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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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Larry Reynolds and his wife Phyllis were feted to an all-day party Sunday afternoon July 15 at Concannon's Village in Norwood in celebration of the couple's 80th birthdays this year. More than 300 people were on hand for a continuous session of traditional Irish music and dance to toast the couple. Relatives and friends from all over New England were joined by a contingent from Ireland who visited Boston for the occasion. A native of Ahascragh in Co. Galway, Reynolds came to Boston in 1953, where he met and married his wife Phyllis, a piano player, and they were proud parents of seven children – six boys and a girl. Larry was a founder of Boston's own chapter of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Hanafin-Cooley Branch, Promoting Traditional Irish Culture, Music and Dance in the Boston Area. In 2002, he was inducted into the Comhaltas Hall of Fame.

(Photo by Harry Brett, Image Photo Service.)

## Trolley Tour GM takes to stage for role in Wilde drama

By R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Matthew Murphy wears a lot of hats in life. By day, he's General Manager of Old Town Trolley Tours of Boston. After hours, he's a trained singer and actor. Either way, he's always on stage.

In addition to his full-time tourism duties, the Dorchester resident spent a decade singing with The Handel & Haydn Society. He's also served as bass soloist at Wellesley Hills Congregational Church. Last year he appeared in a staged reading of Marina Carr's "Marble" as part of the Irish Festival at ArtsEmerson. And this month, from August 11 - 26, he's appearing in the Bad Habits Production of Moises Kaufman's "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde" at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Born in Ohio and raised in southwest Virginia, Matthew originally set his sites on a career in music. Starting out at The Juilliard School in New York, he later relocated to Boston and finished his education at the New England Conservatory.



Matthew Murphy, General Manager of Old Town Trolley Tours, appears as Oscar Wilde's attorney in "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," August 11 - 26, at the Boston Center for the Arts.

R. J. Donovan photo

Part Irish and part Welsh, he first hit the spotlight in a high school production of Neil Simon's "Barefoot In The Park." In his native Bristol, Virginia, he also joined Theater Bristol. "It was a com-

(Continued on page 13)

## Appeals judges: BC must turn over Troubles tapes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston College must give police recorded interviews researchers conducted with a convicted Irish Republican Army car bomber after an appeals court last month rejected an effort to stop their release.

The July 6 ruling by the First US Circuit Court of Appeal backed District Court Judge William Young's decision last year in the case of bomber Dolours Price, who spoke to researchers as part of an oral history project. The material will be handed over to police by next month.

Price was one of several former IRA members who gave interviews as part of The Belfast Project between 2001 and 2006. Participants said the interviews were supposed to be secret until their deaths. But Northern Ireland police probing

the IRA's 1972 killing of a Belfast woman want the recordings.

Young ordered Boston College to turn over interviews with Price and seven other former IRA members. Boston College didn't appeal Young's ruling on Price, but it's fighting his order on the seven other interviewees in an appeal separate from the July 6 ruling.

The decision came after a lawsuit by project

director Ed Moloney and ex-IRA gunman Anthony McIntyre, who conducted the interviews, that challenged the decision by US authorities to subpoena the records.

Their attorney argued that McIntyre and others who were part of The Belfast Project would be branded informants and faced "the real risk of physical harm" if the interviews were turned

(Continued on page 10)

## Remembering 'Mr. Speaker'

Next month, Co. Donegal will lead a celebration of the legendary American (and Massachusetts) politician, Thomas. P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr. on the occasion of the 100th year of his birth. Page 3.

Joe Leary of The Irish American Partnership, recounts his work with "Mr. Speaker." Page 4.



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# Donegal will salute ‘Tip’ O’Neill’s roots with Diaspora award

Next month, Co. Donegal will host the first annual Tip O’Neill Diaspora award to mark the centennial of the last US House speaker’s birth. Following is a brief sketch of the life and times of the legendary Cambridge native:

**Irish-American through and through**

Tip O’Neill knew he was Irish before he realized he was American. His grandfather Patrick emigrated from famine-ravaged Mallow in Cork with his two brothers in 1851 to work for the New England Brick Company in North Cambridge, Massachusetts. His father, also a union bricklayer, married Rose Tolan, whose people hailed from Buncrana in Donegal.

Raised in the “New Dublin” section of Cambridge, Tip was schooled in the Irish language by the sister of Terrance McSweeney, until she decided his family was too much assimilated and discontinued his lessons. In the days when Eamon deValera addressed tens of thousands in Boston, Tip’s house sported a “We gave to the IRA” sticker in its front window. When children across America played “cowboys and Indians,” Tip and his friends, growing up along the route followed by Paul Revere from Boston to Lexington and Concord, played “Patriots and Red Coats.”

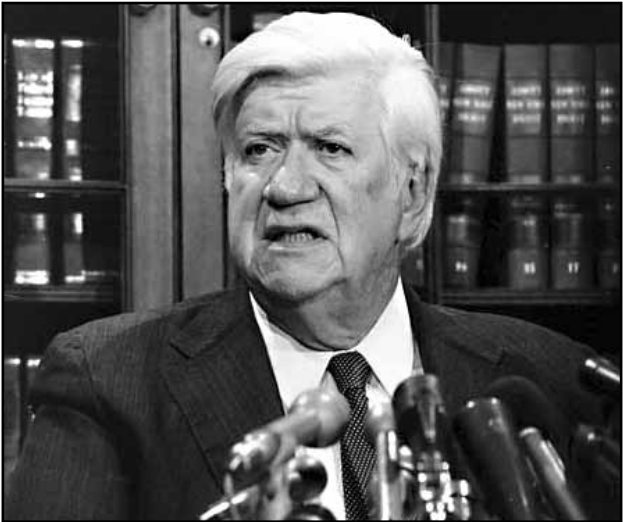
Irish immigrants in the United States had a universally difficult time, but their reception in Boston was especially harsh. The Puritan English who preceded them despised them for their poverty, ignorance, and religion.

Although he had dropped out of school in the fifth grade, Tip’s father, Thomas, Sr., was very talented. He was elected to the Cambridge City Council and later, through civil service examination, became Cambridge Commissioner of Sewers, where he supervised the work of 1,000 city employees. During the dark days of the Great Depression when access to work was the most important political currency, Tom, Sr. was regarded as a significant local power.

Tom, Sr., imbued in his son the importance of loyalty; integrity – the imperative to lead a clean and honest life; responsibility to his fellow man; never to forget whence he came; and, that public service is an honorable and noble calling.

The community of working class Irish Americans in which he lived and his Roman Catholic faith strongly reinforced the imperative for social justice instilled in him by his father. It was inculcated in him by the Church and his parochial grade school and high school education at St. John the Evangelist parish in North Cambridge. The Jesuits at his alma mater, Boston College, where he received a classical liberal arts education, further honed the importance of social justice. Most importantly he wanted to work for that time when the people of his own Irish American community could fully share in the opportunities that America offered.

The mechanism he chose to accomplish that goal was politics. Never an ideologue, Tip O’Neill did however hew strongly to a political philosophy centered on people: politics was a vehicle to improve the lives of a



country’s citizens, and government has a moral responsibility to aid those who need help. This “bread and butter” philosophy held that all Americans should have the wherewithal to feed, house, educate, and care for their own. To attain this goal, he dedicated fifty years in elected office to ensure that the government would encourage: an economy where everyone had access to honorable employment; education to allow people the opportunity to advance to the extent of their abilities; medical care and decent housing for Americans to live healthy and secure lives. He firmly believed that with each family so equipped, the nation would prosper.

**Entering the State House: 1936**

He was first elected as a Democrat to the Republican-dominated Massachusetts State legislature in 1936, representing the working class immigrant neighborhoods of North Cambridge. In the late 40’s, Congressman John McCormack believed that the time was right to recruit men returning from World War II to run for the state legislature. He encouraged Tip to travel around the State persuading popular young leaders to run as Democrats. For the first time in 168 years, the Democrats won the State legislature by the narrowest of margins, and Tip O’Neill was elected Speaker – the first Irish American and the first Catholic in Massachusetts ever do so and the youngest up to that point in time.

**On to the Congress**

In 1951, Congressman John F. Kennedy gave Tip advance notice that it was his intention to run for the Senate. Tip, whose highest ambition had been to be elected governor, saw the opening of this Congressional seat as a stepping stone to that goal. In a very tough campaign, Tip narrowly won the Democratic primary race by enlisting the support of independent as well as Democratic voters. Winning the primary in this congressional district was tantamount to being elected as no Republican could displace the Democrat in the general election.

In Washington, Tip soon became a protégé of Majority Leader John McCormack of Boston. As such Speaker

Sam Rayburn invited him to join the powerful Rules Committee, overseeing those procedures that would govern each piece of legislation going to the floor of the House. Tip’s position on the committee allowed him to help expedite LBJ’s Great Society legislation. Thus he had an important hand in seeing that Medicare, Medicaid, Vista, and early childhood programs were adopted. Millions of federal dollars found their way to the cities as block grants. Throughout his tenure as a member of Congress, Tip strongly supported social legislation which would protect the weakest in society: Pell grants for college students, free school lunches, medical research, particularly on cancer, housing programs, and above all Social Security.

A man of vision, he labored with other visionaries to tie the North End to the rest of Boston by raising federal monies for the Big Dig.

**A war and a scandal**

Two important issues significantly influenced Tip’s congressional career: Vietnam and Watergate. He was the first of the mainstream Democrats to break with President Johnson over Vietnam. It was an unpopular move in his home district where many from the working class neighborhoods were fighting in the conflict. From 1966 to 1975 he fought to limit funding for that war.

It was as majority leader that he faced his next great political challenge. Shrewd enough to see the profound corruption of the Nixon administration, he quietly mobilized the members of the House to prepare for impeachment. Twenty one months after winning a landslide election, Richard Nixon resigned as President.

**Homing in on the Troubles**

Most Irish-Americans, separated from the Emerald Isle by more than a hundred years, two world wars and a depression, had little understanding of the disturbances taking place in Northern

Ireland. Tip’s first trip of many to Ireland was with his wife, Mildred, as part of a Congressional delegation in 1956. He subsequently led many delegations to Ireland to be briefed on the political situation in Northern Ireland. He was the first senior American government official to meet with all of the leaders of the political parties in Belfast in the early 80s.

Through the Congressional Friends of Ireland, annual St. Patrick day luncheons on the Hill, speaking engagements around the country, and interventions with President Reagan, Speaker O’Neill ensured that John Hume’s message of non-violent political discourse was the tactic of choice in resolving the Troubles.

**Cited by Cork as a Freeman**

He was proud of being named a Freeman of Cork during the 800th anniversary of that city in 1985, an honor that had previously been bestowed on Eamon de Valera and President Kennedy. In 1986 at an event honoring his retirement from Congress, the government of Ireland under the Taoiseach, Garrett Fitzgerald, conferred Irish nationality on the Speaker and Mildred O’Neill. At Tip’s passing in 1994, Taoiseach Albert Reynolds said of him: “At every stage of his life he was a close and warm friend of Ireland.”

## Jack Conway, noted realtor, at 88

John E. “Jack” Conway of Scituate, a noted realtor with a long history in eastern Massachusetts, died on July 23 at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth. He was 88.

The loving husband of Patricia (Carroll) Conway, Mr. Conway was the founder and chairman of Jack Conway & Company.

A former President of the Mass. Association of Realtors, Vice-President of the National Association of Realtors, and was named the state’s Realtor of the Year in 1971, he served as President of the Plymouth County



**Jack Conway**  
**Community stalwart**

Development Council, the South Shore Chamber of Commerce, the Scituate

Chamber of Commerce, and the Brockton Metro Chamber. He also served as president of the Relo International, and was a founding member of Leading Real Estate Companies of the World.

A veteran of the US Navy, Jack served during World War II, and was a candidate for US Congress in 1982. He was a member of the American Legion Post #144, the development council of Stonehill College, the board of South Shore Hospital and a founding member of the Ambassadors of Holy Cross. He was a Knight

of Malta.

Jack is survived by his son Jack and his wife Carol of Florida, by his daughters, Barbara of Scituate, and Carol Bulman and her husband Michael of Scituate, by three siblings; William of Florida, Elizabeth “Wiffy” Grozier of Falmouth, and Carol Kermond of Winchester, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was said at St. Mary’s Church in Scituate on July 27th followed by burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Scituate.

## Young champ stayed fit during his Boston visit

Thomas Carty, Ireland’s reigning Junior Heavy-weight boxing champion, visited relatives in Boston this summer and had a chance to train with some of our region’s finest during his visit. Carty, 16, is a member of the Dublin’s famed Corinthians Boxing Club and, thus far, has chalked up an impressive 17-2 record.

While visiting Boston for 10 days in June, Carty stayed with his uncle Eugene McCarthy of Braintree. Friends connected young Thomas with Timmy Stanton, co-owner of Braintree’s TNT Boxing, who arranged for the young boxer to have a free pass to train at his club throughout his visit. Carty also visited Dorchester’s Adams Corner, where he sampled the fare at Greenhill’s Bakery and got a tour of the Eire Pub.



*Photo by Harry Brett*

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## Publisher's Notebook

## Commentary

# Truly a man who will be missed as he retires

By ED FORRY

A Boston businessman who is one of our city's leading philanthropists has announced his plans to retire this fall.

Bob Sheridan, for the past 20 years president and CEO of Savings Bank Life Insurance (SBLI), said he will step down in November.

The Everett-born Sheridan, who has family roots in Sligo, is a graduate of BC High and Boston College, and holds a law degree from Suffolk University. He and his wife, Jean O'Hara, reside in Hingham, where they raised their four children.

Since he took the controls at SBLI 20 years ago, the life insurance firm based in Woburn has grown and prospered, thanks in part to Sheridan's commitment to supporting

community endeavors in every corner of the marketplace. His company is known to be a leader in the city's business community, where corporate sponsorships of such events as charity road races, and fundraising dinners are the lifeblood of the city's non-profit community.

Typifying his commitment, Sheridan headed a fund drive to construct a Dorchester home for the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA,) and the Bob and Jean Sheridan headquarters building was dedicated to him and his wife.

In a June 2007 interview in these pages, Sheridan explained his world view: "Life is not about titles and money," he said. "Money doesn't buy it for you. It's about family! I think a good mark of a person is the success of their children, and in that, I am blessed beyond belief."

"Next to Catholicism, loyalty is my second religion," Sheridan said.

In a statement, SBLI attributed other comments from Boston leaders: "Bob Sheridan is a great businessman and he epitomizes corporate responsibility," said Mayor Thomas Menino. "When SBLI is involved in a project that means boots on the ground and hands helping out, and you can always be sure that Bob himself is among those physically at different events and initiatives taking part. We look forward to working closely with his successor and will sorely miss Bob."

"Bob Sheridan's impressive leadership of SBLI over the last twenty years has left a mark on Boston," said Jack Connors, former Chairman of Hill Holliday. "He has demonstrated true corporate responsibility and has been generous with his time and effort in service to making Boston a better place."

"Bob Sheridan took a small, one-state life insurance company and over the course of 20 years transformed it into a major national competitor," said SBLI Chairman of the Board Gerald Mulligan. "Through his leadership, he has left an indelible mark on SBLI and positioned the Company for continued growth and success well into the future."

SBLI prospered financially under Sheridan, Mulligan said. Assets nearly tripled from \$900 million in 1992 to \$2.4 billion in 2011, and life insurance in force increased almost tenfold, from \$12 billion to \$114 billion. The Company also recorded a total of \$146 million in net income and consistently maintained an A+ (Superior) financial strength rating from A.M. Best over the 20-year period.

The company said that Christopher Pinkerton, 54, will join SBLI in September as president and CEO-elect and will succeed Sheridan upon his retirement. Pinkerton comes to SBLI from Toronto-based life insurer Foresters, where, as President of Foresters US, he oversaw life insurance sales across the United States. Following his retirement, the company said Sheridan will continue as a member of SBLI's board of directors

# Working with the inimitable 'Tip'

By JOE LEARY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

In my position at the Irish American Partnership I have been extremely fortunate to have met and become acquainted with several truly unusual men and women. Chuck Feeney and General P.X. Kelley are in the top three or four and standing with them would be the former Speaker of the US House of Representatives, the Honorable Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr.

In early 1990, through the intercession of two friends, the famous Dr. Tom Durant of MGH and the speaker's nephew, Brian O'Neill, Esq., I first met the then-retired O'Neill at his office in Washington. My mission was to request that he become a spokesman for the Partnership, signing letters endorsing our work in Ireland, and joining our National Golf Tour as chairman.

I was, of course, very nervous and had practiced what I was going to say all that morning because I was about to meet the man who had served his district in Massachusetts in Congress for 35 years, the last 10 of them as manager of our national House of Representatives. He had dealt with, agreed and disagreed with, and compromised with Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Reagan. Memorably, he had called Ronald Reagan "Herbert Hoover with a smile" while fighting the Republican right and calling their possible election "a Christmas Party for the rich." And he had challenged many tough, brilliant men and more often than not won his point with them.

While fidgeting in my chair, I saw the speaker as he came into the room from his apartment above the office. He was in his late 70s at the time, wearing a light blue cardigan with his well-combed mass of white hair coming down over his forehead. It wasn't so much his size that impressed me; it was the immense sense of power that he seemed to exude.

He sat down at his desk and after his son Christopher joined us, we began to discuss the Partnership. I could tell right away this was not going to be easy. The speaker did not suffer fools gladly. During my pitch, he interrupted to ask, "Are you in the IRA, Leary?" No sir, I answered quickly. "How do I know that?" he said. Well, you can talk with the British Embassy or the Irish Embassy, they both know our role in Northern Ireland, I replied.

Almost immediately, "Tip" said, "Okay, I love Ireland and I'll help you. Write what you want and I'll sign it." With that, Christopher, a Washington lawyer, wisely spoke up and suggested that he review what we write. I thanked the speaker and he was on to other business. I was still nervous when I left.

That was the beginning of our relationship with Speaker O'Neill, who continued to work with the Partnership until his death in January 1994.

He helped grow the Partnership and gathered donors from nearly every state in the United States. In the direct mail business at the time, what are called "donor acquisition mailings" rarely made money. It always cost a certain amount to gain new donors. We mailed 100,000 letters to Irish names with O'Neill's signature and much to everyone's surprise we gained 2,000 new donors (a very good percentage) and created substantial funds for Partnership projects in Ireland. His reputation was obviously persuasive to all political parties – clear testimony as to how the American



Speaker O'Neill and BIR columnist Joe Leary

people felt about "Tip" O'Neill. We mailed 200,000 more solicitations over the next two years with the same results. The direct mail experts were astounded.

The speaker loved Ireland and was a frequent visitor, especially to play golf. We asked him if he would like to present some of our grants to Irish schools and disadvantaged areas. As Brian O'Neill, who accompanied him to Ireland on several trips, has said many times, "My uncle loved to give away the Partnership's money." On one occasion, "Tip" visited the Ballymun Job Center in North Dublin with a Partnership check in hand. The Garda were not pleased that he would go to such a tough place. We still have the pictures.

On another trip, where he attended a reception at our offices on St. Stephen's Green, O'Neill was joined by our chairman, General Kelley, to present a \$100,000 grant to the Blennerville Windmill complex in Tralee. The folks from Tralee in County Kerry traveled to Dublin for the award. It was as if the speaker were a returning hero to the people of Dublin. The barely manageable crowds lined up in the street trying to get in, giving the police a difficult time. Former Taoiseach Jack Lynch came to pay his respects and they greeted each other like long lost brothers.

The speaker and the general were on opposite ends of the political spectrum in the United States. But when the 1983 bombing of the barracks in Lebanon tragically took the lives of 220 Marines, leading some Democratic members of the House of Representatives to call for the head of Gen. Kelley, the Marines Commandant, the speaker would have none of it. His loyalty to Massachusetts came into play; he was from North Cambridge and the four-star general, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was from West Roxbury. The congressman called the general during the furor and told him not to worry; he would take care of his West Roxbury neighbor.

On another trip to Dublin we arranged a breakfast at the speaker's frequent hotel, the Westbury, for him and a visiting member of our board of directors, Frank Kelley, Michigan's attorney general. I was privileged to be there as Tip told joke after joke and Kelley wrote them done as fast as he could, noting that they would be great at home. He was laughing so hard – we all were – that it was hard for him to write.

There was so much to this great man that I could go on for pages. The Partnership was proud to be associated with Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr. Men like him don't come along very often. I will never forget the experiences.

# Big Money buys message, hides messenger

By JAMES W. DOLAN  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The corrupting influence of unlimited amounts of money from undisclosed sources is undermining our democracy. The Supreme Court in its Citizens United decision determined that corporations were persons and any limitations on corporate funding of elections would be an unconstitutional violation of the First Amendment's free speech protections.

In its decision, the Court indicated that Congress could legislatively mandate the disclosure of the source of such funds. The floodgate was open with the expectation that transparency would at least provide information so that a voter might weigh the message against the sponsoring interest.

In determining credibility, one is always expected to consider the source. That principle not only applies in court but is also fundamental to the making of sound judgments. The economic interest of commercial sponsors is obvious as are the paid endorsements of athletes and celebrities.

Being the chief beneficiary of unlimited funds, the Republicans recently killed an attempt by Democrats in the Senate to pass disclosure legislation that would have required that funding sources be identified. If you have the money, there is now no limit in a political ad on what is said and no requirement to identify who said it.

A cloak of anonymity covers the exaggerations, distortions, half-truths, and lies that bombard a shell-shocked electorate during campaigns. It is estimated that a billion dollars will be spent, most of it on advertising, in this presidential election.

Whatever happened to transparency? That noble concept was also for sale. Big Money was able to buy the message and hide the messenger.

Capitalism and democracy are in conflict. Unless restrained by elected officials with the integrity and courage to resist, capitalism will erode the independence of institutions duty bound to limit the influence

of money on the process.

The device of "checks and balances" was designed to limit the power of one branch of government over another. Less evident but equally important was the application of that concept to outside forces inclined to subvert government to their own purposes.

Human nature being what it is, it should be obvious that individuals and institutions will try to manipulate government in their own interests. It is the way we are. Acknowledging that reality, those concerned with the common good must be vigilant to guard against unwarranted intrusions that undermine the system.

Like water allowed to flow freely, money will find the cracks and fissures that exist in any structure no matter how carefully designed. Right now there is high water in the basement and no sign of a pump.

We are in danger of money becoming the narcotic and elected officials the addicts or potential addicts, dependent upon it to retain power – the compelling "high" that defines their ambition.

Communism was an obvious threat to our freedom. However, capitalism is not an unmixed blessing. While its promise of freedom and prosperity has served this country well, like everything else, too much of a good thing often carries the seeds of destruction.

Unless we find a way to limit the influence of money on the governance of our great country, I am afraid we will evolve into a plutocracy. We may look like a democracy but real power will be exercised by a relatively small group of super rich individuals.

We need more elected officials motivated by something other than the ambition to hold and retain high office. There are too few "profiles in courage" at a time when we need more officials willing to act against their own personal interest in the common good.

Citizens United and the defeat of the disclosure legislation are not encouraging signs. So far money is winning.

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



## BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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Point of View

# Mitt's 'Irish connection' is a taxing dilemma

BY PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

No, Mitt Romney is not claiming Irish heritage to pander for Irish-American votes here or elsewhere. He's also not claiming publicly his investments in Ireland. No surprise there. After all, as Ann Romney bluntly told ABC's Robin Roberts: "We've given all you people need to know and understand about our financial situation and about how we live our life." That would be fine – except that her husband happens to be running for president. What's next from the Romneys? "Let them eat cake?"

There is surely nothing wrong with financial success, and by any balance sheet, Mitt Romney is a hugely successful businessman, both here and abroad. From the start of his campaign, he has trumpeted his business acumen at Bain Capital as *the* reason that voters should boot Barack Obama from the White House and replace him with a bonafide "job creator." Fair enough proposition, so all we need to know is how and where Mitt created jobs. He invited us to walk through that proverbial door – until he didn't. He has also barricaded himself behind a seemingly impregnable wall when it comes to his ballyhooed success's income-tax returns. That's where Mitt's "Irish Connection" comes into play.

It began when President Obama's website slammed Romney's murky offshore investment portfolio as money hidden in "tax havens" and noted one of them as "Ireland." The Obama website asked: "Has Mitt Romney avoided US taxes by investing millions in tax havens?"

*The Irish Times* noted that "a trust associated with Mr. Romney held an undisclosed amount of money in a Goldman Sachs fund and in other accounts in Ireland." The paper added, "While Bermuda and the Cayman Islands are listed as having zero tax, Ireland is listed as having a tax rate of 12.5 per cent (the corporation tax rate)."

Romney supporters have correctly pointed out that there is nothing wrong and certainly nothing illegal about offshore/overseas investment. Nowhere in the

US has investment in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland been more pronounced than in and around Boston, and it paid off on both sides of the Atlantic until the crash of 2008. Romney, however, feels that his income taxes, other than his 2010 filing and his "incomplete" 2011 tax statements, are none of the public's business. The suspicion in many quarters (before I got jumped with the only-Democrats-are-suspicious charge, the last time I checked, Matthew Dowd, George Will, and *Businessweek* are hardly Democratic tools) is not that Romney has done anything even remotely illegal, but rather that for voters hard-pressed by the economy, any perceived sleight-of-hand, loophole-laden tax shelters will seal perceptions of him as a man utterly incapable of understanding, let alone solving, economic issues for anyone not in the same rarefied air of the so-called "one percent." On ABC's *This Week*, conservative George Will, certainly no fan of the current president, contended, "The cost of not releasing the returns [Romney's] are clear. "Therefore, he must have calculated that there are higher costs in releasing them."

*Businessweek's* Joshua Green, after interviewing several Bain sources, bored in on the "zero-tax-paid-in-2009-by-Romney" theory, writing that it "gains further sustenance when you consider it's the only year for which nobody knows anything about Romney's taxes."

On his swing through the London Olympics in late July, Romney's schedule included a sit-down with Irish Taoiseach Enda Kenny. The Irish press has speculated that Kenny and other Irish leaders are uneasy at prospects that the Obama administration is mulling minimum taxes on all overseas profits of American multinational companies. With American investment in Ireland a key component to recovery for the Republic, anything that might chip away at direct American investment there is a concern. Irish concerns, however, won't help Romney much on two crucial matters for millions of American voters: Did any of his Irish investments bleed away jobs for Americans,

and just how much did he avoid in American taxes through his investments in Ireland and elsewhere?

Romney can try to brazen it out right through the election, but if he does, the question of what, if anything, he's hiding will bedevil him every step of the way, and no amount of bashing Obama through Super Pac lucre will stop the questions, and not just from Democrats. If Mitt Romney could hand the McCain campaign twenty-three years of tax filings, why can't he release even twelve to the voters? After all, that's the number his own father submitted during his presidential run in 1968. Why can't he simply man up and let the public know what his holdings in Ireland and other nations are?

Romney's campaign is predicated on his business acumen and the mere fact that he's not Obama. Still, the president, whom Romney derides as un-American and incapable of understanding the economy, knows it is smart business to come clean when it comes to taxes. The American public knows how much the Obamas have made for the last twelve years. The Romneys? Well, the best they can do is less than two and whine that if they release more, the Obama campaign will give them a hard going-over. "Whine" is the word chosen by noted Republican strategist John Weaver in reference to Mitt's carping about Democrats poring over Romney tax returns.

Apparently, Mitt doesn't want the voters to know what his Irish and other overseas connections entail. He can assure Taoiseach Kenny that when it comes to the Romney's Emerald Isle portfolio, "We've given all you people [presumably all Americans] need to know and understand about our financial situation and about how we live our life."

Still, regarding the Romney's Irish and other offshore connections, Romney might be better served to listen to John Weaver's words to the *Washington Post*: "There is no whining in politics. Stop demanding an apology, release your tax returns."

# The First Amendment trumps foreign treaty agreements

BY JAMES J. COTTER III  
AND EAMONN DORNAN

A recent US federal appeals court decision upholding subpoenas of two researchers into "The Troubles" has grave implications for political stability in Northern Ireland, but it also highlights the threat to Americans' rights to free speech, a concern that will be shared, we believe, by the Irish people and all who value this most sacred and basic of human rights.

Academics – and journalists – take considerable risks in providing the American public with insightful information into the thoughts and processes of combatants in the world's trouble zones. They deserve protections that the court's recent ruling denies.

In this case, the British Government, with the acquiescence of US Attorney General Eric Holder, sought interviews that IRA combatants contributed to the "Belfast Project" and held at Boston College under the strictest conditions of security and confidentiality. We believe that these materials should be kept sacrosanct, and that their disclosure threatens to swing a wrecking ball through a painstakingly constructed Irish Peace Process that Americans, as well as Irishmen, can rightly view with the pride of ownership.

The Belfast Project researchers, along with the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, made a number of compelling arguments advancing the free flow of information to the American public in the face of a subpoena from a foreign government, namely:

- British law enforcement could not demonstrate that the subpoenaed materials were essential to a good faith criminal investigation, as opposed to a politically motivated propaganda exercise;
- The British made no attempt to obtain the information from less sensitive sources within its own jurisdiction, which they easily could have, instead turning the matter to our attorney general to sort out;
- American citizens subject

to a foreign subpoena will be deprived of their due process right to be heard in defense of government action and to raise allegations of bad faith on the part of the foreign government.

Nonetheless, the Court of Appeals decided that, pursuant to a treaty between the US and UK, the researchers did not even have the right to be heard or to assert a challenge that the request for evidence into a 40-year-old killing was not the result of a police investigation made in good faith.

This decision means that our universities and citizens will be that much less informed, having been robbed of testimony from combatants in trouble zones throughout the world.

It also means that American citizens paradoxically have fewer rights when served with a subpoena from a foreign nation than when served with one from a US law enforcement agency. Depriving US citizens of their constitutional right to be heard on government actions which might adversely affect their interests was not the result anticipated by the US Senate or the president when the mutual legal assistance treaty with the British was ratified. In fact, this matter is of particular concern to Senator John Kerry, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Some commentators, such as Boston Globe columnist Juliette Kayyem ("BC case throws cold water on IRA, academia," July 12) took a rather simplistic view of the world in relation to the release of these records when she wrote that "there should be no exception for 'good terrorists.'" But, of course, there have always been exceptions for "good terrorists" – those paid by the British government who have enjoyed immunity for the murder of innocent Irish nationalists, including human rights lawyers. Where stands, for instance, British prime minister Tony Blair's promise of a full public inquiry into the killing of Pat Finucane?

The US-sponsored Good Friday Agreement was designed to

end the days when a partisan police force could engage in politically-motivated prosecutions of participants from only one side of the combat.

Americans cherish their history. Our clients and others will

continue to fight to protect the hard earned rights enshrined in our Constitution, including the rights of US citizens to be heard when our government acts adversely to all our interests. We hope and believe that

the people of Ireland will share in our quest.

*James J. Cotter III and Eamonn Dornan are attorneys for the Belfast Project researchers Ed Moloney and Anthony McIntyre.*

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BIR Profile

# ‘Why are you here?’ the priest asked him; after a while, Sean Connor figured it out

By GREG O'BRIEN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Sean Connor is an unlikely priest. The son of a Milton police officer, the brother of a state trooper, a former Marshfield cop himself, the brother of a legendary Boston art thief and self-professed “President of Rock ‘n’ Roll,” a counselor who calls the clergy sex abuse scandal “perverse and evil,” he is the antithesis of today’s public perception of what it means to be a priest. And yet in so many ways, he embodies the resurrection of the church from its latest crisis, a hope for the future.

Born in gritty Brockton, raised in Marshfield with close ties to Dorchester, Father Connor years ago was heading toward marriage, kids, and a life in a cruiser. A papal appeal changed all that, an about-face that took about 17 years to sink through his thick Irish skin. Now pastor of St. Ann’s Parish on Neponset Avenue in Dorchester and a chaplain with the Boston Police Department, he realizes he has known since he was a young man that there was a higher calling.

At 14, “after doing all the crazy stuff you would only tell in confession,” Connor had a come-to-Jesus moment on rainy Boston Common while wearing a trash bag raincoat and listening to Pope John Paul II’s homily during that historic Mass. “Some of you are being called to married life,” Connor recalls the pontiff saying. “And for some, the Lord is calling you to the priesthood.”

The call stopped Connor in his tracks, but like most youths, he had a life to pursue until there was a second knock at the door years later, actually more of a battering ram. At 29, Connor, a blue-eyed, boyish-looking man, was walking lockstep in his late father’s footsteps. He was a private investigator, a Marshfield police officer, and the director of the town’s emergency management office. He was driving a Ford Bronco, dating an attractive Fidelity financial manager, and living in a bachelor pad. Sean Connor was poised for a prized life in criminal justice. Nothing would stop him. Nothing. Yet something was profoundly missing.

And so he attended a three-day retreat with the Holy Cross fathers at Stonehill College in Easton, hoping to find himself. He was stunned at what he discovered, as he related years ago in a Boston Magazine piece. Intercession can do just that.

Connor recalls a priest at the retreat asking him, “Why are you here?”

“I don’t know,” he replied.  
“Why are you here?” the priest persisted.

“I don’t know,” Connor said, somewhat perplexed.

“What are you doing with your life? Are you happy?” the priest inquired.

“No, I’m miserable,” Connor answered, stunned that the words slipped out so freely.

“Then why don’t you go into the chapel, get down on your knees, and ask God what He wants for your life?”

At first, Connor thought it was a dumb idea. An hour later, after soulful prayer and some tears, he walked out of the chapel a man reborn and on an enlightened mission. Months later, he quit his police job, and applied to St. John’s Seminary in Brighton, assuming the news would shock his family and friends. Little did he know.

“Most everyone here thinks you should be a priest,” Connor recalls a colleague saying. “Well, no one ever told me,” he countered, noting he always thought his more principled brother James, now a state police sergeant stationed at the State House, would be the priest of the family.

Sean M. Connor has always had an ear to the ground, even when he’s not listening. His father, Joe, a respected Milton police sergeant who died of a heart attack when the son was 15, taught him that. “My dad was gentle and kind, a bit of an Irish poet, and he always encouraged me to observe life carefully, seeking the best possible in goodness and love,” he says.

Growing up in Marshfield in the 1970s and ‘80s, on the lip of the Irish Riviera, meant a simple, idyllic life surrounded by the sea, lush saltmarshes and work-



Father Sean Connor at the celebratin of First Communion at St. Ann’s Church in June.

Ed Forry photo

ing class families —far from the crime enticements and temptations of the city. Connor was raised in a fully Irish family; his father and Dorchester-born mother, Sally (Coyne), were first generation Irish with farming roots in Galway. His paternal grandparents, William, who delivered oil by horse and buggy in Southie, and Catherine Holloran, ultimately lived in the shadows of St. Ann’s church after emigrating, and often doted on the Connor children, as did maternal grandmother Nora (O’Sullivan). Connor’s maternal grandfather, James, died before he was born.

In all ways, Connor’s father was his hero and his mother the centerboard of this extended, old-school, immigrant family that included a range of siblings: in addition to James, sisters Patricia, now retired in Florida, Catherine and Erin, who work at South Shore Hospital; and older brother Myles, who at 69 has more Google hits than most his age. Myles, as many know, was a rock guitarist who played with doo-wop groups like Sha Na Na and opened for artist Roy Orbison, then turned his attention to crime, in particular art theft, a life that included the taking of a Rembrandt from Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts. He also claims to know who stole hundreds of millions of dollars in art from Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 1990. His exploits from the stage, to drugs, to rock ‘n’ roll, to prison were recounted in his autobiography, “The Art of the Heist: Confessions of a Master Art Thief, Rock-and-Roller and Periodical Son.” Hollywood has bought the movie rights to his life.

“That don’t impress me much,” Sean Connor would say, in parroting the ‘98 Shania Twain hit. Myles was arrested again last month in Woonsocket, R.I., on conspiracy and first-degree robbery charges outside a convenience store. “My brother was so talented that he could have anything in life,” says his younger sibling. “He had perfect SAT scores and was self-taught in five or six languages. My dad, deeply hurt by Myles’s life in crime, always told us that we should love him, and I do.”

His father’s death left a void in Father Connor’s life that took almost two decades to fill, but that dutifully kept him in search of a calling in life. “It was devastating. I shut down when dad died; it took me a long time to figure it all out. Once death comes, you can never have that person back. You can love them, you can retain beautiful memories, reflect on eternal life, but you can never have that person back. Dad always told us that he loved us. I still miss him.”

As a man of cloth, rather than one carrying a firearm, Connor, 47, feels closer today to his father. Each step in his uncommon life, some of them painful, has had a purpose, he says.

After graduating from Marshfield High School where he toiled off-hours in local restaurants, was involved in art and music programs, and played little organized sports, “growing into a six-foot, two-inch frame years later,” he attended Northeastern to study criminal justice, then left school to pursue counseling for the disabled and police work in Marshfield. He earned a degree later.

“I know the police world,” he says with self-assurance. “I grew up in a police family. It’s in my blood. But it always seemed more of a job, than a calling. It wasn’t for me forever.”

After studies at St. John’s Seminary and ordination at 31, the late bloomer in the ministry was assigned to St. Francis Xavier Church in Weymouth, until the priest abuse scandal hit the front pages. With a background in police work and experience in counseling, he was swiftly hand-picked to work out of embattled Cardinal Bernard Law’s office and later with Cardinal Sean O’Malley, supporting the victims and families, and attempting to reconcile with the faithful a tragedy that still slices deep into the church’s identity.

“We’re made for goodness, not evil or madness,” says Connor, reflecting on this afternoon in late July. “I would say a great evil penetrated the church. When you take advantage of a minor entrusted to your care for sexual gratification, it’s a sin and a crime, and there is something evil there. It’s not just perverse, it’s evil. What happened was barbaric.”

Such candid talk has begun to break down barriers between the priesthood and parishioners—a relationship, he admits, that took another symbolic hit with the recent Penn State scandal, conviction of predator and former coach Jerry Sandusky, and tough NCAA sanctions on the university. Many in anger are left wondering today if the church got a free pass.

Hardly, suggests Connor emphatically. “The church crisis continues to be lived out for this generation. There were a lot of people hurt, and we have much more work to do to insure that this will never happen again. We must never forget.” Connor continues that rehabilitation work today, meeting with victims and their families, encouraging them to come forward for healing and the unyielding prosecution of offenders.

Coming full circle four years ago in the Dorchester family tree, Connor was

assigned to St. Ann’s church where he works closely with immigrant families, and yes, police officers. As a Catholic Boston Police Department chaplain along with Father John Connolly of nearby St. Brendan’s parish, he ministers to his brothers on the force, helping them sort out the viciousness of the crime they fight and the pressures in their personal lives. He and Connolly have also travelled to Dublin to assist in police counseling there. In this mission, Connor travels to Ireland yearly, and he has applied for Irish citizenship.

Any regrets in life? Does he wish he were back in uniform?

“No,” says Connor. “This is exactly where the Lord has called me. I need to be here. I always saw providence and grace in my life, and I will always be grateful to those who have trusted me to work with them. I understand the church crisis and the damage it has caused. I’m afraid for the church, if what we’re doing now doesn’t work. We’re in a new time of crisis as we attempt to realign parishes as is necessary, given the present realities. One has to renew things or lose things, and I fear we’re going to lose potential. Church now is secondary with many individuals after family, sports, and social life. That needs to change. I want to encourage people to come back to church, to a place of renewal. I want people to experience the Lord. I want them to come home.”

“God is here and waiting.”

Sean Connor—seen by many as a role model of what is right about the church today—says he lives by the Suscipe, the prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola—a petition, he hopes, that defines the priesthood. He recites it by rote on cue:

“Take Lord, and receive all my liberty. My memory, my understanding, and my entire will,

“All I have and call my own  
“You have given all to me.

“To you, Lord, I return it.

“Everything is yours; do with it what you will

“Give me your love and your grace  
“That is enough for me.”

What’s enough for Father Sean Connor is to know there is a fulfilled plan for his life, that he has faithfully answered a call, one that began with another priest asking, “Why are you here?”

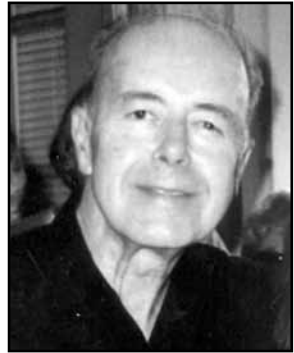
*Greg O’Brien, a regular contributor to the Boston Irish Reporter, is president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political/communications consulting firm on Cape Cod.*



# Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

**Not Chuckling At Stormont These Days** – The earlier relationship between Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness was one of the soft-landing wonders of the western world. So much so that they were often referred to as the Chuckle Brothers as they fulfilled their roles as First Minister and Deputy First Minister. To have the hardline “No Surrender” anti-papist Paisley and McGuinness, the former Derry IRA commander, working in tandem as northern political leaders was the stuff of fantasy.



Bill O'Donnell

Then came Paisley's successor, Peter Robinson, and people held their breath. Would the equally hard-nosed Robinson work with McGuinness to lead the six counties on the ground? The answer is that in the first year of the partnership there were some bumps and less chuckles, but few public brawls.

But the de facto detente between Robinson and McGuinness has apparently fallen on difficult days to the point that Robinson is demanding that any murder probe into the Bloody Sunday actions of the British Army Paras must include a closer look at McGuinness's actions that day. As Robinson says, “The Deputy First Minister has openly admitted that he was in charge. If that was the case then there has to be an investigation [of McGuinness] if you're investigating the Army.”

In rebuttal, McGuinness cites the Saville Report that clearly says the IRA had no responsibility for what happened on Bloody Sunday. The one-on-one meetings between the two leaders could be a trifle frosty these days, but the ambitions of each should preclude any serious long-term fractures in the alliance.

**Ireland To Remember JFK on Visit's 50th Anniversary** – Next year will be a banner year for Ireland, especially in County Wexford, which has a celebratory year planned to commemorate President Kennedy's visit in the summer of 1963. The special events will begin in early 2013 and run through the July 4 Independence Day festivities on to November when JFK's death will be marked by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Kennedy statue in New Ross and a Mass later honoring the late president. Other activities associated with the anniversary of his visit will include the unveiling of a new visitor center at the Kennedy homestead in Dunganstown where he was reunited with his cousins, led by Annie Ryan.

In 1970 my wife and I visited the original homesite in Dunganstown, which was so small and unpretentious it was hard to recall the joyous smiles of the president and his cousins just seven years earlier as he lined up with them for photographs a few yards from his grandfather's original home.

There was not another soul in sight that summer day in Dunganstown and as we walked back to where our rental car was parked, we glanced back to see Mrs. Ryan with a basket full of laundry heading back inside of her home. We left her with her memories as we drove away.

**Long Kesh Agreement Ensures Museum** – After months of intense partisan debate, the politicians at Stormont have finally agreed that Long Kesh Prison (the Maze) will be a museum and peace center featuring what is being called “a conflict transformation center.” Not everyone is happy, but the former home to Republican combatants and the hunger strikers will go forward and be built on the 360-acre site near Lisburn outside Belfast. Some of the unionist victims of the Troubles are outraged, claiming the new museum will be a “shrine to terrorists.” Northern politicians, however, are looking at the site as a “mecca for tourists” and a boost for the troubled economy. First Minister Robinson described the project as “a really exciting development.” Both Robinson and McGuinness have supported the project.

**Eagles, Gone A Century, Return to Connemara** – There have been no eagles flying overhead in Connemara for a full century. Nobody is quite sure why, but just recently two white-tailed eagles have made the territory along the mountains and the coastline between Roundstone and Ballyconneely their home. For how long they'll stay, nobody knows. In 2007, a program was begun by the National Parks and Wildlife service to restore the majestic species to Ireland. There is a possibility that the newly arrived eagles have come northward from the coast. The NPWS first began the restoration program in Kerry. Thus far, 100 eagles have been released in Killarney and returned to their natural habitats. The program to increase the number of eagles has been done quietly with the safety of the birds a major concern. They are waiting now to see if the new arrivals nest. With in-flight wingspans of ten feet, the eagles are a stunning sight to behold. May their tribe increase!

**Hey, Galway Leaders Put A stake in It** – The seemingly endless dispute over the question of honoring Che Guevara with a large statue in Salthill has obsessed members of the Galway city council. What the Cuban revolutionary, a descendant of the Lynch & Blake families, would bring in its larger-than-life visage to strolling Salthill promenaders is anyone's

guess. Maybe a key to the interest on the city council, or to some of its members, is the proposal to accept the statue as a joint “gift” to the people of Galway from the governments of Argentina and Cuba. Maybe it's the council's hope that Guevara, on the cheap, might attract some Latin American tourists to the city. Whatever the rationale, it's long past time to put a stake in this daffy proposal and find someone to honor, if they must, who has a less checkered past – and who won't scare the good people on the Salthill Promenade.

**Chuck Feeney Will Close The “Shop” In 2016** – Irish American billionaire and generous giver extraordinaire Chuck Feeney will close out his amazing life of charity when he discontinues grant-making at his Atlantic Philanthropies at the end of 2016, with total closure in 2020. Feeney, reclusive founder of the duty free shops, has donated \$1.25 billion to projects, many of them in Ireland, on both sides of the border. Founded in 1982 by a man who concedes that he would like to depart this earth without his wealth, Atlantic has more than \$1 billion left that Feeney can allocate to new projects and innovative ideas to help humanity. Bill Gates and Warren Buffet have well-earned reputations for giving, but nobody has committed a larger percentage of his personal wealth to charity than has Chuck Feeney. Good man.

**A Tale Of Two Priests** – The two men I am about to write about are talented, competent, extremely able administrators. They would likely both make productive employees in private industry, but neither man was involved or employed in the private sector. They are Catholic priests and were obedient servants of leaders far superior in rank than they were at the penultimate time in their lives, a time in the seasons of living when an important decision would dictate how they would live the remainder of their lives. And for what they would be answerable, then and later.

Monsignor William Lynn served as secretary for clergy for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia from 1992 to 2004. For a dozen years he was in charge of recommending priest assignments and investigating abuse complaints. He was, in essence, the personnel director for a corporation called the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Monsignor Lynn's boss and the man he reported to on a regular basis was a prince of the Church, Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua.

The second person of interest here is Father, later Bishop, John McCormack. For over a decade, he labored for the Archdiocese of Boston as the personnel director, reporting to his boss, also a prince of the Church, Cardinal Bernard Law. For a decade or more in the 1980s and 1990s, Bishop McCormack was the director of clergy placement responsible to the cardinal for appointing, shifting, and transferring priests in the archdiocese as directed or confirmed by Cardinal Law.

Both Cardinals mentioned above are/were strong individuals with somewhat imperious personalities who brooked little interference with their behavior or their decisions. Cardinal Bevilacqua died in January of this year and Cardinal Law is rector of one of the four major churches in Rome where he sits on two very important decision-making Vatican boards that, in one instance, vets and recommends to the pope priests seen as candidates for bishoprics in the United States.

Monsignor William Lynn of Philadelphia was recently indicted and convicted of endangering children by allowing a known pedophile priest to continue ministering to archdiocesan youth. The highest ranking Catholic clergyman to be tried and convicted in the priest-abuse scandal, he was sentenced to three-to-six years in state prison on July 25.

Father John McCormack, who worked with priests in the Boston archdiocese in essentially the same job as Lynn and with the same accusations, was not indicted and will in all likelihood never face a trial. Despite his responsibility for shifting and transferring and disciplining priests, many identified as known abusers, he faces no court proceedings. His has been a charmed life. He was elevated to bishop and given the diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire, to lead, a strange, grossly inappropriate reward for a man whom one respected religious publication called the “chief enabler of priest abusers in the United States.”

**Note:** The toughened child safety policy enacted in 2002 after the horrific revelations re offending priests in Boston contains a discipline plan for abusive priests, *but not for the bishops who failed to report them to police.* (Emphasis added)

**Correction:** In an item in the July issue about the Catholic Church, I referred to a “Ministry of Christ” in listing non-conforming, cult-like organizations that enjoy the support of Pope Benedict. The group that I was referencing is the Legion of Christ.

**Busker Plays For Stricken Girl** – Her name is Lily-Mae Morrison; she's 4 years old and lives with her family in Claregalway. She has cancer, stage 4 neuroblastoma. She needs all the help she can get. Maybe that's why Jamie Harrison, 21, a guitar-playing busker who usually works Galway's Shop Street, decided to take himself out of business for a week and go into business exclusively for Lily-Mae. Jamie didn't just want to give her a piece of his busking action, he wanted to go all in for the wee Claregalway girl.

After a week on the streets with a smile, a shoeshine, and his guitar he had raised an astonishing \$7,000 for Lily-Mae. He got it all together, put it into a fat check, and presented it to the ailing girl's par-

ents. Buskers don't make a lot of money but Jamie Harrison has some things money can't buy: a big heart and the gratitude of a family with big trouble. God bless the mark.

**Maureen O'Hara Clears The Air** – The enduringly beautiful redhead has passed her 90th birthday and she's had some problems with a close employee but it seems that Ms. O'Hara was, as she put it, “damn upset” at all the hullabaloo.

Update: Ms. O'Hara's longtime personal assistant no longer is employed by the retired actress and she no longer has power of attorney for Ms. O'Hara. All's well...

**We Are All God's Children** – Lt. Neal Turkington, Sandhurst-educated, of the Royal Gurkha Rifles was serving with the British Army in Afghanistan in 2010 when he was killed in action at age 26. He was a member of the Church of Ireland's St. Mark's Church in Portadown. He died in uniform fighting for the coalition forces in that region. Neal got to know the people he met far from Portadown through his military service and he was keen to learn the languages of the area: Afghan and a country that he knew and loved, Nepal. He had told his family and friends that he wanted to “make a difference” and return to Nepal to help the children there, specifically to build a school.

Lt. Turkington never lived to fulfil his peacetime mission but his family did not forget. The result was six new classrooms at a Nepal school in memory of Neal dedicated by his father, financed by \$150,000 in donations from former schoolmates, Army buddies, friends, and family.

A small story about a soldier who died fighting in the desert alongside American GIs in a war that is finally, mercifully, winding down. Neal Turkington is gone but his legacy in Nepal endures and his spirit endures for the rest of us.

## RANDOM CLIPPINGS

John Hume has a brand new Papal Knighthood to add to his Nobel Prize. ... The National Press Club in DC held a reception for the London Olympics with an All-British menu, except the beer. That was Guinness. ... They left Castleisland for jobs in Australia but they sent home a

check for \$1,600 to help out their troubled GAA club, Desmonds. ... Donald Trump was dissing President Obama and saying that the US could become a large-scale Greece or Spain. Donald would know, he's had more Trump, Inc. re-orgs and bankrupt rulings than trips to his hairdresser.

Dublin ranks in the upper echelon of the most congested Euro cities along with Rome, Paris, and Brussels. ... You can't make this stuff up. The Vatican, desperate to improve its image, has hired a former Fox Network newsmen to help with the blunders. ... A Brit tabloid ran an ugly piece on the Brits' anti-Irish actions only to have its Irish readers overwhelmingly tell the paper the British treat them just fine. Who's watching the store? There have been 26,000 hoax calls to NI's emergency phone line with only 13 convictions. ... Aer Lingus is looking strong in its fight to keep Ryanair away from its shares, charging Ryanair is looking to get in on the cheap.

What would a year be without the latest favorite Irish baby names. Jack and Emily lead the list. Sean is still up there with Sophie, Conor, and Emma. ... The cost of living in Ireland is now at a 17-month low and the gurus expect prices to continue south for a while yet. ... Who's watching the store, Part 2? Some 124,000 garda arrest warrants, many going back years, have gone unserved. ... The drums & bowler set had one Orange marching band stop outside a Belfast Catholic Church to sing anti-Irish songs and do some dancing. Precious! ... The turf cutters vs. the Irish government continues red hot & unresolved. ... John McCain and the Republican House speaker both stood up for Hillary Clinton's Muslim top aide whom that mind-damaged wannabe Michele Bachman had savaged. ... The next time someone from the bogus National Caregiving Foundation calls you for a donation, call the law. A huge scam. ... The citrus lads (Orange men) were rebuffed for the 17th time as they tried to walk Drumcree. It's a “dead duck,” say the Garvaghy residents. ... October is expected to be the month that the Euro honchos provide bank debt relief to Ireland. ... It amounts to less than \$500,000, but the US State Dept. is defunding the Mitchell Scholarship Program. George & Trina Vargo deserve better. ... Irish whiskey is so popular it has now become the world's fastest growing drinks brand. Jameson sales have soared 750% in the last 25 years. ... A good tip for off-beat tourist spots: the Beatty Library behind Dublin Castle ..... Belfast City Council is the first local authority in Ireland to pass a motion in support of gay marriage.

**RIP** – I knew John Curran for quite a few years. He had the beat of the Irish community nestled deep in his heart and he would do anything for you. I was out of country when his death was announced so forgive a belated few lines for a Boston institution, a man difficult not to like. I never believed that I was attending an Irish event if John wasn't behind the mic entertaining us.

Around the same time that I had multi-artery heart bypass surgery, John outdid me by a couple of extra bypasses on his big heart. I just wish his time on the table gave him more years than he had. I'll miss him. My condolences to Kitty and their four children.



BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

A large gathering of friends and new admirers gathered at the Irish Consulate in Copley Square last month to bid a fond farewell to Deirdre Ní Fhallúin, who has served as Ireland's Vice Consul since August, 2008. The Kildare native was in the Boston post for four years, and now she and her husband Paul Brandon will return to Ireland for a new assignment at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

1.) Ronnie Millar, IIIC; Kelly Matthews, Cambridge, Catherine Shannon, Scituate, Michael Lonergan, Consul; 2.) Maureen Connolly, Aisling Gallery; Mari Bartholomew, Quincy; Barbara & Bill Fitzgerald, Milton; Margaret Stapleton, Scituate, Sr. Lena Deevy, IIIC; 3.) Deirdre and husband; 4.) Guy Thompson, Brighton; Sabrina Absalon, Brighton; Eugene Dhindolea, Malden; Lorna Cryan, Brookline; 5.) John Connolly, Aisling Gallery; Nuala and John Carlson, Andover; 6.) Tom Carty, Dedham; Megan Carroll, Wellesley; Paul McNamara, Eire Society President; 7.) P.J. Quinn, Malden IA Club; Karen Thornton, Norwood; 8.) Colleen DiNicola, Weymouth; Kristen Kelleher, Newbury; Suzanne Hall, Somerville, Sile Power, Newton; 9.) Sean Clohessy, Limerick/Back Bay; Kieran Hehir, Quincy; 10.) Jim West, Newton; Arlene Brennan, Waltham; 11.) Dierdre NíFhallúin, Vice Consul; Joe Milano, Oyster House.





# IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110

Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655

Website: [iiicenter.org](http://iiicenter.org) Email: [immigration@iiicenter.org](mailto:immigration@iiicenter.org)

## One young man's story: 'Insurance for Success'

Kevin Walsh, a native of county Meath, arrived in Boston excited to search for his dream internship on the IIC J-1 IWT visa program. He had a master's degree in International Trade and Finance from Leeds Metropolitan University, and had dotted all of his "i's" and crossed all of his "t's" while researching and applying for dozens of year-long internships in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and even Texas.

With the constant support of IIC's program manager Jude Clarke and Megan Carroll, the director of intern placements, Kevin got all his application materials in great working order. He expanded his search from fund/floor credit analyst, consulting, and investment positions to the insurance business. He networked at every opportunity, and cast a broad net to financial institutions, banks, and HR business partners. Carroll assisted Kevin by calling on several CEOs and HR managers on his behalf, and strategizing with him on his plan. He prepared custom-made documents for each company. He was doing all the right things in a search, but

still unable to get any offers. A job search can be discouraging, and as Kevin approached his 90-day visa deadline to get an internship, things were starting to look bleak.

However, just a couple of days before Kevin's deadline, Megan met with Boston-based Ironshore Insurance's HR Manager Jen Svenson to introduce Kevin. Jen says that she "is a huge fan of the Irish International Immigrant Center. We have had excellent experiences with all of our endeavors with the IIC and we are fortunate to have hired extremely dedicated and talented interns through the J-1 IWT program." Everything suddenly fell into place. Kevin submitted a customized resume and revised cover letter. He was then invited to interview for a Trainee in Commercial Underwriting, and the very next day was offered his 12-month internship.

Says Kevin, "I am delighted to have started working at Ironshore. The experience so far has been very positive. I have been pleasantly surprised on how welcoming my new colleagues have been. I look forward to contributing to Ironshore and its future successes over the duration of my time here."

The IIC thanks Kevin

Kelley, CEO of Ironshore Insurance, for his support for young Irish graduates especially at this challenging time in the Irish economy.

**Save the Date: Morrison Visa's 21st Anniversary Reunion:** It's hard to believe that 21 years have passed since the Morrison visa lottery! Many of you may have fond memories of those times at what was then the Irish Immigration Center as countless hours were spent counseling hopeful candidates on the process, preparing thousands of applications and then assisting winners with interviews. Now 21 years later, we'd love to celebrate by reconnecting with old friends of the center for a night of music, laughter, and chats! Join us on Sept. 27 for a reception at the Irish International Immigrant Center followed by cocktails and music next door at the Elephant & Castle. For more information on the evolving plans, please visit our website, [iiicenter.org](http://iiicenter.org), or call 617-542-7654.

**Make US citizenship part of your summer plans!** Toni Earls, IIC Citizenship and Outreach Worker, asks: Would you like to become a US citizen? If you are a Legal

Permanent Resident and have been so for at least five years, or are married to an American citizen and have been a Legal Permanent Resident for three years, you meet the most basic eligibility requirement for citizenship. Don't let fear or misinformation stop you from making a beneficial change in your life. The IIC offers free in-office consultations about naturalization at which the application and supporting documentation (if needed) are explained. Citizenship advice is also available at our regularly scheduled free legal clinics held in the office and in neighborhoods around Boston.

Individuals who take advantage of the expert guidance available at the IIC can rest assured that they will receive careful consideration and the personal attention such an important life step merits. Our organization also provides support throughout the Citizenship process, offering ESOL and Citizenship classes in preparation for the interview.

For information about the citizenship process and what it entails, call or send an e-mail to Toni at (617) 542-7654, Ext. 26, or [tearls@iiicenter.org](mailto:tearls@iiicenter.org).

## IMMIGRATION Q & A

# Planning a business trip to the US? Read this first

**Q.** *I plan to make a couple of short business trips from Ireland to the US in the near future, to meet with contacts, attend an industry convention, and probably do some contract negotiation. Can I do this without applying for a visa beforehand?*

**A.** This should be possible, depending on a few factors. The US government operates what is known as the "Visa Waiver Program" (VWP) for nationals of a number of friendly countries, including Ireland. This program allows travel to the US for up to 90 days for business or pleasure, without applying for a visitor's visa beforehand. Citizens of Canada and Bermuda are treated essentially the same as those of VWP countries for purposes of short-term visits to the US.

So, first of all, you must be a citizen (not just a resident) of one of the VWP countries. For example, a citizen of Poland temporarily residing in Ireland would not be eligible to travel under the VWP but would need to apply for a visitor's visa instead, whereas a citizen of Ireland temporarily located in Poland could make use of the VWP.

Second, the business activity involved must fit within the US government's definition. This does include the activities you mentioned, as well as travel for the purpose of conducting litigation. The permissible activity does *not* include "employment" (which can be loosely understood as doing work for pay that an American could be doing) while in the US. To work at a job in the US one needs a temporary work visa such as the H1-B or other employment authorization from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services. There are gray areas involved in the definitions of "business" versus "employment," so if there is any doubt you should consult an immigration lawyer before planning to travel under the VWP.

Third, travelers from VWP countries also need to be personally eligible to take advantage of the VWP. Those ineligible to enter under the VWP because of a visa overstay or other problem, for example, would have to apply for a B-1 (business visitor) visa at the local US Consulate. The permissible business activities are the same for a B-1 visa as with the VWP. The B-1 visa application process takes time and requires a fee, but it has a couple of advantages: it can be granted for up to six months and can be extended, unlike the VWP, which is strictly limited to a maximum of 90 days. Also, a B-1 visa holder can in certain circumstances apply to change status in the US to that of another visa such as a J-1 exchange visa; such status changes are not permitted under the VWP. US immigration and consular officials can question a traveler both about the business activities planned and the intention to make the stay in the US a temporary one. So, whether traveling under the VWP or applying for a B-1 visa, you should be prepared to document your business trip (your agenda, travel and hotel arrangements, conference programs, contact information, etc.) and your intention to return home within the time allowed (a return air ticket, proof that you are still employed at home, have family and property there, etc.). People used to believe that showing up in a business suit with a briefcase and business cards in one's pockets virtually guaranteed entry for short business trips. Post 9/11, this is not necessarily the case. So travelers must be prepared for more scrutiny of their intentions. For a free, confidential consultation about this or any other aspect of immigration law, visit one of our weekly legal clinics as advertised in The Irish Reporter.

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

## Matters Of Substance

# Good sleep equals less stress

By DANIELLE OWEN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

One of the "hottest" topics of discussion at our recent "Coping with Stress" series of workshops was sleep. Dr. Christine Farrell Riley shared some very helpful tips on how even small changes we make to our "sleep hygiene" routine can help us to sleep better and by doing so improve how we cope with the stress in our lives.

According to the National Sleep Foundation, sleeping problems or "insomnia [can] have far-reaching effects: a negative impact on [our] concentration, productivity and mood." Dr. Riley reminded us how sleep is the key to keeping a healthy weight, having a healthy immune system, and preventing depression. The average person needs 7-8 hours of sleep per night and research has shown that even minor sleep deprivation can have negative effects in the body. Sleep deprivation has even been shown to increase levels of the hormones that create stress.

Fortunately, we can do something about it, and, as the NSF suggests, our "first step requires some detective work." It suggests that by examining your diet, exercise patterns, sleeping environment, personal habits, lifestyle, and current

concerns/anxieties, you could find out which one is affecting your sleep. There are many things you can do to improve your sleep. They fall under the heading of "sleep hygiene" and include such tips as:

Maintain a regular sleep/wake cycle.

Keep your bedroom free of televisions, computers, etc.

Avoid caffeine. Drinking coffee, teas, chocolate, and cola drinks all give us caffeine which can impact us up to 10-12 hours after drinking it.

Avoid Nicotine. Cigarettes also have a stimulant effect, like caffeine. When smokers go to sleep, they experience nicotine withdrawal and may also have more nightmares. Research suggests that nicotine is linked to difficulty falling asleep and problems waking up. So do yourself a favor and get help to quit. (Call Danielle to find out how!)

Alcohol is often thought of as a relaxant. However, while alcohol may seem to help us fall asleep, it actually increases the number of times you wake later in the night. If your sleep isn't restful, alcohol (beer, wine, hard liquor) may be the cause.

Keep a sleep diary before and after you try these tips, to notice any change. (See NSF Sleep Diary & other sleeping tips on [sleepfoundation.org](http://sleepfoundation.org)).

org.

If, after all these tips, the quality of your sleep does not improve, share this diary with your doctor. There can be other physical causes of chronic insomnia. Change is always possible, but we sometimes might need added support, especially if current worries, depression or anxiety appear to be causing our sleeping problem. Counseling approaches to insomnia have been shown to be superior to medications in research studies.

The IIC can help! If you would like to chat about any of your concerns, call Danielle, in confidence and without judgment,



Danielle Owen

at the Irish International Immigrant Center. Phone: 617-542-7654, Ext. 14, or via e-mail at [dowen@iiicenter.org](mailto:dowen@iiicenter.org). You can also contact Dr. Riley with your health and wellness questions by visiting [wholehearthealing.net](http://wholehearthealing.net).

## Events, Classes, & Workshops

### IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

#### Upcoming Free Immigration Legal Clinics

Tuesday, August 7 at IIC, 100 Franklin St. LL-1, Boston  
Monday, August 13 at 6:30 PM at The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton  
Tuesday, August 21 at IIC, 100 Franklin St. LL-1, Boston  
Tuesday, August 28 at 6:00 PM at The South Boston Labour Centre, 275 West Broadway, South Boston

All clinics are first-come, first-served. For complete details, please call (617) 542-7654.

### WELLNESS & EDUCATION SERVICES

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Reiki I Workshop	Financial Planning
Home Health Aide Course	Employer & Education Fair

For more information, call Kielan O'Boyle at extension 42.



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**Appeals judges: BC must turn over Troubles tapes**

(Continued from page 1)

over. He also said it could have a chilling effect on other academic research projects.

The court ruled that the men had no right to interfere with the police request, under terms of a treaty between the United States and United Kingdom that requires the two to aid each other's criminal investigations. And it said criminal investigations take precedence over academic study. "The choice to investigate criminal activity belongs to the government and is not subject to veto by academic researchers," the court wrote.

Attorney Jon Albano, who filed a brief on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union in support of Moloney and McIntyre, said the ruling is "not a good sign" for Boston College's pending appeal against Young's order. He said he was disappointed in the ruling. "We were not saying that there was some kind of automatic absolute protection for academics, any more than for reporters," he said. "We were saying that if you look at the facts of this case, this is a case where Moloney and McIntyre actually deserve to be protected."

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BY STEPHEN P. COSTELLO, PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Bank of Canton has come a long way since the mid-1800s when Paul Revere's son served on our Inaugural Committee of Investment, just a few years after we first opened for business in a local tavern! Over 175 years later, while many community and commercial banks are reducing their services, increasing their fees, and raising barriers on mortgage applications and loans, Bank of Canton continues to expand its services to customers and support a wide variety of community organizations in need.

With products and services ranging from Deposit Accounts and Residential, Commercial & Construction Mortgage Loans, to Convenience Services including Online Banking & Bill Pay and Remote Deposit Capture, we are committed to offering a wide array of quality and timely financial solutions to consumers and businesses, both within and outside of our local market area.

We have always considered ourselves like family to our customers. Trusting us and having peace of mind are high priorities, which we nurture with our customers every day. Putting this philosophy into practice is what has enabled Bank of Canton to grow, prosper and, most importantly, evolve as a leader in the banking industry. We strive to remain aware of issues that our customers face every day such as elder abuse, fraud and scams perpetrated upon our senior citizens, and concern about planning for their own future and how their legacy, whatever the size, will be passed on to their loved ones. This awareness led us to explore ways in which we could serve as trusted partner to our customers, looking out for their best interests at all times, and ensuring they have properly planned for their future. Earlier this year, we introduced B.O.C. Life Solutions, an Estate Planning and Asset Protection service offered to customers in the comfortable surroundings of their community bank. It's a common misconception that only the wealthy need an estate plan. The fact is, anyone who has a home, a car, bank account, investments, business interests, retirement plan accounts, or personal belongings – and wants to protect them, needs an estate plan. An estate plan protects you and your family by allowing you to decide how your personal and financial affairs will be handled should you become incapacitated. An estate plan

can help you protect your assets from being depleted if you are in need of assisted living or nursing home care, and will keep you in control of how, and to whom, your property will be distributed upon your death.

And how do we know all this? Several Senior Managers here at Bank of Canton learned about the importance of proper planning through their own experiences as well as those of their parents. And, it turns out that some of us were less than satisfied with the firm or attorney we used to assist us with our personal matters; which, in turn, helped us to realize there should be a better and more effective solution available. So after two years of market research, legal consultation and, most importantly, identifying and bringing on board partners with the planning expertise we ourselves would expect for our own matters, B.O.C. Life Solutions was introduced. Within the first few days of our offering this new service, our planning team was able to show a client how they could protect over \$80,000 as a legacy for their children. Now that's a real-life happy ending that would not have been possible without proper planning.

For Bank of Canton, it's all about providing the solution that best fits the need – and doing so with the expertise and advice from people you can trust. As another example, whether the economy and housing market are strong or weak, we have maintained our commitment to making affordable home mortgages available to Massachusetts residents and see this as a core value of being a true community bank. In fact, over the last three years we have closed in excess of \$2,000,000,000 (*yes, that's billion!*) in Residential Mortgage Loans. Furthermore, people are struggling in all sectors of the economy, yet many qualify for affordable home mortgages and deserve to receive them. We are particularly proud to receive prestigious recognition from the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency (MassHousing), which has honored our community bank as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' "Top Producer" of the agency's first mortgage loans for three consecutive years and "Top Minority Lender" for five consecutive years.

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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

**BOSTON IRISH ARTS,  
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## Harrington's in Wakefield offers spirit aplenty on Wednesday nights

**inSESSION/Sean Smith**

*Another in the occasional series that profiles the wealth and diversity of regularly occurring Irish and Celtic music sessions in, or reasonably near, the Greater Boston area.*

**Harrington's Food and Spirits**  
**Where:** 17 Water St., Wakefield  
**When:** Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.  
**Began:** 2005

Location isn't necessarily a big consideration for session-goers – compared to concerns like “How many people will fit into the place?” or “Can you hear yourself at all?” – but Terry Weir feels it's definitely a virtue of the session he organizes and co-leads at Harrington's.

Wakefield, he notes, is a pretty quick jaunt via Route 95/128 or Route 93, about a half-hour or so from Boston proper (the 8:30 start time theoretically mitigates the likelihood of running into rush-hour traffic). And you pass a fair amount of open, green space, plus Crystal Lake or Lake Quannapowitt, on your way to the pub, which is right near the town center – quite a pleasant drive for a summer's evening.

“It's a quiet little corner in the ‘burbs,” says Weir, who lives one town over in Reading. “You might not expect to find an Irish session here. But I think people like that; it's nice to have something a little different.”

The set-up at Harrington's is conducive to a more intimate brand of session. Adjacent to the entrance in the pub's northeast corner is a small section, slightly raised and partly enclosed by a plain but aesthetically agreeable banister, that accommodates perhaps six or seven musicians in an L-shaped configuration. This area is right up against



**Terry Weir (center), co-leader and organizer of the weekly session at Harrington's Food and Spirits in Wakefield, plays a tune with Emily Peterson (left) and Bob and Jen Strom. Sean Smith photo**

The first session began on the Wednesday following St. Patrick's Day of that year, 2005, and Harrington's has since become a favored destination in particular for many Irish music aficionados living north of Boston.

“When you have something new going on, of course you're going to wonder how it'll play out over time,” recalls Weir. “During the first months I thought, ‘What happens in the summer? This is a bedroom community, so will everyone take off?’ But as it turned out, people in the area also would have family or friends visiting, and this is where they'd take them.”

Concertina player Emily Peterson, a Harrington's regular and occasional co-leader, agrees: “There is not a huge sense of ownership or entitlement here. The session is by no means ‘anti-beginner.’ But you definitely see that people playing at Harrington's know their way around the music.”

Peterson's observation is borne out by the patter among the musicians on one recent Wednesday night: informed discussions about sources and variations of particular tunes, as well as recollections – and even a few dead-on (and hilarious) impersonations – of notable Irish music personalities.

bothersome. What's more, when the lessons are over at around 9:30, the dancers typically stop in the pub for a pint or two before heading home, and their presence – not to mention their applause, whoops and other expressions of approval – gives the session an infusion of energy.

“It's a good little pick-me-up,” notes Weir, exchanging pleasantries with some of the dancers as they file by on their way to find seats. “There's a lot of spirit in here on a Wednesday night, between the music and the dance. Like I said, you might not expect to find something like this in a quiet little suburban town, and that's part of what makes it so enjoyable.”

## Tommy Fleming to sing at City Hall in Peabody Sept. 7, 8

**BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER**

Tommy Fleming, whose powerful, passionate interpretations of songs old and new, traditional and contemporary, have made him one of Ireland's most popular vocalists, will perform two shows next month at Peabody City Hall.

Fleming will give concerts on Sept. 7 and 8, both at 7 p.m., in city hall's Frank L. Wiggin Auditorium. Tickets for the shows are \$30 (orchestra tables), \$25 (balcony tables) and \$20 (balcony seats). For information, call the Office of the Mayor at 978-538-5704.

An international success whose albums have consistently gone platinum, multi-platinum and gold, Fleming – *Irish Music Magazine's* “Best Irish Male Singer” in 2005 – has played in sold-out concert halls around the world and made frequent radio and television appearances, including on PBS, for whom he is recording a new TV special. The Sligo native and youngest of six children also has seen his life shaped by forces other than music, including a near-tragedy early in his solo career and a formational six-month sojourn in Africa at a time when he was enjoying major popularity.

Fleming came to the attention of many Irish music fans in the 1990s while touring with composer, songwriter, and producer Phil Coulter, whom he'd met while performing at a charity event. It was during his association with Coulter that Fleming made his first visit to Boston.

“I performed in Symphony Hall in 1993 – one of the most memorable performances of my life at one of the biggest venues on that tour,” he recalls. “When I returned again with Phil in 1996, I had some time to get to know the place

better. I loved the architecture of Boston and spent hours exploring around the city. I even met with a school friend and paid a visit to the ‘Cheers’ bar. I have returned to Boston a few times since, but not nearly enough, so the opportunity to perform in Peabody was a welcome request – I promise to do many more concerts in Boston!”

Fleming went on to do a stint as part of the traditional band De Dannan, appearing on their album “Hibernian Rhapsody.” He became a solo act in 1996 and over the next two years recorded his first two albums, the second of which (“Restless Spirit,” released in 1998) entered the Irish charts at number five and went on to achieve double platinum sales.

But having established his solo career, he spent most of 1999 recovering from an auto accident that had left him with a broken neck and other serious injuries, forcing the cancellation of a string of concert dates. It was an experience that provided him with some important lessons, says Fleming.

“The car accident made me realize the value of life and how important that is. I stopped focusing on things that didn't really matter and began to appreciate the special things in life and, most importantly, health. I had no idea for quite some time if I would ever walk again. I certainly didn't think I would be able to resume a singing career, and luckily I have been given a chance at both. It took me at least five years to get back to the point I was at before the accident, but I didn't rush it; I appreciated the fact that I had another chance.”

Fleming recently got a fresh perspective on that period of his life when his mother died earlier this year. Looking

through her prayer book, Fleming came across a photo that had been taken of his wrecked car after the accident. “I can't imagine why she kept it. I thought all evidence from this time was gone,” he says. “But maybe she was reminding herself and thanking God for my recovery.”

Finally, he recovered enough to begin recording his next album, “The Contender,” a return to his folkier, more traditional roots, with songs by Irish writers such as Jimmy McCarthy, Christy Hennessy, Micky O Connell, and John Hurley, and classic numbers like “Danny Boy,” Stephen Foster's “Hard Times” and “Black is the Colour.” Released in 2000, the album went multi-platinum, launching tours of Japan, the US, and Europe.

After completing work on his next album, “Sand and Water” – which included his renditions of songs by Paul Brady, Tom Waits, and Dan Fogelberg, among others – Fleming made a decision that surprised even close family members and friends. He spent six months working as a field operative for an aid agency in Sudan, helping to provide food and medical assistance to malnourished people, especially children, caught up in war and famine.

“I really went to just simply get away, because I felt things were at an all-time low in my career and that I was surrounded by all the wrong people,” he says. His odyssey to Africa began less than fortuitously – he started his trip the day after 9/11 – but after a few days he felt certain he had done the right thing. “I fell in love with Africa, and the time I spent there was the most rewarding in my life. I learned a lot of lessons about how happy people can be, even when

(Continued on page 14)



**Sligo native Tommy Fleming has become one of Ireland's most popular vocalists.**



# A classic modern novel from Ferdia Mac Anna

BY THOMAS O'GRADY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

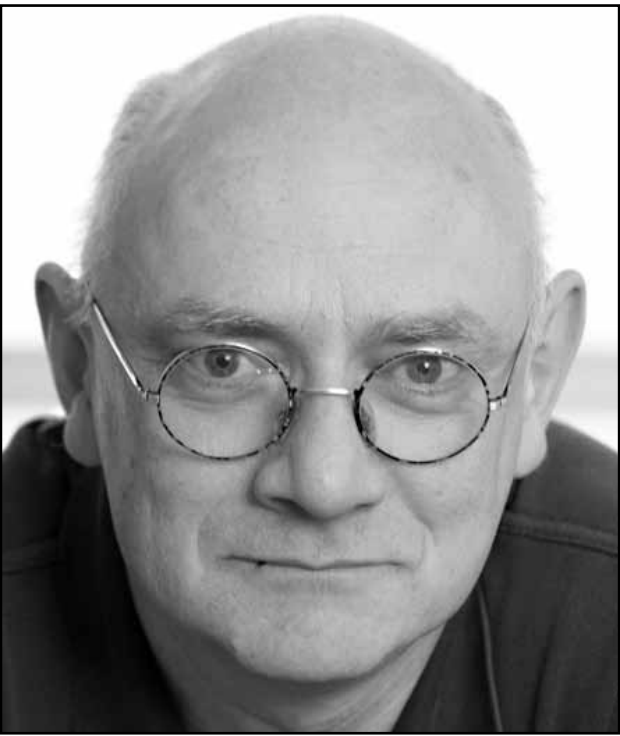
Understandably, a casual reader of Ferdia Mac Anna's recently reissued first novel, *The Last of the High Kings*, might think of it in Joycean terms. Originally published in 1991, this novel of youthful development seems, on the surface, to share some essential thematic territory with the spirit of *non serviam* articulated famously by James Joyce's quasi-autobiographical character Stephen Dedalus in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*: "I will not serve that in which I no longer believe, whether it call itself my home, my fatherland, or my church."

Yet, even aside from the fact that he is not cast in the role of "the artist"—that is, in the mold of the self-consciously sensitive individual committed, in his struggle against the values of a repressive society, to deploying the Joycean strategy of "silence, exile and cunning"—Mac Anna's protagonist Frankie Griffin emerges as much more, or at least much other, than a late-twentieth century variation on Joyce's Stephen. Set in the north-of-Dublin community of Howth in the summer of 1977, Mac Anna's novel is ultimately very much a product of its own place and time and is infused with a comic spirit that distances it both tonally and stylistically from Joyce's signature ironic treatment of his Dublin-centered creation.

Not unusually for a first novel (and in that regard not unlike Joyce's *Portrait*), *The Last of the High Kings* is also infused with many details drawn from the author's own life. As Mac Anna registers his childhood and his adolescence in *The Last of the Bald Heads*, his memoir published in 2004, these details include not only Howth as setting but also essential elements that propel the narrative of the novel: a domineering and eccentric mother, a frequently absent father, a male youth longing for individual identity in a community and culture (social, scholastic, political) demanding blind conformity to established codes of conduct. As Mac Anna acknowledges in recounting the family's move from Killiney to Howth, even the novel's title derives from a refrain that he endured throughout his growing-up years: "On the first day, the local kids came around to check us out. 'Where are you from?' one asked. 'We come from the High Kings of Ireland,' I replied, repeating what Mother had told me to say. The kids were not impressed. A girl said that she was going to ask around about us. She reckoned we were from Cabra."

In fact, one of the central tensions of the novel involves Frankie's mother's designating him for greatness from a very young age: "At home, Ma told him he was a special boy, descended from the ancient Celtic warriors and High Kings. She said there was powerful blood in his veins because he was the firstborn son. Someday he'd be a great man, she promised; he'd be a professor of history, then President of Ireland. That kind of talk made him feel great. Every time Ma leaned over him, he felt warm and secure and lightheaded. It was like being bathed in his own personal spotlight." But by the time Frankie reaches his teenage years, such puerile gratification has been replaced by his interest in girls, drink, and rock 'n' roll: "At home Ma gave out to him about everything. She said his hair was a disgrace. She didn't like his clothes or his habits or his friends." Clearly, Frankie has trouble living up to his mother's expectations for a descendent of "the High Kings of Tara" whose "bloodline is one of the most revered in Europe."

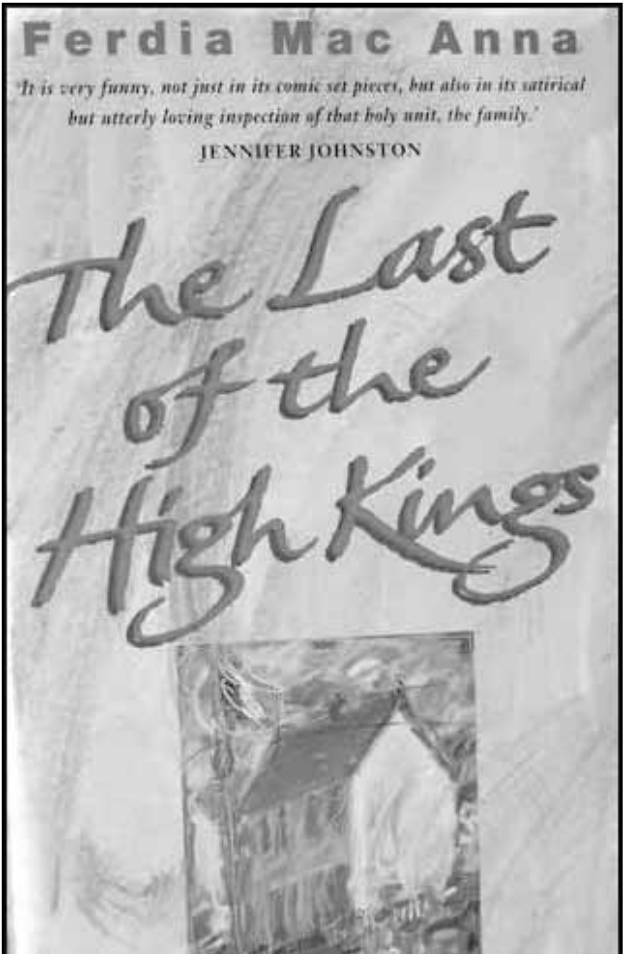
Ultimately, the tension between Frankie and his mother centers on her "politics": a diehard nationalist and a local activist in the Fianna Fáil party, she actively despises any and all Irish Protestants, whom she labels sweepingly as "Brits." Indeed, the climactic confrontation of the novel involves Frankie being accosted by his mother for his burgeoning romantic (and sexual) relationship with a local Protestant beauty,



Ferdia Mac Anna

Jayne Wayne, whose mother happens to be from Belfast and whose father happens to be from Essex in England. "No Brit bitch is going to come between an Irish Celtic warrior mother and her eldest son," she launches her verbal assault on Frankie: "Who would have thought that my own flesh and blood would have turned out to be a dirty Brit-lover. You're as bad as the dirty Black and Tans. What about the 1916 Rising when Jayne's father's countrymen shot dead thousands of innocent Irish revolutionaries? What about Father Murphy's glorious Rising of 1798? What about Wolfe Tone and poor old Robert Emmet? Look what they did to Parnell." She then proceeds to assault Frankie physically, pelting him with whatever she finds close at hand, starting with a bronze bust of Cuchulainn from the mantelpiece. Frankie retreats out the front door and down the drive: "When he looked back, he saw Ma in the light from the open doorway, darting in and out of the house, hurling objects out into the darkness after him. A book clunked onto the tarmac. Then a picture frame smashed on the path. His brand new Stranglers album went gliding over his head into Figgis's garden. Within moments, every album he owned seemed to be flying through the air. He recognized the sleeve of 'The Allman Brothers Live at the Fillmore East' just before it thudded into the telegraph pole above his head and went spiraling off into the blackness."

Tellingly, of course, the mother's passionate nationalism reflects the spirit of the place and the time that Mac Anna chooses for his novel's setting. Born in 1955, Mac Anna sees both himself and his younger protagonist as products, or victims, of the nearly six-decade domination of the Irish political and economic landscapes—and thus of the social and cultural landscapes as well—by Éamon de Valera, nationalist rebel, later Prime Minister, and later still President of Ireland. Founded by de Valera in 1926, Frankie's mother's beloved Fianna Fáil party set the tone of social conservatism and lingering republican nationalism that defined the heart of the twentieth century in Ireland. Frankie's resistance to his mother's political bent thus represents, even in this novel characterized by hilariously comical scenes and dialogue, a serious indictment by Mac Anna of the spiritually dreary times that he himself grew up in and that continued to characterize both Dublin and the countryside up until the economic boom of the 1990s known as "the Celtic Tiger."



*The Last of the High Kings* was adapted by Gabriel Byrne and David Keating as a film, directed by Keating, with the same title in 1996. While featuring cameo appearances by Byrne, Stephen Rea, and Colm Meaney, the film version—blandly re-titled *Summer Fling* when released in North America—has mostly a North American cast playing Irish roles, including Jared Leto as Frankie and Catherine O'Hara as his mother. It falls short of being a cinematic must-see.

But reissued by New Island Books as part of their "Modern Irish Classics" series, *The Last of the High Kings* definitely belongs in the "classic" category. Its update of the Irish coming-of-age novel etched so indelibly by Joyce in *A Portrait* rings as utterly true as Joyce's to the period of Irish life that it responds to and reflects and refracts. Setting the novel in his native Howth, a fishing village located on a promontory nosing into the Irish Sea nine miles north of Dublin's city center, Mac Anna absolves himself of writing in the long literary shadow cast by "Joyce's Dublin," a favorite playground of casual readers and Joyce scholars alike. He also absolves himself of having to engage with the more complex social and cultural landscape of "the heart of the Hibernian metropolis," allowing him to focus on Frankie's particular domestic situation as the window opening onto the larger world of modern Ireland.

At the end of *A Portrait*, Joyce has his protagonist reject his literal father to embrace his mythic father, the Greek inventor Dædalus: "Old father, old artificer, stand me now and ever in good stead." True to the prevailing comic temper of his novel, Ferdia Mac Anna ends *The Last of the High Kings* with Frankie Griffin reconciled, at least for now, with his mother, and he even joins her and his siblings in greeting their prodigal father returning from one of his long absences: "Wave, everybody, wave," Ma said, her face shining. "Show your father what a great family he has." Everyone waved.

Thomas O'Grady is Director of Irish Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

## Trolley Tour GM takes to stage for role in Wilde trials drama

(Continued from page 1)

munity theater, but really good, quality work," he said. "I did a number of productions there: 'Cabaret,' 'You Can't Take it With You,' a variety of children's shows."

Once Juilliard prompted him to go to New York City, he subsequently found work appearing off-Broadway, off-off-Broadway, in a couple of touring companies and doing summer stock.

He came to Boston to help a friend start an improvisational theater group. Although the company persevered for a couple of years, "it didn't really take off," he said. "But it was a very good artistic experience . . . It was called Eater's Theater -- theater to help us eat."

His arrival in Boston also marked a well-needed change of pace. "I had gotten burned out on the whole audition-rat race-treadmill in New York," he said. "New York is a very tough place to subsist as an actor, waiting on tables between gigs."

Falling in love with the Hub, he considered making a career change to either psychology or religious studies. But in the end, he decided to finish what he'd started at Juilliard and applied to the New England Conservatory.

"I finished my undergraduate degree and went right on into the master's program and got my master's in vocal performance. And of course the side story to all of this is that during those five years I was at the Conservatory, I was working at the trolley tour company."

He said, "I had just kind of fallen into this job of being a trolley tour guide, thinking it was something I would do temporarily while I was finishing my music degree. But now, here it is 19 years later and I'm

general manager of the operation. "

Old Town Trolley Tours' familiar orange and green trolleys provide a fully narrated 110-minute tour of historic Boston covering more than 100 points of interest. Riders may hop on and off at any or all of the trolley stops to shop, dine, and explore the city at their own pace. At the height of the season, Matthew oversees up to 110 employees, all of whom are termed "Cast Members."

"We consider ourselves an entertainment company first and foremost," he said. "Entertainment, service, and people are the three things we focus on."

He explained, "It really is akin to running a theater company, except we don't have a theater. We've got 43 little theaters that are all rolling around the city. Every time one of our conductors steps on a trolley, they're stepping on stage. The spotlight is on them . . . There's a sincere desire to provide professional, quality hospitality, and information to people. But we also want to entertain and give them a memorable experience."

Despite a demanding schedule, he said, "I still try to make time for one or two productions a year around the Boston area . . . There's this part of me that really thrives being on stage. But not just the performance—I really enjoy the process of developing a character and working collaboratively with a group of people to create something special on stage . . . It feeds my spirit and I find it very satisfying and enjoyable. It's my hobby."

In "The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde" Murphy plays Edwin Clark, Wilde's attorney. Based on trial transcripts, personal correspondence, interviews and direct source material, the play details the downfall

of the Irish-born poet and playwright whose artistic genius would be forever overshadowed by scandal and imprisonment for "committing acts of gross indecency."

As he said recently during a break in rehearsals, "It's my first time working with Bad Habit Productions. I had heard good things about them but I've been really impressed with them as an organization. They're very professional, very well prepared. The director of the show, Liz Fenstermaker, is just a very, very talented woman who takes a collaborative approach. (She's) done a ton of research in terms of her directing. She's almost acting as director and dramaturge at the same time."

Murphy noted one of the more interesting aspects of the production: the show is being staged in the round. "I've never done a show that's completely in the round," he said. "It was a little disorienting at first. But what I've been discovering is that I think it's going to create a very dynamic involvement with the audience. The audience almost becomes the jury."

And with that, it was back to the job at hand. Matthew Murphy is in the enviable position of having found his niche in life, artfully balancing his vocation with his avocation. The good news for the rest of us is that he's got more stories to tell and more performances to share.

R. J. Donovan is publisher of [OnStageBoston.com](http://OnStageBoston.com).

"Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," August 11 - 26 in the Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street in Boston. Tickets: 617-933-8600; [www.bostontheatrescene.com](http://www.bostontheatrescene.com).





A column of news and updates of the Boston Celtic Music Fest (BCM Fest), which celebrates the Boston area's rich heritage of Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton music and dance with a grassroots, musician-run winter music festival and other events during the year.

- SEAN SMITH

**Going for a song:** The BCM Fest series at Club Passim in Harvard Square features a Celtic Music Monday concert event this month, "Songs for a Summer Evening," on August 13 with Kate Minogue, James Hamilton, Lisa Coyne, and their special guest Jim Prendergast, plus host Sean Smith.

Minogue, Hamilton, and Coyne are well-known in both the Boston and Providence Irish music session scenes, but this night will showcase their vocal talents.

Coyne has been singing for many years, influenced by the Irish sean nos tradition. She is the recipient of a grant from the Southern New England Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program to study with Bridget Fitzgerald, former lead singer for Cherish the Ladies and a renowned expert in the sean nos style. A three-time medalist in the Mid Atlantic Fleadh Cheoil, Coyne is director of Boston's Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Hanafin-Cooley School of Irish Music, and

often performs and plays at sessions with her husband John and daughter Josie. She will be accompanied by Prendergast, a veteran of the Nashville recordings scene who in recent years has taken up Irish/Celtic music on guitar and other instruments; he has played with banjo player Ken Perlman and collaborated on the album "...That's an Irish Lullaby."

Minogue, a Baltimore native, started out as a classical flute player (and, she says, "self-professed band nerd") before turning her attention to playing guitar, singing, and songwriting - in 2006, she was voted Charlotte's best female vocalist by Creative Loafing magazine. A three-month stint in Ireland spurred her interest in playing Irish music, which she has done on a regular basis since moving to Boston.

Hamilton, like Coyne and Minogue, is most likely to be found wielding a flute at Irish music sessions and other events. But the California native grew up in a household where, as he says, "there was always a song - bluegrass, old American hymns, as well as traditional songs from Ireland and Scotland." Hamilton has continued to share this love of singing, and has exhibited his fine voice at a few BCM Fest events, including the finale concert at the 2008 festival.

"If you go to sessions at, say, The Druid in Cambridge, or Brendan Behan's in Jamaica Plain, you're likely to run across Kate, James or Lisa, and you'll see what top-notch players they are," says Smith, a member of Passim's BCM Fest Committee. "But BCM Fest - whether through the annual festival or its other events - has always provided an opportunity for local musicians to collaborate in ways they haven't before, to try something a little different. At this Celtic Music

Worldwide at [www.bostonirish.com](http://www.bostonirish.com)

Monday, they'll forego the jigs, reels and hornpipes for a change and share some songs. We're also very pleased to welcome Jim Prendergast, who has been a wonderful addition to the Celtic music scene.

"There's no real 'theme' to the concert - I imagine you'll hear traditional and contemporary songs alike, joyous or sad, about love, work, fun and strife, and every stop in-between. Just a very laid-back way to spend a late-summer night."

Admission to the event, which begins at 8 p.m., is \$12, \$6 for members of Passim, WGBH and WUMB. For reservations and other information, go to [passim.org](http://passim.org).

**In site:** BCM Fest has a new website, at [passim.org/bcmfest](http://passim.org/bcmfest), underscoring BCM Fest's affiliation with Passim that has taken place over the past year. The website will provide information on BCM Fest and its various events, including the upcoming 10th annual festival in January. The BCM Fest Committee is grateful to Sarah Fleischmann of Passim for her work in putting together the new site, and to Jason Kenison for his years of service as webmaster at the old [bcmfest.com](http://bcmfest.com).

## Fleming to sing at City Hall in Peabody Sept. 7, 8

they have nothing but the clothes they stand up in. It makes you appreciate small things in life. I have promised myself I will go back there, and that I will do."

Fleming returned from Sudan in time for the release of "Sand and Water," and resumed his singing career. In December of 2004, he staged a one-of-a-kind event at the Basilica in Knock, Co. Mayo, which has played host to Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa, as well as millions of pilgrims for more than a century. The CD recording of the "Voice of Hope" concert, which featured Fleming's renditions of uplifting songs like "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," "From a Distance," and "Bright Blue Hope," went platinum, and the concert DVD was shown in Ireland and across the United States.

He has continued to tour and record since then, to the delight of a world-wide contingent of listeners, his appearances including a performance at the 2007 ICONS Festival at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England. That same year saw Fleming record another live concert extravaganza, "A Journey Home," a double CD-DVD tracing the evolution of Irish music from Thomas Moore to U2. The production was aired on PBS in the US in 2007 and 2008.

Fleming is slated to record a TV special for PBS this coming February for broadcast next June. The show will be "The Irish-American Songbook," he explains, comprising American and Irish songs and featuring old classics from both sides of the Atlantic as well as some new, contemporary material. At the moment, special guests for the show are being confirmed - he promises they will be "very special."

More information on Tommy Fleming is available at his website, [tommyfleming.net](http://tommyfleming.net).

## Ceili to help local musicians in the All-Ireland Fleadh

The Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Hanafin-Cooley branch of Boston will hold a special ceili on Sun., Aug. 5, to benefit local musicians who are competing in the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil later this month.

Boston Comhaltas musicians will play at the ceili, which takes place from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Concannon's Village, 60 Lenox St., in Norwood. Admission is \$10.

This past spring, Greater Boston-area entrants qualified in nine categories for the All-Ireland Fleadh, which takes place August 10-20 in Cavan.

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# CD ROUNDUP

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

**Kevin Crawford, “Carrying the Tune”** • This album is a consolation prize, of sorts: Reportedly, it was first envisioned as a project for the Teetotallers, the new Irish “super-trio” of Crawford, John Doyle, and fiddler Martin Hayes, but scheduling conflicts got in the way. Oh, well. So instead we’re stuck with just Crawford, a founding member of Lunasa and one of



the leading flute/whistle players in the Irish tradition, and Doyle, masterful and highly influential guitarist, plus Mick Conneely (bouzouki) and Brian Morrissey (bodhran) on some tracks. Pity poor us.

Crawford is in that upper stratum of musicians who strike an enviable balance of technical precision, passion, and innovation in their playing. Needless to say, his pairing with Doyle – an intuitive, accomplished and equally innovative backer – is one of those landmark recording events you hope lives up to the hype. No worries, it does. The tunes come from both traditional and contemporary sources, including from the pen of Crawford, whose liner notes will be appreciated by both trad geeks and those who simply like a good read.

“Carrying the Tune” encourages you to appreciate certain subtleties, especially if you’re a regular listener of Irish music: Crawford plays flutes or whistles in E-flat and B-flat, sometimes in multiple trackings, for most of the album, so you experience the music outside the more familiar D/G/A-minor/E-minor realm; the notes occur at the same intervals as in those “usual” keys, but now there seems to be an extra luster and brilliance to them – it’s a case perhaps where your ears understand better than you do yourself what you’re hearing.

Such is the case on a medley combining the slip jigs “Arra Mountains” and “Hunting the Hare” with “Petko,” a Bulgarian horo. Crawford employs double-tracked E-flat flutes, which he brings together in thrilling harmony for the horo, while Doyle’s guitar and bouzouki and Morrissey’s bodhran provide a canny rhythmic texture. A pair of slow reels, “The Mountain Lark” and “Jack in the Box,” are exquisite enough with Crawford playing a C flute (especially with the sweetness of Doyle’s accompaniment) – and then in comes a B-flat flute harmony to add an extra layer of warmth. Equally delightful are two waltzes, “Flatwater Fran” and “Mrs. Jean Campbell, BSC,” Crawford supplementing the

B-flat flute with F whistles to great effect, Doyle and Conneely sharing bouzouki chores.

No less enjoyable are the tracks where Crawford plays just one instrument: “Queen of May,” a piping tune previously recorded by the venerable Leo Rowsome, particularly serves as a demonstration of Crawford’s command of the flute (E-flat in this case), and the byplay between him and Doyle on the reels following – “Tom Dowd’s Favorite” and “Naughton’s” – is as exciting as it gets. Doyle’s guitar applies an appropriate temperament to Crawford’s B-flat whistle on the air “The Dear Irish Boy” – the setting for which he credits none other than Tommy McCarthy (Boston by way of West Clare). A set of two slides and a single jig, “Taylor’s Fancy/Tanglony/Willie Clancy’s,” features Crawford playing a D whistle (stop the presses!), Doyle this time doing the double-tracking (on bouzouki) – all quite spare and crisp.

The CD’s aforementioned liner notes present ample evidence of Crawford’s sense of humor as well as his devotion to the tradition, and that playfulness is also in evidence on a fun-spirited combo of two original tunes: “Ray’s Revenge,” written for a friend and snooker competitor, and “The Hula Hoop,” which commemorates the efforts of “three slightly inebriated female family members” to use that recreational accessory in tandem with “Cooley’s Reels.”

One can only imagine how that first Teetotallers’ album is likely to sound, especially if two-thirds of the trio can come up with something this good.

**Qristina and Quinn Bachand, “Family”**

• The second release from the Bachands, a young sister-brother fiddle-guitar duo from Victoria, Canada. If seeing the word “Canada” makes you automatically think “Quebecois” or “Cape Breton,” don’t; the Bachands are far more steeped in the Irish tradition, with a few exceptions here and there. Twenty-one-year-old Qristina and 15-year-old Quinn have, among other distinctions, performed at the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil, the Feakle International Music Festival in Clare, and the Milwaukee and Kansas City Irish fests, while racking up a bunch of prizes and nominations at the Irish Music Association Awards and Canadian Folk Music Awards.

Qristina and Quinn’s individual talents and obvious affinity for each other’s playing are at the heart of “Family,” which earned a Western Canada Music Awards nomination for “World Recording of the Year.” To say that they demonstrate musical ability, confidence and maturity well beyond their years may seem unavoidably patronizing, but the Bachands sound like they’ve been at this for decades. Qristina’s fiddle-playing reflects her background and interest in several traditions – she studied at the Gaelic College in Cape Breton, among other places (that Cape Breton aspect is represented here in their rendition of the late Jerry Holland’s “Lonesome Eyes”). Quinn’s approach to guitar (he also plays five-string and tenor banjo, bodhran, and harmony fiddle on the album) is influenced by contemporary accompaniment styles that experiment with chord voicings and rhythmic effects, but does not

overpower or distract (see Doyle, John; above).

There are plenty of familiar tunes among the CD’s sets – “Mountain Road,” “Gravel Walks,” “Lark in the Morning,” “Inisheer,” even Simon Jeffe’s “Music for a Found Harmonium” – but these get a fresh, energetic take at the Bachands’ hands, with some well-crafted, thoughtful arrangements to enhance the listening experience. On the first track, for example, they play the first two parts of the reel “Maid of Mt. Kisco” as a jig before going into the original tune. Qristina’s majestic solo on “The Rights of Man” (played atop a moody soundscape courtesy of Quinn’s electric guitar) proceeds into a trio of reels that inexorably gathers steam, from “Cup of Tea” through “Rakish Paddy” and into “Tripping Up the Stairs,” with its distinctive third part. Another set starts off with “The Mountain Road” at an ambling pace, then speeds up a notch for “The Flowing Bowl,” which segues neatly into “Music for a Sound Harmonium,” Adrian Dolan’s accordion matching Qristina’s fiddle through the tune’s now-famous key changes and other peculiarities.

Dolan is one of six guest musicians appearing on “Family,” along with Zac Leger (whistles, flute, Uilleann pipes), Felix Prummel (low whistle), Bryan Skinner (bodhran), Oliver Swain (double bass), and Scott Senior (percussion).



Leger, in particular, contributes some lovely coloring to the second track, notably Emer Mayock’s “Kalyana” – with more sustained flourishes from Quinn’s electric guitar in the background – and the venerable “Jimmy

Ward’s Jig.”

Qristina’s singing takes center stage on two tracks, “Smile or Cry” – written by Mairi Campbell and Dave Francis in the evocative-scenes-of-nature/absent-lover vein – and the traditional Appalachian song “Red Rocking Chair.” Quinn’s guitar chops are truly on display in the former song (which includes a clever interpolation of the trad Irish pipe tune “The Dusty Miller”), gently and precisely underpinning Qristina’s wistful, polished vocals, with Dolan’s accordion and mandola adding the right subtle touches. “Red Rocking Chair” has all the earmarks of its American roots, from Quinn’s five-string and Swain’s one-two rhythm (and harmony vocals) to Qristina’s fiddle breaks. To be sure, the song’s a decided departure from much of the other material on the album, but it’s hard not to appreciate the verve and enthusiasm they bring to their music.

**Beannacht, “Gra na Firinne”** • Debut from New Jersey duo of vocalist Deirdre Forrest and her uncle, guitarist/vocalist Tom Johnston, who between them wrote or co-wrote all 12 songs on this album. “Beannacht” is the Irish word for “blessing,” and it’s pretty clear faith and spirituality have played a significant role in inspiring their music. High marks for sincerity and earnestness, and their voices often blend quite pleasingly – Forrest has a strong, sometimes earthy quality to hers, especially when she busts out into a couple of bluesy-type numbers – but in general the lyrics and musical presentation make for some clumsy, even awkward moments.

## BOSTON IRISH REPORTER BOOK BRIEFS

REVIEWS OF BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN IRELAND

**Nailer**  
By Tom Phelan  
Ireland, 2007. In the midland counties of Laois and Offaly, two former members of the religious Order of Saint Kieran, which once ran Dachadoo Industrial School for boys, are murdered within weeks of each other, their bodies found nailed to the floor. Detectives Tom Breen and Jimmy Gorman are assigned to track down “Nailer,” as the killer is nicknamed. They warn local clerical outcasts that Nailer may be working off a list. The editor of the national newspaper, *The Telegraph*, delighted that Ireland seems to have its own serial killer, dreams of a huge spike in revenues. Meanwhile, investigative reporters Pauline Byron and Mick McGovern are put on the story. As Nailer continues to kill, Pauline surmises that he may be getting revenge—or justice—for something that happened in Dachadoo decades earlier. As the past is uncovered and the pursuit for Nailer heats up, the shocking truth about the Church-run industrial schools is revealed.

**Missing Julia**  
By Catherine Dunne  
A powerful and compelling story that explores one of the most difficult

decisions we might ever have to make. One morning in October, William Harris is confronted by the shocking disappearance of the woman he loves. Julia Seymour has vanished without trace – from his life, from her daughter’s, and from her own. Her sudden departure seems to be both deliberate and final. But William is determined to find her. In the days that follow, he tries to piece together what might have driven her away. His search takes him to London, to India – and to Julia’s life before he met her. In the process, William discovers secrets about Julia’s past that challenge and disturb his view of all they shared together. Secrets that illuminate the present in ways he could never have expected.

**The Butterfly Cabines**  
By Bernie McGill  
An unforgettable story of two women linked by their roles in a tragedy at the end of the Victorian era. When Anna, the young woman she cared for as a child, announces her intention to visit the elderly Maddie, Maddie recognizes her last chance to unburden herself of a story that has gnawed at her for sixty years. For Maddie, rather like

the butterfly cabinet she keeps safely under lock and key, has for too long guarded a secret: that of the day a four-year-old girl died at the big house where she worked as a nanny. Finally, Maddie knows, Anna is ready to hear what happened. As Maddie’s mind drifts back through the years, so too is revealed the story of Charlotte’s mother, Harriet Ormond. A proud, uncompromising woman, Harriet’s great passion is collecting butterflies and pinning them under glass; motherhood comes no easier to her than her role as mistress of her remote Irish estate. When her daughter dies, her community is quick to judge her, and Harriet will not stoop to defend herself. But her journals reveal a more complex truth.

**The Past**  
By Neil Jordan  
In this brilliant novel, a man searches for the truth about his parentage. His grandmother was a flamboyantly bad actress at the Abbey Theatre, married to a Free State hero. Slowly he uncovers more of his history. The pieces of the past begin to fit together, and the truth of his family is revealed...  
Other reviewers said: ‘Exquisite. beautifully

written’ (Times Literary Supplement ); ‘A haunting experience’ (The Daily Telegraph ); ‘A wonderful Irish novel’ (New York Times ); ‘One of the most original talents to emerge in the last decade’ (The Spectator ); ‘A haunting experience’ (The Daily Telegraph); ‘A wonderful Irish novel’ (New York Times); ‘One of the most original talents to emerge in the last decade’ (The Spectator).

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# 2nd Anniversary Mass for Maureen Morris Wednesday, August 1



And now that time must begin again,  
let me just say that  
Maureen – Moses – Blonde Sully  
Mrs. MoMan – Nana - Mom,  
you will be loved, you will be  
carried in our hearts, and most  
of all, you will be missed every day.

– Steve, Donna, Laurie, Stephen,  
Matthew, Grandchildren, and family

August 1, Wednesday 9 am  
St. Ann’s Church, Neponset Ave.

## Volunteers sought for Haven’s ‘Build It Week’ in Haiti project

By ELIZABETH MURRAY  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Non-profit organization Haven U.S. is seeking volunteers for its ‘Build It Week’ program in Leogane, Haiti, from Nov. 24 to Dec. 1. Volunteers will help build houses in the area struck by the 2010 earthquake – a disaster that affected more than two million people.

Set up in 2011 as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, Haven U.S. is the American branch of Haven, an Irish non-governmental, non-political and non-religious organization that works to build sustainable communities in Haiti. Haven was founded in late 2008 and launched in 2009 by Leslie Buckley and his wife Carmel after Leslie had traveled to Haiti for the first time in 2004 on business.

Appalled by the living conditions in Haiti, Buckley founded Haven, which has been sending Irish and now American volunteers to Haiti ever since. Through the program, local Haitian people are trained, up-skilled and employed, jobs are created, and schools, playgrounds, community buildings and houses are built by Haven volunteers. According to its website [havenpartnership.com](http://havenpartnership.com), Haven has trained over 3,000 Haitians in construction, agriculture, hygiene promotion, water and sanitation and solar

power installation and maintenance. Haven also employs expatriate and local staff members based across Haiti in Port au Prince, Gonaives and Ouanaminthe on a full-time basis.

The need for aid in Haiti has been especially heavy since the earthquake that hit Haiti’s capital city, Port au Prince in January 2010. Since then, Haven has been working in the affected areas providing emergency relief to those most in need.

This will be the organization’s sixth ‘Build It Week,’ the latest one having occurred in May 2012. Sarah Fitzpatrick, the director of Haven U.S., based in New York City, said this was a smaller ‘Build It Week’ as only 45 volunteers traveled to Haiti (40 from Ireland, 5 from the US). In November 2011, 300 volunteers traveled to Haiti and built 54 permanent houses in Leogane, an area southwest of Port-au-Prince considered the epicenter of the earthquake.

On previous trips to Haiti, Fitzpatrick said volunteers have worked with Haitian residents to decide types, sizes and colors of the accommodations built and even employed many of them on their projects. The goal is to build what the local communities need most.

“They’ve been really positive,” Fitzpatrick said. “Any time we’ve come down they’ve been really

welcoming. . . We pretty much take from them what experience they already have.”

This November, Haven U.S. volunteers will join forces with Haven volunteers from Ireland and from Habitat for Humanity’s Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Work Project to build a targeted 100 houses during the week. Habitat for Humanity will supply 500 volunteers, and Haven U.S. is looking to recruit 100 American volunteers as well.

Fitzpatrick said the volunteers will live in very basic accommodations – basically a “tented village,” she said – and would be working to build houses from around 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. Fitzpatrick mentioned volunteers could be anyone, and on a recent trip, there were three different generations of Irish volunteers represented.

“No previous experience is required, though it’s a benefit,” Fitzpatrick said. “We do have volunteers from all walks of life. . . Our youngest volunteer was 16 years of age and our oldest was 73.”

Volunteers are required to raise \$5000 before traveling to Haiti to cover the cost of flights, accommodations, food and house building materials. Fitzpatrick said the money used for the house building materials comes solely from the funds volunteers raise.

Though the recruitment



A team of mainly Irish volunteers from Haven U.S. are shown during its ‘Build It Week’ in Haiti last May. The organization is now seeking volunteers for its ‘next trip to Leogane, Haiti from Nov. 24 to Dec. 1.

Photo courtesy  
Haven U.S.

process has only just begun, Fitzpatrick is hoping to get the ball rolling over the summer. So far, she said a few people have expressed interest in the project. An information meeting for interested prospective volunteers will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 25 at the Haven U.S. headquarters at 575 5th Avenue in New York City, N.Y. at the Navillus Contracting Offices.

Fitzpatrick said people should volunteer with Haven U.S. in Haiti because she thinks it is a very positive experience for anybody, “particularly anybody that’s never traveled outside the U.S. before and wants to get involved in volunteer activities,” she said.

“I just think it’s a very unique experience,” Fitzpatrick added. “It’s something that everybody should try at least once in their life. People [in Haiti] are living in the most abject poverty, and you get to spend a week of your life getting to experience something you would probably not get to experience anywhere else.”

For those who cannot attend the July 25 meeting and are interested in volunteering, please contact Sarah Fitzpatrick via email ([sarah.fitzpatrick@havenpartnership.com](mailto:sarah.fitzpatrick@havenpartnership.com)) or phone (917-561-8044), or visit [www.havenpartnership.org](http://www.havenpartnership.org) for more information.

### PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 19

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# Sean Lemass tugged Ireland into the modern era

By **STEPHEN M. PINGEL**  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Following is the sixth in a series of articles on individuals who made substantial contributions to civic life in Ireland in the 20th century.

## SEAN LEMASS

1899-1971

In any discussion about the history of modern Ireland, a few periods garner the most attention – the push for independence and the resulting civil war of the early 1920s; Irish neutrality during World War II; the beginning of violent hostilities in the North in 1969.

Noticeably short of attention in history books are the two decades after WWII, from 1949 until 1969, which have been characterized by many, unjustly perhaps, as a somnolent period for the island. As a result many important figures from this era in governance are often overlooked entirely in accounts of the island's 20th-century history. One of those mostly forgotten individuals has been called the "Father of Modern Ireland."

John Francis Lemass was born in Dublin on July 15, 1899, and though he was called Jack within his family, he decided at the age of 16 that he wanted to be called Sean. The second of seven children, and a studious young fellow, he was educated at the Christian Brothers School in Dublin where he excelled in history and mathematics.

Early on he showed a keen interest in the outside world, joining the Irish Volunteers when he was 15. Sean looked to be older than he was, which enabled him to stay on with the Volunteers. He participated in the Easter Rising, taking a position with a shotgun at the General Post Office. Although many rebels would be executed for their role in the rebellion, Lemass's youth ensured that he would be spared, and actually released.

Remaining a member of the Irish Volunteers, and later becoming involved with the IRA, Lemass played a controversial role during the Irish Civil War, in which a secret group known as the "12 Apostles" assassinated several British agents in Dublin. Although this information was only released in 1970, there is substantial proof that these actions actually took place. Lemass later joined anti-treaty forces with Eamon de Valera. He was elected for the first time in 1924, as a TD allied with the Sinn Fein party.

That same year Lemass married Kathleen Hughes, a matter reportedly of great concern to his new in-laws. The marriage was long and productive: Kathleen was a loyal supporter of Sean's politics, and they had four children, a few of whom became involved in Irish politics and one of whom, daughter Maureen, married Charles Haughey, a future taoiseach.

It didn't take long for Lemass the legislator to make his mark with de Valera. The Sinn Fein party, due in the main to its anti-treaty position, refused to recognize the Irish Free State, so in 1926 de Valera, Lemass, and several others formed the Fianna Fail party, an Irish republican party that would grow considerably in size and governmental influence over the next 40 years.

During the 1930s, with the Great Depression in full force and a second world war looming, Lemass served in ministerial capacities across the fetch of Irish governance, including terms as minister of industry and commerce and as a minister of supplies. In the latter role he faced considerable challenges when World War II was in full swing: a number of major supply shortages, and worse, and the sheer difficulty in managing existing supplies under the constraints of state policy of strict neutrality during the war. At war's end came the worst: economic stagnation across the island for the better part of two decades.

By 1959, when Lemass became taoiseach, succeeding de Valera, he was ready with a program to revitalize the business of Ireland that would contrast with his predecessor's preference for a rural, simplistic approach. Vocally opposed to the idea of having Ireland



Sean Lemass

lag behind in the 20th century, Lemass moved to jump-start a recovery with his "First Programme for Economic Expansion, which aimed at rolling back

tariffs and welcoming foreign businesses back to the island, essentially doing what the Celtic Tiger years did for Ireland decades later.

This sort of bold action caused some to suggest that if Lemass had come to power as taoiseach a decade earlier, there would have been much less stagnation in the 1950s.

A second such program for expansion came in 1963, with similar goals as the first, but with a clear understanding of the agriculture side of the economic equation as well, which had been something of an afterthought with the first program. Lemass was looking to liberalize Ireland in all its aspects, a movement that would have profound effects in the years ahead.

The taoiseach wanted to bring Ireland out of its conservative funk by turning it into a modern, thriving European country. He turned his eyes outward into the interesting world of Irish foreign policy where changes were in the works. It was during his term that the Irish made their first foray into a foreign land, the Congo, as peacekeepers. Lemass also engineered Irish membership in the EEC, the precursor to the EU, and with these events, a new era had dawned over the isle of green.

Soon after his retirement in 1966, Lemass encountered health problems that greatly affected his abilities, and ultimately caused his death. In 1971, the lifelong pipe smoker passed away, his legacy the clear potential for Ireland's coming success as a modern, thriving, 20th century European country.

*Stephen M. Pingel is a student at University of Massachusetts Lowell where he is specializing in the socio-economic history of modern conflicts as well as 20th-century Irish history.*



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## Traveling People

# The Irish and B&B offerings: Very successful combination



Clonalis in Castlerea, Co. Roscommon, the ancestral home of the O'Connor family.

BY JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The Irish have totally mastered the art of bed and breakfast accommodation, offering many wonderful and welcoming B&Bs all across the country where you will experience so much more than just a bed for the night and breakfast. I enjoy staying in B&Bs of every sort and will choose that option over most hotels.

For the Ireland traveler, Tourism Ireland ([discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com)) lists accommodation by county and type on its informative website and puts out an annual B&B book. You can stay in a city or countryside B&B, or stay on working farms, which are always fun. All properties are thoroughly inspected and must adhere to rigid standards in order to be included.

If you, like me, arrive at Shannon completely wiped out after an all-night flight from Boston, do consider my favorite Co. Clare farmhouse B&B, Cahergal Farm, in Newmarket-on-Fergus, just minutes from the airport. It's so great to get my luggage, hop into my rental car – I have most successfully rented from [dandooley.com](http://dandooley.com) for many years – and drive the short distance to Cahergal, where Noreen McInerney greets me, offers breakfast and a clean, comfortable bed where I sleep for a few hours to overcome the jet lag. Noreen and her husband, Michael, are the most welcoming hosts and Noreen's cooking can't be beat. See more at [cahergal.com](http://cahergal.com).

There's lots to do in that area, too, if you want more than just to get some sleep. There's Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, Craggaunowen, Knappogue, Dunguaire, and more. There are fun shops at Bunratty Village Mills nearby and also in historic Ennis – I love the Seoidin store there – and even the Cliffs of Moher are not far away. It's an easy drive that's well sign-posted.

## CLONALIS

As much as I enjoy revisiting familiar B&Bs, it is always fun and interesting to stay someplace new and meet new people.

This year, a friend and



Centuries of O'Conors have added to this library at Clonalis, a B&B property in Castlerea, Co. Roscommon. Photos by Judy Enright

I stayed at magnificent Clonalis, a property that has been the ancestral home of the O'Connor family for more than 1,000 years and is listed in Hidden Ireland, one of my favorite accommodation organizations ([hiddenireland.com](http://hiddenireland.com).) Hidden Ireland features only private country homes with a limited number of bedrooms in each. You meet the owners, chat over drinks, and often join them and other guests for meals around a large communal table.

Clonalis ([clonalis.com](http://clonalis.com)) is the Castlerea, Co. Roscommon, home of Pyers and Marguerite O'Connor-Nash and offers four elegant and large ensuite bedrooms. I slept like a baby in the most comfortable four-poster bed and woke to a grand view across some 700 acres of parkland. The bathrooms, converted from what were once dressing rooms for the lords and ladies, are immense and mine even had a fireplace.

Pyers and Marguerite joined us for a pre-dinner drink in the well-stocked library. Dinner followed in a magnificent dining room with an enormous table in the middle that was laid with silver flatware and candlesticks



Cahergal Farm in Newmarket-on-Fergus is a fun farmhouse B&B and it's just minutes from Shannon Airport.

and fine china. The dining scene is carefully scrutinized by the watchful eyes of the many O'Connor ancestors looking down from portraits on the walls.

For more information or to book at this wonderful house, email: [clonalis@iol.ie](mailto:clonalis@iol.ie) or visit the website, [clonalis.com](http://clonalis.com). To see Hidden Ireland's accommodation in other private homes around Ireland, email: [info@hiddenireland.com](mailto:info@hiddenireland.com) or visit the website, [hiddenireland.com](http://hiddenireland.com). The Hidden Ireland brochure says

it all: "In short, Hidden Ireland offers you a fascinating and unique alternative to conventional tourist accommodation. Our houses and their surroundings are all very different and they provide an experience that is charming, engaging and rewarding."

## ROSCOMMON

Roscommon is an interesting county and one that not too many of us take the time to visit. Percy French was born there, and Turlough O'Carolan, the famed blind harpist, often played in Roscommon. O'Carolan's harp, by the way, is included in historic memorabilia at Clonalis.

Boyle is home to Lough Key Forest Park, which offers nature walks, ring forts, cruising, fishing, a bog garden, an old ice-house, picnic grounds and a fully-serviced caravan and camping site.

If you're in Roscommon, be sure to stop by the arts festival in Boyle from Aug. 1-4 which will feature music, drama, workshops, family fun and, of course, art. And, don't miss the fascinating King House, built in

Boyle for Sir Henry King in the early 1700s; it is well worth a visit. In 1755, the King family had more than 30 servants to care for 40-plus rooms and 35 fireplaces. The house was converted to use as a military barracks in the 19th Century for the Connaught Rangers and, at the end of the Civil War in 1923, was passed over to the Irish Free State's army. After many years as a merchant's store, the house was saved from demolition in the 1980s and restored by Roscommon County Council. The house is open Tuesday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and bank holiday Sundays and Mondays. For more information, visit the website, [king-house.ie](http://king-house.ie)

Also worth a visit is the Douglas Hyde Interpretive Centre in Portahard, Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon. Hyde was the first President of Ireland and co-founder of the Gaelic League. The interpretive and information center is in the Portahard Church of Ireland where his father, Rev. Arthur Hyde, was rector. The church was built in 1740

and restored in 1988 by the Roscommon County Council.

Also in Roscommon this summer is a 10-day Roscommon International Reunion ([roscommoncoco.ie/rosreunion](http://roscommoncoco.ie/rosreunion)) planned for Aug. 1-11 when the County Council will welcome Roscommon Associations from around the world. Many activities are planned, including golf, an expo of historical heritage and genealogical resources at the King House, a tour of the Castlecoote House, a GAA Race Day at the Roscommon Racecourse, and an evening of Percy French music and poetry. Sounds like a great time.

Other attractions in County Roscommon include the Arigna Mining Experience, Drumanone Dolmen, Boyle Abbey, the ruins of Roscommon Castle, Derryglad Folk Museum, Elphin Windmill, Rathcroghan Celtic Royal Site in Tulsk, and the famine museum at Strokestown Park House. Most of these have websites and more information can also be obtained from [visitroscommon.com](http://visitroscommon.com) and [discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com).

## GRACE KELLY

Isn't it shocking to hear that actress Grace Kelly – better known as Her Serene Highness Princess Grace of Monaco – has been dead for 30 years? I found that unbelievable as I noted that a Grace Kelly Film and Cultural Festival is being planned in Newport, Co. Mayo, from Sept. 14-16 to honor her memory.

Grace's grandfather, John Peter Kelly, was from Drimurla near Newport. He left Ireland for Philadelphia in 1887 and made his fortune there.


Princess Grace and her husband visited Newport in the 1960s and 1970s and stayed at the gracious Newport House in the town. During the festival, seven films will be shown in the 100-seat Cinemobile in the grounds of the National School.

On opening night, Sept. 14, there will be a "Red Carpet Gala" with a screening of "High Society." There will also be exhibitions in the Newport Tourist Office with memorabilia of Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier III from their Newport visits.

For more information, visit [gracekellyfilmfestival.ie](http://gracekellyfilmfestival.ie)

## TRAVELING

Summer may be ending but the activities and fun in Ireland are still going strong. Enjoy Ireland whenever you visit and be sure to take advantage of some great flight/ground deals offered by Aer Lingus and other airlines. Direct flights from Boston to Shannon are often available although there are more flights from Logan direct to Dublin, especially at this time of year.



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## The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

**Dia duit** (JEE-uh dooch) “Good day!” Time to review our “Greetings and Goodbyes” and add a few kinship terms.

Irish speakers are, in general, a very religious group and God, Jesus, and Mary play important roles in their “Greetings and Goodbyes.” **Dia duit** / dooch/ (or **dhut** /goot/) is literally “God to you.” The response is **Dia’s Muire duit** /JEE-uhs MOY-ruh dooch/, “God and Mary to you.” Notice that **is**, “and”, is abbreviated **’s** and in speech added on to the preceding word – in this case “God”, **Dia**. Then **Dia’s** / JEE-uh/ is pronounced /JEE-uhs/.

The female name “Mary” for a girl or woman is **Maire** /MAR-ee/; **Muire** /MOY-ruh/ is reserved for the Virgin. However, you can start an informal conversation with a simple **Conas atá tú?** /KOH-nuhs tah too/. “How are you?”

You remember to greet some one during the time from about 11 A.M. until dark with **Tráthnóna maith**, /TRAH-noh-nuh mah/ “Good afternoon/evening.” Only on leaving can you say, **Oiche mhaith** / OY-kuh vah/, “Good night.” Any time during the day you can greet a person with **Lá maith** /lah mah/, “Good day.” **Halló** has become common.

For a simple, “Goodbye” the first person says, **Slan leat**, “Be healthy” (Health with you) and the one to whom this is said responds with **Slan agat** “You have health”. For a sneeze, the equivalent of “God bless you” is **Día leat** “God with you.”

You have already had the words for the basic family members, “father” **athair**, “mother” **máthair**, “son” **mac**, and “daughter” **iníon**. Collectively, these are “family”, **teaghlach** /CHEY-lahk/ “People of home.” “Children” or “kids” are **leanaí** /LEN-ee/.

**An teaghlach: athair, máthair, leanaí: mac, iníon**

**Mac** and **iníon** are “brother” **bráthair** and “sister” **deirfiúr** or **dríofúr** /draur/.

(We will use the second spelling.) **Athair** is known to his children as **Daidí** /DAHD-ee/ and **máthair** as **mamáí** /MOM-ee/.

Other members of the “Extended family” might include – (**sean** means “old”). Here the influence of English has dominated the native Irish which used to define a maternal “aunt” as “sister of my mother” and a paternal aunt as “sister of my father” and so on.

Grandfather	<b>Seanathair</b>
or to his grandchildren as	<b>Daideo</b> (Grandpa’)
Grandmother	<b>Seanmháthair</b> ,
to her grandchildren as	<b>Momó</b> (“Granny”)
Grandson	<b>Garmhac</b> /GAHR-vahk/
Granddaughter	<b>Gariníon</b> /GAR-uh-neen/
Grandchildren	<b>Clann</b> /klohn/
Uncle	<b>Uncail</b>
Aunt	<b>Aint</b>
or to her nieces and nephews as	<b>Aintín</b> (“Auntie”)
Nephew	<b>Nia</b> NEE-uh/
Niece	<b>Neacht</b> /nyok/
Cousin	<b>Coi</b> /kee/

In the use of surnames, **Mac** is often is abbreviated as **Mc** – there is no difference between “MacCoy” and “McCoy” as any Irish telephone book will tell you. The “Mac/Mc” names are mixed up and alphabetized on the first letter of the second part of the name. The same with many names. “Kelly”, for example, can be both with and without an **-e**-, “Kelly” and “Kelley” or Reilly” and “Riley”, “Reagan” and “Regan”.

Irish surnames, when translated into English, always use the male form. In Irish, female names are different. An unmarried lady named “MacDonell” is not the “Son of Donald” – **Mac Domhaill** /DON-ul/-- but the “Girl of Donald” – **Níc Dhomhaill** /NEEK GON-ul/. If she is named “O’ Sullivan” then she has the surname **Ni Shúileabhain** /nee HOOL-uh-vahn/. Both **Nic** which replaces **Mac** and **Ni** which replaces “O”, cause lenition of the following consonants except **l**-, **n**-, **r**- and, some times with names, **c**-. This is because the underlying Irish name often begins with a **vowel sound** and the **-C-** has crept over from **Mac** (**Mac Aoidh** has become “Mac Kee”).

The common **O’** in Irish is really not pronounced /oh/ but written **Uí** and pronounced /ee/. It is not synonymous with **Mac** . “son”, but means “of the race of” or “descended from”.

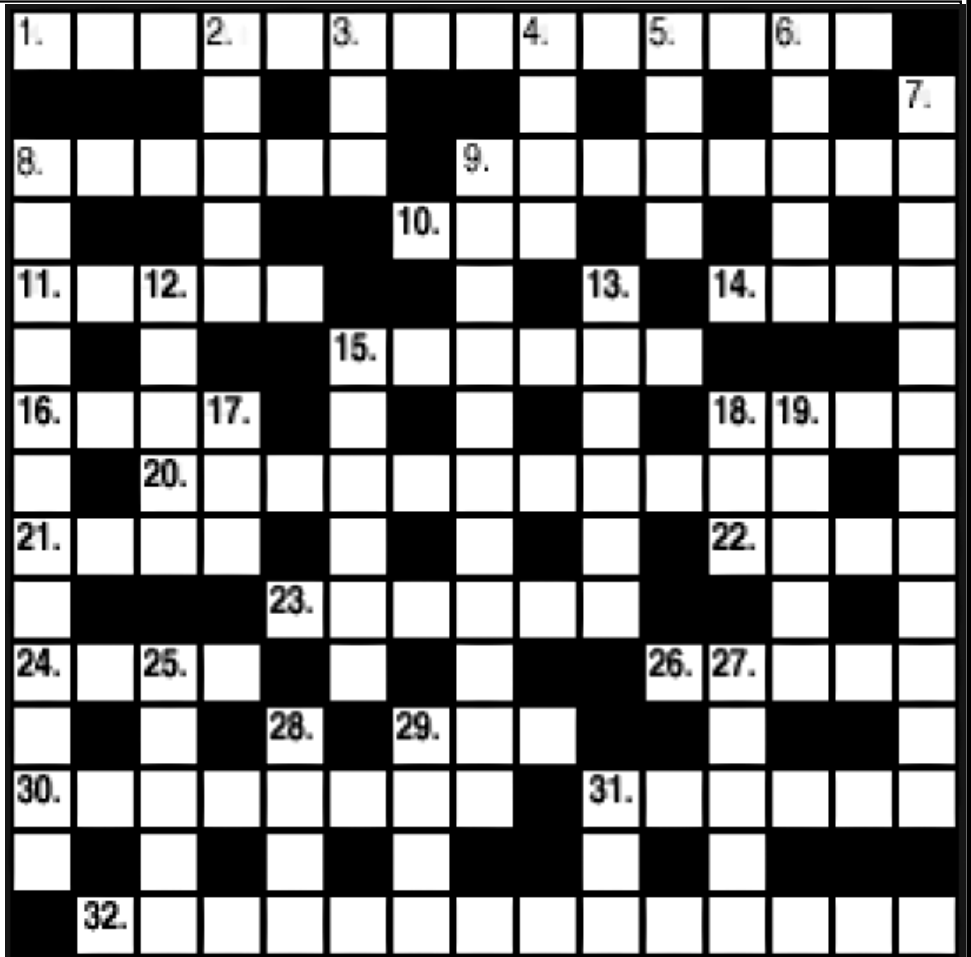
Here are some common Irish surnames:

Male	Female	English
Uí Súilleabhain	Ni Shúileabhain	O’ Sullivan
Mac Cíimhear	Nic Cíimhear	Mac Keever
Mac Braon	Nic Bhraon	MacBrine
Mac Muircheartaigh		
	Nic Mhuicheartaigh	Mac Murtrie
O’ Sé	Ni Shé	O’ Shea

Keep and study this column for we will practice names next month.

## CELTIC CROSS WORDS

The Irish crosswords are a service of an Ireland-based website which provides Irish Family Coats of Arms by email. You are invited to visit [www.bigwood.com/heraldry](http://www.bigwood.com/heraldry)



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### ACROSS

1. A land isn’t alive. (anag.) In offshore Kerry 7 miles by 2 miles, one of the most westerly in Europe. (8,6)
8. Tram comes over before nine for the surrounding rock in which gems are embedded. (6)
9. Had dock been cut down when summoned by gesture? (8)
10. Glengarriff axiomatically includes a means of communication shortly. (3)
11. Drives forward as seen in Clonbur gestures. (5)
14. Up the ante very high in Sicily. (4)
15. C.O. right to take all back in by the throat! (6)
16. Reptile to date. (4)
18. Discover in Corofin diversion. (4)
20. Will lurches about in the heights of north west Roscommon between Boyle and Sligo. (6,5)
21. Regretted rude disorder. (4)
22. Human bone discovered in Anascaul natural environment. (4)
23. A lot of money to be made from the law? (6)
24. Not quite dark, but it’s close. (4)
26. Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos turn the seat over after a loud start. (5)
29. “When I makes —, I makes —, as old mother Grogan said. And when I makes water I makes water.” Joyce. (3)
30. Verse Rob cut out and sent to English newspaper. (8)
31. Rig not assembled in Tyrone village in the Owenkillew River valley not far from Omagh. (6)
32. Mercury to crash. (anag.) Pleasant Cork seaside resort in a sylvan setting near Timoleague Abbey. (14)

### DOWN

2. Poetic as ever, that is strange, back in Eire, even (5)
3. Give little thanks to ten for deducting this from your wages. (3)
4. Genus of holly seen in O’Neil example. (4)
5. “Take care of what you — —, or you will be forced to — — what you get.” Shaw. (4)
6. Mortice partner returns for the musical group, having one over the eight. (5)
7. Draws one card and shuffles for the 1910 northern

leader of no surrender, born in Dublin and educated in T.C.D. (6,6)

8. Round Bann, Tom. (anag.) Kerry height of 3,127 feet near Dingle. (5,6)
9. Later by wall up in Down village in the Ards peninsula, with fine sandy beaches. (11)
12. Note, running competition is not a sin! (5)
13. Give generously to whip six inside. (6)
15. Not so hot when century is not so young. (6)
17. It’s counterfeit, whichever way you look at it. (3)
18. Recuperating from this short illness in Glengarriff luxury? (3)
19. Small offshore piece of land is rented out. (5)
25. Enthusiasm shown by sudden blow over nothing. (5)
27. “Our Garrick’s a salad for in him we see oil, vinegar, sugar and saltiness — —.” Goldsmith. (5)
28. The brother of Joel Chandler Harris’s Uncle Remus. (4)
29. Name used in school time? (4)
31. But this American fuel is liquid! (3)

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 16

## Irish Sayings

- “A friends eye is a good mirror.”  
“It is the good horse that draws its own cart.”  
“A lock is better than suspicion.”  
“Two thirds of the work is the semblance.”  
“He who gets a name for early rising can stay in bed until midday.”  
“If you do not sow in the spring you will not reap in the autumn.”  
“Put silk on a goat, and it’s still a goat.”  
“Listen to the sound of the river and you will get a trout.”  
“A persons heart is in his feet.”  
“It is a long road that has no turning.”  
“Necessity knows no law.”  
“The wearer best knows where the shoe pinches.”

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