

Songs and stories the focus of BC's Gaelic Roots this fall

Boston College's acclaimed Gaelic Roots series – which hosts renowned performers and experts for concerts and lectures related to Irish, Scottish, and American folk music traditions – will have a songs-and-stories theme for the fall season, according to Sheila Falls, a part-time member of the Music Department faculty and interim director for the series.

"Last semester, we had an emphasis on instrumental music, so the idea was to change things up," said Falls, who became Gaelic Roots interim director after founder and longtime organizer Seamus Connolly retired at the end of 2015. "So this semester, we're going to look at how the singing and storytelling traditions are linked in Gaelic music. We are fortunate to have outstanding individuals coming to campus who will both entertain and enlighten."

On Sept. 15, Gaelic Roots will

present a combination concert and film screening with **Seán Ó Sé**, an integral part of the modern Irish folk music revival for decades. A native of West Cork, Ó Sé worked with musician, composer and arranger Seán Ó Riada and his groundbreaking Ceoltóirí Chualann ensemble, which presented Irish traditional music in a new, contemporary style and set the stage for further innovation. His career – which has spanned the concert stage, radio and recording – is the subject of the documentary "Seán Ó Sé: A Life in Song and Story," which will be screened. Produced by Wheaton College Professor of Music Matthew Allen, the film also explores Ó Sé's roots in the song and storytelling traditions.

Irish singers from different generations and backgrounds but with a shared love of song traditions will unite on Oct. 20 when Gaelic Roots hosts **Len**

Graham and Brian Ó hAirt.

Graham is one of Ireland's most respected traditional singers, and is equally known for his dedication to preserving old songs and stories, especially in and around his native County Antrim. He also has collaborated with numerous singers and storytellers, including John Campbell, with whom he gave presentations during "The Troubles" on the shared cultural traditions of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The American-born Ó hAirt has focused on the *sean-nos* (old style) traditions found in the west of Ireland, which includes many songs in Gaelic. He has performed as a soloist and as a member of the bands Cé and, more recently, Bua. Together, he and Graham affirm the commonality of the stories, songs, tunes and dance from two seemingly disparate regions as "the one tradition."

On Nov. 10, Gaelic Roots will welcome back one of its most frequent, and popular, guests, **Robbie O'Connell**. The County Waterford native has cultivated a reputation as a songwriter whose compositions, such as "Hard to Say Goodbye," "Keg of Brandy," "Islander's Lament," and "The Man from Connemara," have become part of countless other singers' repertoires, as well as audience favorites. But O'Connell also has a firm, and entertaining, grasp of the Irish song tradition.

Closing out the fall schedule on Dec. 1 will be **Niamh Parsons**, regarded as among a select group of performers who helped fashion a new, high-profile role for women in Irish music. Parsons, a Dubliner who refers to herself as a "carrier of tradition," began her professional career in 1990 and since then has recorded six studio albums and one live album. Since 1999, she has appeared regularly with guitarist Graham Dunne, and has performed for President Bill Clinton and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern.

Gaelic Roots events take place at the Theology and Ministry



Niamh Parsons will perform in the Gaelic Roots series at BC on December 1.

Library (117 Lake Street) on Brighton Campus, unless otherwise indicated, and begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public, but registration is requested; go to the Gaelic Roots website at bc.edu/gaelicroots for links to registration, as well as information and updates about the series.

Gaelic Roots is sponsored by the Center for Irish Programs in collaboration with the Alumni Association.

CD Reviews

By Sean Smith

Mick Hanly, “Homeland” • Hanly’s fascinating career stretches back to the 1970s Irish folk/trad revival, playing with the likes of Andy Irvine, Micheál O Dhomhnaill, Donal Lunny, Matt Molloy and Paddy Glackin, and succeeding Christy Moore (briefly) in the seminal Irish rock band Moving Hearts; he also released two superb albums, “A Kiss in the Morning Early” and “As I Went Over Blackwater,” that captured his understated yet powerful singing and crisp, melodic guitar. And then, in the mid-1980s, Hanly became a country-style singer-songwriter, penning “Past the Point of Rescue,” a major hit via covers by Mary Black and American country singer Hal Ketchum.



“Homeland” is Hanly’s first release since 2004’s “Wish Me Well,” and is in many respects a return to his roots: Irish mainstays like Lunny, Triona Ní Dhomhnaill, Mick McAuley, Kevin Conneff, Steve Cooney, Ray Fean, and the Voice Squad appear at various junctures, and there are echoes of Hanly’s earlier body of work.

But “Homeland” also represents a further evolution of his music, and shows him to be both a singer and songwriter of considerable depth, range and adroitness.

Hanly exemplifies the limits of music labeling, specifically as to his being categorized a “country” singer-songwriter. To be sure, the strains of Nashville are discernible in a lot of his songs, but this isn’t the cowboys-pickup trucks-and-hound dog type of country; it’s more rarefied and panoptic. Nomenclature aside, Hanly’s stuff makes for very satisfying listening, whether he’s describing the experiences of Irish expatriates and émigrés, as in the post-Celtic Tiger bitterness of “We Won’t Miss the Rain” (“We thought this was over we dared to believe/In the promising lies we were thrown/Dared to believe that we could hold our own”) and the family chronicle “Patrick’s Hill” (part of which is set in Boston); or musing on compelling social issues such as environmental perils in “Endgame?” (“Antarctica weeps, Amazonia sighs/As scientists we’re wonderful, but truth to tell/As gardeners we’re not doing too well”) or a controversy over a country club’s use of barbed wire to block public access to an adjacent beach (“Razors on the Hill”).

But Hanly has a fine self-deprecating wit as well, which he displays in two songs of farcical maritime adventures, “The Good Ship Delirious” and “Attention Sous.” Lunny’s bouzouki and Conneff’s bodhran provide some of the thrust on the former, a bouncy 6/8 number that reads like a parody of Joseph Conrad; “Attention Sous” is less fanciful but no less fun, describing life as a cook on a French fishing ship (made more interesting when you don’t speak the language) – “I look to the other basket men for clues/Then something takes my eye/They have fingers but believe me they’re in very short supply.”

Hanly’s special guests are a welcome presence throughout, but there are a few particularly memorable contributions. High up there would be O’Dhomhnaill’s harmonies on the traditional “Lord Franklin” and on Hanly’s sweet, tragic parable “The Birdcatcher” (his vocals here are reminiscent of his 1970s portfolio), which is further enriched by Keith Donald’s soulful clarinet. “Endgame?” is sparked by a burst of brass and James Delaney’s tour-de-force organ solo, while McAuley’s pulsing accordion provides a dandy groove for “Razors on the Hill.”

The title track begins and ends the album in different incarnations, first as an anthemic rouser with The Voice Squad and two choirs joining in; in comparison with the other material, it seems more simplistic and trite—something not out of place on a Celtic Thunder TV special. But the brief low-key reprise, a solo by Hanly, redeems the song with a quiet, personalized dignity that resonates in a world where too many people are far, very far, from their homelands. [mickhanly.com]

Kris Drever, “If Wishes Were Horses” • Drever has been one of the more active figures in the Scottish folk scene for the past 15 years or so – as a member of the high-octane trio Lau and a collaborator with tenor banjoist Eamon Coyne, among others – and equally at home in the traditional and contemporary vein.

It’s the latter he taps into on “If Wishes Were Horses,” having authored 10 of its 11 tracks. These songs, described as “semi-biographical,” evince a cerebral, nuanced, occasionally wry view of family, friends and lovers, as befits a 30-something perspective – well past the first blush of adulthood, and with some significant experience under the belt, but still looking forward to the acquisition of wisdom (good luck with that, kid). Drever delivers these observations and insights in a mellow, low-tenor Scots burr, over a spare, guitar-driven, indie folk-rock sound.

Drever’s songs unfailingly contain some canny, even provocative turns of phrase, such as in the confessional “I Didn’t Try Hard Enough” (“The gold we saved in the good times/turned to lead when it was rough”; “I miss the factory job I used to do/I never thought that I’d miss it more than I missed you/The repetition really pulled me through”); “When We Roll in the Morning” explores, albeit cautiously, the promise of true love after false (“When we rolled in the evening/I thought it would be as good as it would get/But now I’m with a girl who’s beautiful and wise/I’m not so inclined to forget”); “Five Past Two,” meanwhile, describes an almost comical lethargy (“I can’t seem to pick up the phone and dial/

My MU fees are still unpaid/These ballads aren’t going to learn themselves/And the bed remains unmade”).

“Going to the North” is about the relief to be found in going back home, while the title track’s trace elements of cynicism (“I wish that politicians’ ties/ Would tighten up when they told lies”) are countered by genuine wistfulness (“I wish that I could move this town/Across the sea where I live now/The city lights shine on the Clyde”). The lone non-Drever-written song, “Capernaum” – Ed Miller’s setting of Lewis Spence’s poem – is a powerful glance at troubling aspects of Edinburgh’s history, and Drever puts his instrumental ability on full display.

A new Lau album is about to hit the metaphorical streets, which is certainly a welcome event, but “If Wishes Were Horses” deserves its own place, however quiet and unassuming, in the sun. [krisdrever.com]

Mairead Carlin, “Songbook” • Life follows a certain cycle: You’re born, you reach adulthood, you become part of a major “Celtic”-themed stage production, you release a solo album. So it is with Carlin, a native of Derry, Northern Ireland, who since 2013 has performed in the Celtic Woman ensemble. Her impressive credentials also include training at London’s Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, TV appearances, a tour with Don (“American Pie”) McLean himself and a sell-out concert with the Irish National



Symphony Orchestra for RTE TV.

“Songbook” is, as the title implies, an eclectic collection of, well, songs from folk, traditional, rock and pop genres, intended to showcase her as a singer of diverse range and interests. What you get is more of the orchestrated, reverb-rich easy-listening schmaltz in the now ubiquitous commercial-Celtic template. There are hits of yesteryear, from “I Can’t Help Falling in Love with You” to “You Belong to Me” to “Scarlet Ribbons” and McLean’s “I Love You So,” and a familiar nod to Irish tradition with “Wild Mountain Thyme” and “The Parting Glass,” as well as Thomas Moore’s “Oft in the Stilly Night.”

Points, however, for her cover of Scottish singer-songwriter Karine Polwart’s “Daisy,” as well as “One More Today,” by Irish folk revival icon Paul Brady.

No question that Carlin’s got a superb voice, but one wonders what would happen if she ditched the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, cut down on her back-up crew by a few musicians, and expanded her repertoire to include off-the-beaten-track stuff from, say, a Steafán Hanvey or a Damien Rice. If you’ve fallen under the Celtic Woman spell, you’ll no doubt be quite happy with “Songbook,” but other listeners may find its pages rather well-worn. [www.celticwoman.com/mairead-carlin]



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

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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

By SEAN SMITH

Appearances by Irish singing masters Andy Irvine and Sean Tyrell, Boston-area Irish musicians Joey Abarta and Nathan Gourley, Scottish fiddlers Hanneke Cassel and Katie McNally, and international sensation Celtic Thunder highlight this month’s local Irish/Celtic music events.

• **Andy Irvine**, one of the most influential figures in the Irish folk music revival, will be among the acts at The Burren Backroom series in Somerville’s Davis Square, performing on Sept. 21. Irvine, a member of groundbreaking groups such as Sweeney’s Men, Planxty, and Mozaik, also has a long and successful solo career, not only interpreting songs from Irish tradition (not to mention American singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie) but also offering his own ably crafted material, whether bringing historical figures to life (“The Spirit of Mother Jones,” “Raoul Wallenberg”) or musing on his own extensive travels and experiences (“O’Donoghue’s,” “My Heart’s Tonight in Ireland”).

Coming to the Backroom on September 14 will be multi-instrumentalist singer-songwriter **Sean Tyrell**, a native of Galway who spent several years in the US before returning to Ireland in the late 1970s and establishing himself as part of the music scene by playing with such luminaries as Tommy Peoples, Ronan Brown, Seán Potts, Davy Spillane, Paddy Keenan, and the Kilfenora Ceili Band. In addition to writing his own songs and covering others (traditional as well as contemporary), Tyrell has taken on ambitious projects: He has adapted Brian Merriman’s lengthy 18th-century poem “Cúirt An Mheán Oíche (The Midnight Court)” into an opera that toured all over Ireland, and recorded a double album of songs and poetry, “Message of Peace,” on the life of Irish hero John Boyle O’Reilly. His most recent album, “Moonlight on Galway Bay” – a collection of traditional and classic Irish songs from “Star of the County Down” to “I’ll Take You Home Again, Kathleen” – was launched at The Burren in 2014.

Opening for Tyrell will be uilleann piper **Tim Britton** and local guitarist **Mark Simos**.

Representing a younger generation of traditional Irish musicians, **Socks in the Frying Pan** will perform at the Backroom on Sept. 7. The Clare-based trio of

Aodán Coyne (guitar, vocals), Shane Hayes (accordion, vocals) and Fiachra Hayes (fiddle, banjo, vocals) bring a verve and flair – as well as excellent musicianship and vocals – to their renditions of mainly traditional Irish tunes and songs. The band has just released its third album, “Without a Paddle.”

Uilleann piper **Joey Abarta** and fiddler **Nathan Gourley**, transplants to the Boston area who in a relatively short time have become integral to the local Irish music scene, will mark the release of their CD, “Copley Street,” in the Backroom on Sept. 28. A Los Angeles native, Abarta has toured with Mick Moloney and the Green Fields of America, and organizes meetings of the Boston Pipers Club as well as traditional music concerts and events; Gourley, who came to Boston from Minnesota, has played with Chulrua, the Doon Ceili Band, the Two Tap Trio and the Máirtín de Cógáin Project, and currently is in a duo with fiddler Laura Feddersen. Accompanying them will be guitar and bouzouki player **Owen Marshall**, a member of the Maine-based trio The Press Gang.

The Sept. 7, 14, 21 and 28 shows will begin at 7:30 p.m. A special Backroom Sunday matinee will be held on Sept. 11 at 4 p.m. featuring the **Foghorn Stringband**, illustrating the strong bonds between Appalachian music with that of Ireland. This quartet from Portland, Ore., (Caleb Klauder, vocals, mandolin, fiddle; Reeb Willms, vocals, guitar; Nadine Landry, vocals, upright bass; and Stephen ‘Sammy’ Lind, vocals, fiddle, banjo) – has been acclaimed for its authentic, homespun treatment of old-timey American music.

For tickets and other details on Burren Backroom events, see burren.com/Backroom-Series.html.

• Winding up its first decade, Irish vocal group **Celtic Thunder** will come to the Orpheum Theater on Sept. 18. Since its debut in August of 2007, Celtic Thunder – known for its elaborate theatrical presentation of traditional, original and classic-pop songs – has been named top World Artist three times by *Billboard* magazine. Celtic Thunder has toured throughout the world and released numerous CDs and DVDs, including “Legacy Vol. 1,” which came out earlier this year, and the forthcoming “Legacy Vol. 2.” [Read a Q&A with Celtic Thunder founding member Neil Byrne, published in last month’s *Boston Irish Reporter*, at <http://bit.ly/2awP4Ua>.] Ticket information is available at www.celticthunder.com/tour.html.

• Celtic events at Club Passim in Harvard Square

this month include a concert on Sept. 26 by the wife-husband duo of **Hanneke Cassel and Mike Block**. Cassel is one of the most accomplished, and influential, exponents of the American-Scottish fiddle style as a composer and teacher as well as performer; Block has played in numerous collaborations and genres, including Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble and Mark O’Connor’s Appalachia Waltz Trio.

A Cassel protégé, **Katie McNally**, will perform as part of Passim’s free noontime concert series at Kendall Center on Sept. 6. McNally has a presence all her own, playing with bagpiper Carlos Nunez as part of the Burren Backroom series and in the fiddle ensemble Childsplay, and appearing as a featured act herself across the US and elsewhere. She is preparing to release her second album, “The Boston States,” this fall.

On Sept. 21, traditional Manx music will be in the spotlight at Passim with **Barrule**, a trio from the Isle of Man. Manx music draws on many influences, including Irish, Scottish, English, Welsh, and Scandinavian, and Barrule (Tomas Callister, fiddle; Jamie Smith, accordion; Adam Rhodes, bouzouki) infuses this mix of sounds with a fresh, creative approach. They recorded their second album, “Manannan’s Cloak,” at the historic St. Brigid’s Chapel with guest appearances from Paul McKenna, Calum Stewart and Dylan Fowler, among others.

Canada’s **The Bombadils** will come to Passim on Sept. 11. Whether playing as duo or in a larger grouping, Luke Fraser (guitar, mandolin, vocals) and Sarah Frank (fiddle, banjo vocals) bring to their music a blend of Canadian, Celtic and American traditions in an easy-going, down-home style. This concert will celebrate the release of their new CD, “Grassy Roads, Wandering Feet,” which includes traditional songs like “Heave Away” and “Black Is the Colour of My True Love’s Hair” as well as a setting of Yeats’ “Song of the Wandering Aengus” and their original material. Opening for The Bombadils will be guitarist Emily Mure, a singer-songwriter with roots in classical oboe who broadened her range to include folk and traditional Irish music.

For information on Club Passim events, see passim.org.

• The Bombadils also will be in concert at the New Moon Coffeehouse in Haverhill on September 17. For details, go to newmooncoffeehouse.org.

• Former Celtic Woman charter member **Chloë Agnew** is in concert on Sept. 17 at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton. A Dublin native, Agnew was only 14 when she debuted with Celtic Woman in 2004, but her career goes back farther than that: She was all of six years old when she first sang on national television, and two years later won the Grand Prix at the First International Children’s Song Competition in Egypt, representing Ireland; she had already released two albums by the time she joined Celtic Woman. Since leaving the group in 2013, Agnew has performed as a solo artist in the US, South Africa and Europe.

The night before Agnew’s performance, Sept. 16, singer and storyteller **Helena Byrne** will present “An Evening of Irish Folklore and Music” at the Irish Cultural Centre. Byrne’s multifaceted career has included highlights such as a support act for James Taylor and Bob Geldof, appearing with Moya Brennan, and collaborations with Kila co-founders Ronan and Colm O Snodaigh. She also is founder of the Break-Away Project Performance Company, which promotes ties between Irish and American artists and encourages the development of new theater and music. Byrne recently released the CD “Scéal,” a collection of stories and reminiscences of Ireland.

See irishculture.org for ticket information and more details.

• Adventurous and eclectic, France’s **Celtic Social Club** will bring its unique multi-genre sound to the Norwood Theatre on Sept. 29 at 7:30 p.m. The band grew out of a project started four years ago by Manu Masko and Jean Pierre Riou, members of the French Celtic rock band Red Cardell. Inspired by the “Buena Vista Social Club” and “New Orleans Social Club” documentaries, the pair got the idea to collaborate with musicians from other cultures and nationalities, infusing centuries-old music with modern, global influences. The Celtic Social Club blends Celtic melodies from Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, and Asturia (Spain) with rock, reggae, funk, dub step and hip-hop – fiddle, banjo, mandolin uilleann pipes, and Breton bombardes alongside electric guitar, bass and drums, with rhythms and vocal stylings that evoke the Caribbean, Africa, America, and elsewhere.

For tickets and other information, see norwoodstage.com/shows/celtic-social-club.

Senate okays commission to set up remembrance of JFK’s 100th birthday

WASHINGTON – US Senators Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Orin Hatch (R-Utah) and John McCain (R-Ariz.) last month applauded the passage of Senate legislation to establish a commission to be known as the “John F. Kennedy Centennial Commission” that will plan, develop, and carry out activities to honor President Kennedy on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth on May 29, 1917.

The Commission will comprise 11 members, including the Secretary of the Interior and ten other individuals appointed by the president and leaders of the US Sen-

ate and US House of Representatives.

Similar legislation was enacted in 2009 to create a commission to honor the centennial of President Ronald Regan’s birth, which included international ceremonies, award presentations, entertainment and educational events and other centennial programs throughout the country.

John F. Kennedy was born in Brookline, Massachusetts and served as president from Jan. 20, 1961, to Nov. 22, 1963, in the US Senate from 1953 to 1960 and in the US House of Representatives from 1947 to 1953.

Traveling People

Fancy a pint? Ireland’s craft breweries will serve you well

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR
You spot Black Donkey, 9 White Deer, and a Black Boar. Are you at an Irish farmhouse, tourist attraction, or nature park? Not at all. You are in a pub on the West Coast of Ireland sampling some of the many varieties of craft beer available today – with more to come no doubt.

WEST MAYO
BREWERY

Iain and Caroline Price don't have much of a commute to work at their small, independent microbrewery in Islandeady, Co. Mayo. They just walk down the hill from their tidy farmhouse – complete with stunning, distant views of Croagh Patrick – to the purpose-built, long, low structure where they have brewed their natural, traditional beer since 2013.

Combining a wish to diversify their small farm with a genuine enjoyment of craft beer, they started a brewery. They worked with South West Mayo Development on the setup and have also had ongoing support from the Local Enterprise Office and Gno Maigh Eo.

Iain trained with Brewlab at the University of Sunderland and holds membership and a diploma from the Institute of Brewing and Distilling.

West Mayo Brewery launched Clew Bay Sunset, an Irish Red Ale, in July 2013, followed by Clifford's Connacht Champion (3C), a golden ale; Paddy's Pilgrim Porter (3P), a dark ale; Grainne Uaile Atlantic Ale, a winter special brown ale; and Throstle Preacher IPA, an India pale ale.

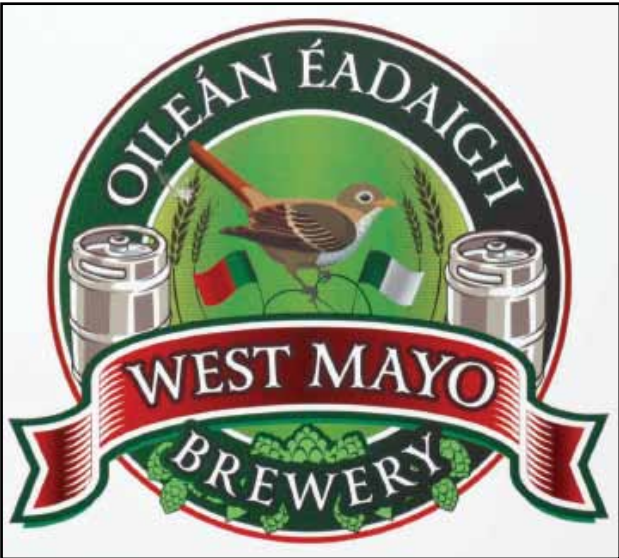
Caroline said that Iain creates recipes and adds his special twist with grains, natural products, and hops he likes. One unique ingredient is bog myrtle, she said, that grows knee-high by a nearby lake. While enjoying the flavor experiments, there are some ingredients that must be included in beer and ale, "but we try to be innovative." She said heather, meadow-sweet, wild garlic, nettles – "whatever is growing locally" – are sometimes added in search of a unique taste. Nothing is wasted; grain used in the brewing process is fed to the farm's animals.

Brewing beer, Caroline commented, "is a combination of art and science." She and Iain brew twice a week during the busy season. "It takes so long to brew and so long to ferment," she said. Each brewing makes about 750 (about 198 gallons) liters of beer.

The West Mayo Brewery, she added, has been doing "extremely well. We have lots of repeat business." For more information on the company, visit westmayobrewery.ie

ACHILL ISLAND
BREWERY

They might be the new kids on the block, but that hasn't stopped the Achill Brewery. The Bunacurry, Co. Mayo, brewery rolled



When West Mayo Brewery was started by Iain and Caroline Price in 2013, it was the first commercial brewery opened in Co. Mayo in more than 100 years. *Judy Enright photo*



Iain Price testing the brew at West Mayo (Oileán Éadaigh) Brewery that he runs with his wife, Caroline, on their working farm. *Judy Enright photo*

out its special brew on Achill Island and other spots around Co. Mayo this summer with more locales soon to come.

Two years ago, Malcolm Cooney, his brother Dermot, and their English cousins, Daniel and Anthony Keating, began discussions about creating a craft brewery. They found the perfect spot – a derelict building in Bunacurry – and began extensive renovations, hired a Canadian master brewer (James Groves), worked out a design for their black and gold label, secured black bottles in the Netherlands, and were all set to go.

The Keating brothers, Malcolm said, own an English company that supplies generators to companies and, for the past 10 years, Anthony has been building Keating Super Cars.

The Achill beer, Malcolm added, is more of a lager than a craft beer and is brewed from water sourced from Bunafreeva Lough on Achill Island, malted barley, wheat, hops, and Irish carageen moss from along the shores of the island.

There are currently two flavors, but Cooney said the company hopes to have

three eventually, "and probably more." When the company is at full capacity, they hope to produce 1.8-million bottles a year. "But you have to walk before you can run," he said. The eagle on the label is a nod to the Golden Eagles that once thrived on Achill Island but haven't been seen there since about 1912.

For more information, visit achillbrewery.com

EVEN MORE
PRODUCERS

There are craft breweries all over Ireland. Along the Wild Atlantic Way alone – that coastline stretch from Donegal to Cork – some of those breweries include: Kinnegar Farmhouse Beers in Rathmullan, Co. Donegal; The White Hag, Ballymote, Co. Sligo; Reel Deel, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo; Galway Hooker, Oranmore, Co. Galway, which is ten years old this year; Galway Bay Brewery, Galway; Dingle Brewing, Co. Kerry, and Blacks of Kinsale, Co. Cork.

There are also several breweries you can visit if you travel a bit off the Wild Atlantic Way, including Black Donkey in Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon; Mountain Man in Macroom, Co. Cork, and



The bottle cap from Achill Brewery's beer bears the traditional Irish greeting. *Judy Enright photo*



At the Achill Brewery in Co. Mayo. *Photo courtesy of Malcolm Cooney*

9 White Deer in Co. Cork. The old favorites are still wildly popular in Ireland – Smithwick's, Guinness, Murphy's, and more. It would be safe to say you probably will not go thirsty in Ireland if you fancy a pint.

READERS' CHOICES

It's always interesting to read results of polls in *The Irish Times* about the "best of Ireland" in assorted categories. We read that The Burren Smokehouse and shop in Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, topped a recent list for best food and drink. We don't always agree with these polls but do agree that the Smokehouse is a

great shop with delicious smoked salmon that is available in Shannon duty free, so we always bring it home to make the trip last a little longer.

Best craft and gift shop honors went to Betty in Drumshambo, Co. Leitrim, described as "a shamrock and shillelagh-free gift shop." We've missed that store but we know of many other great "shamrock and shillelagh-free" gift shops around Ireland, including O'Reilly & Turpin in Westport and The Beehive in Keel, both Co. Mayo. No doubt there are many, many others that fall into that non-tourist category in other

parts of the country.

Some of the other *Times*'s poll winners included: Leitrim Design House, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, for innovative 'art wall.' (I bought a limited edition print by Michelle McKee there this spring, so I have to agree with that listing – it's a great shop.) Customers can sign up for learn-to-make days there too.

Also, Old Mill Stores, Leap, Co. Cork, for out of the ordinary home wares; Irish Design Shop, Dublin 2, for innovative Irish design; Nest in Kenmare, Co. Cork; Real and also Kiln & Loom, both in Belfast, and Castle Antiques, Clarecastle, Co. Clare, with 40 antique dealers under one roof.

LADIES' PINK TOUR

The second annual Pink Tour 2016 will take over five links courses in Ireland's West and North-west from Sept. 25 to Oct. 1.

The program includes three nights at Mount Falcon Estate, Ballina, Co. Mayo; welcome dinner, presentation lunch, two nights and two rounds of tournament golf at Rosapenna Hotel and Golf Resort (which has two championship links courses) in Downings, Co. Donegal, and a night at an airport hotel in Shannon, Dublin or Belfast; full Irish breakfast every day; practice rounds at Carne Golf Links, Enniscrone Golf Club, and Donegal (Murvagh) Golf Club; lunch at Carne & Donegal Golf Club; all transfers by luxury chauffeur-driven coach, team and individual prizes.

Several tour companies are offering this tour so check out the internet.

OYSTERS APLENTY

When you try one of Ireland's many craft beers, shouldn't you accompany the brew with delicious raw oysters? It's a must – so start at the Clarenbridge Oyster Festival (Co. Galway) that runs from Sept. 9 to Sept. 11.

If you miss that event, there's always the world's longest running oyster festival, the Galway International Oyster and Seafood Festival from Sept. 23 to Sept. 25. The Galway fest includes celebrity cook-offs, music, street entertainment, parades, and more.

Autumn is a great time of year to visit Ireland with festivals and country fairs in many parts of the country. Enjoy your trip.

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Wolfe Tones GFC celebrate historic win in GAA finals



The Wolfe Tones won the GAA Senior Football Final on Sun., August 28 at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton. The Wolfe Tones defeated Galway 3-12 to 2-11 to claim their first-ever senior football championship since their formation in 1989, according to Oran McGonagle. The Wolfe Tones defeated the Connemara Gales the week before to advance to the finals in the ten-team football division. The Dorchester-based Wolfe Tones celebrated their historic victory at the Banshee on Dorchester Avenue.

Photo courtesy Oran McGonagle

Rio Games ticket-scalping scandal rocks Team Ireland

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIO DE JANEIRO — Rio de Janeiro police late last month questioned two of Ireland’s top Olympic executives in a Summer Games ticket-scalping probe that has already ensnared the highest official. Olympic Council of Ireland’s team leader Kevin Kilty and chief executive Stephen Martin arrived at police headquarters on Thurs., SAug. 25, wearing the Irish team uniform.

“We are here to fully cooperate. That’s all I can say at the moment,”

Kilty said to reporters as he entered the building.

Two days before, Secretary General Dermot Henihan spoke to investigators who later ruled out his involvement in the scheme, saying there was no evidence that indicated wrongdoing on his part.

But Rio police suspect that the highest-ranking members of the OCI plotted with businessmen to help transfer tickets to an unauthorized vendor who would sell them for high fees disguised as hospitality services.

The three officials’ passports, phones and laptops



were seized in an Olympic Village raid hours before the closing ceremony on Sun., Aug 21. In Kilty’s room, police found 228 tickets, which the Irish-

man told police had been reserved for athletes but had been left unused.

The alleged scheme unraveled at the beginning of the Games when Kevin

Mallon, head of the British hospitality provider THG, was arrested in Rio with tickets that were allocated to the Olympic Council of Ireland. Mallon was released on bail on Aug. 27. Rio’s department of penitentiaries said that Mallon left the Bangu prison complex on condition that he not leave Brazil.

OCI President Patrick Hickey, 71, was arrested the week before in a dawn raid at his hotel and transferred to a hospital with chest pains. A member of the International Olympic Committee’s ruling

executive board, Hickey was in charge of the influential umbrella group for Europe’s Olympic bodies.

Now he faces charges of conspiracy, ticket scalping and ambush marketing, with authorities accusing him of being part of a plot to make \$3 million by illegally selling Rio Games tickets above face value. The strongest evidence police have found are emails exchanged between Hickey and the head of company that wasn’t an authorized vendor discussing opening and closing ceremony tickets to resell.

Cork’s O’Donovan boys capture Olympics spotlight

(Continued from page 1)

their Aer Lingus plane taxied through a water arch created by two fire brigade units.

They were visibly taken aback as more than 200 people, most wearing yellow Rio T-shirts, cheered their arrival home,” the Independent reporter wrote. “It’s fantastic to see a huge crowd singing, shouting and roaring. It means so much,” Gary said.

“We’ve been looking forward to coming home to west Cork and Skibbereen since we left Rio,” added Paul. “There were times in Rio when we heard about the celebrations back in Skibbereen and almost wished we were back there to enjoy it all.”


Both admitted that they’ve been a little overwhelmed by hints of the

scale of the celebrations planned for them in west Cork. “They’re telling me they’ll have to put an extension on to the town for the night,” Paul said. “It will all be mighty craic. Hopefully, everyone will enjoy the celebration and, who knows, if it persuades some young fella or young girl to try rowing as a sport, it will all have been worth it.”

The rowers had flown back to Cork via Amsterdam, having been at the World Rowing Championships in Rotterdam where Paul took gold on Sat., Aug. 27.

Gary, left, and Paul O’Donovan of Ireland celebrate after winning the final of the men’s lightweight double scull competition. AP photo





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4 Sunday	Andy Healy		
9 Friday	Pub Night for Billy’s Brigade. Free admission. Doors open at 7 pm.	25 Sunday	Denis Curtin
11 Sunday	Mossie Coughlin	29 Thursday	Members Meeting and Nomination of Officers: 7:30 pm.
18 Sunday	Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton		
23 Friday	Country “Hoedown” Festival to benefit the Chefs Table Foundation. 8 pm. Country Fever hits the Parkway with music, line dancing, food, raffle and special entertainment. Dress in your cowboy/country		

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The Irish Language
by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

It is time for us to revisit the preposition *i*, “in”. This preposition is pronounced /uh/ and is small but powerful in that it has a variety of forms plus a wide variety of meanings.

When used by itself before a noun *i* is “in a” since there is no **Indefinite article** “a” in Irish. However, *i* in some forms it has become will always cause **eclipsis** in the following **noun** – if it begins with **b, c, d, f, g, p. t**. **Eclipsis** is where a word takes on a characteristic of the word before it.

i dteach	“in a house”	I bpota	“in a pot”
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The plural of *i* is **sa** with identical meaning, only the form is different.

sa dtithe	“in some houses”	sa bpotaí	“in some pots”
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Another form of *i* is **sna** in such sentences as **Tá an duine ag goil sna sagairt** or **Tá an duine ag dúl sna sagairt**, “The man is becoming/preparing to be a priest.”

By far the most common use of **i** “in” is with “the”, “in the”, as “in the box, in the room, in the pot”, and so on. The Irish use just one word for our two, **sa**, combining *i* with **an** – **Tá uisce sa bpota**, “There is water in the pot”.

i in the form **in** is used in a number of idioms:

in am	“in time”	in ait	“some where”
in ann	“to be capable of”	in airde	“high up”

Irish also use *i* in a number of **adverbial phrases** such as:

I bhfad	“a long way”	I gcinn	“always”
I bhfalach	“hiding, hidden”	I gceist	“in question”
I ngra	“in love”		“under consideration”

Strange to English speakers is the Irish use to show the “state” or “position” of the human body. Here the “state” or “position” is a **noun** and requires a **possessive pronoun** to precede it. In this set of examples we will use **mo**, “my”, which you will remember, **lenites** its **noun**.

State: **Bhí mé í mo chodladh/dhúiseacht/chónaí.**
“I was sleeping/awakening/ living (standing idle).”

Position: **Bhí mé I mo shuí/sheasamh/loighe/rith**
“I was sitting/standing/lying/running”

Recall that **n, l, and r** do not **lenite**.

Of course *i* combines with **personal pronouns** just as other **prepositions** do. The forms and pronunciation are these:

“in me”	ionam	/OON-uhm/	“in us”	ionainn	/OON-uhn/
“in you”	ionat	/OON-uht/	“in you-all”	ionaibh	/OON-ee/
“in him”	ann	/awn/	“in them”	ionta	/OON-tuhb/
“in her”	inti	/OON-chuh/			Note the /-b/ sound

A closer English translation might be “is” instead of “in” in such sentences as **Múinteoir atá ionam** /MOON-cheer tah OON-uhm/ “I am a teacher” but before a Proper Name *i* will have the form **in** – **Múinteoir atá in Brid**, /MOON-cheer tah uhn BREEJ/ “Bridget is a teacher”.

Try to translate these sentences into Irish. There are two new words, “nun” **bean rialta** and “soldier” **saighdiúr**.

1.) “My mother Mary was a nurse” 2.) “And my father is a teacher.” 3.) “It’s a long way to Tipparary.” [Tiobraid Árann]. 4.) “The men are working in the house.” 5.) “I’m a policeman.” 6.) “I speak a little Irish now.” 7.) “The women were nuns.” 8.) “The ball is in the box.” 9.) “The girls will be nurses.” 10.) “My wife is in love with me.” 11.) “The train came on time.” 12.) “He is asleep.” 13.) “He will be becoming a priest.” 14.) “Kate is hiding somewhere.” 15.) “The soldier is standing, he is not sitting.”

Answers: 1.) **Bhí mo mháthair Mairi ban-altra.** 2.) **Agus tá m’athair múinteoir.** 3.) **Is Tiobraid Árann i bhfad.** 4.) **Tá na daoine ag obair sa teach.** 5.) **Garda atá ionam.** 6.) **Tá beagan Gaeilge agam anois.** 7.) **Bhí na mna bean rialtaí.** 8.) **Tá an mball sa bhocsa.** 9.) **Beidh na cailíní ag dúl sna ban-altraí.** 10.) **Tá mo bhean I ngra liom.** 11.) **Tháinig an traen in am.** 12.) **Tá sé i a chodladh.** 13.) **Beidh sé ag goil sna sagairt.** 14.) **Tá Cáit I bhfalach in áit.** 15.) **Tá an saighdiúr i a sheasamh, níl sé i a shuí.**

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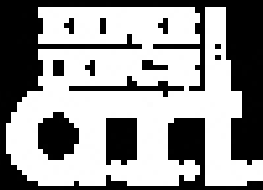
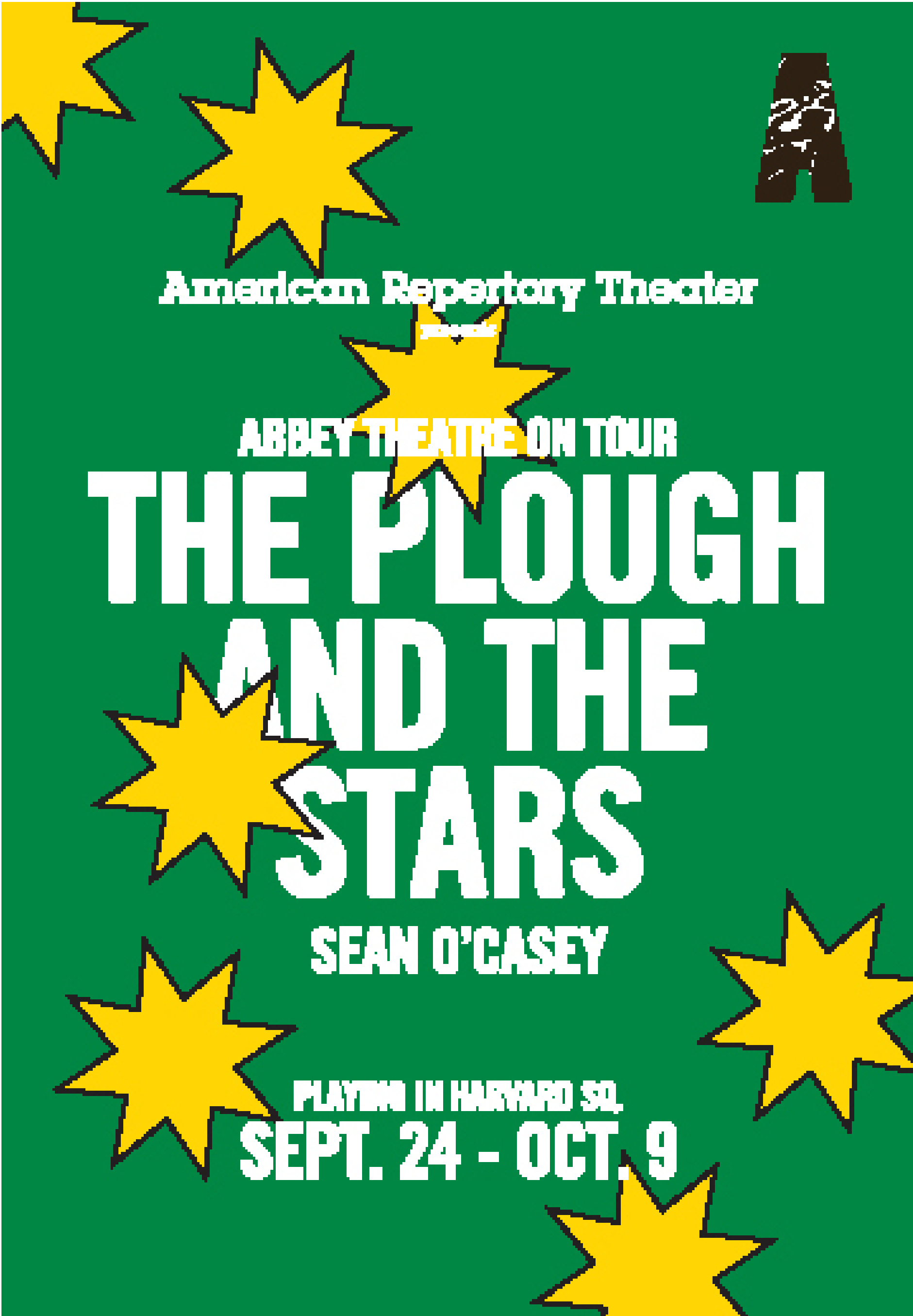


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