

Boston Irish

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Pirate queen Granuaile's sturdy home

Rockfleet Castle in Co. Mayo, once the home of the famed Irish pirate queen Granuaile - Grace O'Malley. See story, more photos on Page 22.

Judy Enright photo



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A recognition of achievement in our Boston Irish family

The 11th annual Boston Irish Honors luncheon will take place on Fri., Oct. 29 at 11:30 a.m. at Boston's Seaport Hotel. This year's honorees are Mary Sugrue, the CEO of the Irish American Partnership, and a native of Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry, Ireland, and Joseph R. Nolan Jr., president and CEO of Eversource Energy, and a native of Brighton, Mass., USA

The event is sponsored by *Boston Irish Magazine* and *BostonIrish.com* in support of Boston and New England's hometown Irish American periodical and website. The luncheon gives recognition for achievements in public service, business, and community leadership.

Said Boston Irish Publisher Ed Forry: "We host this event each year to showcase exemplary persons and families and honor them for the examples they give to our city. In keeping with my family's heritage, Boston Irish Honors is proud to honor them and their roots in Boston and Ireland."

Boston Irish Honors debuted in 2010 and has



Our Honorees: Mary Sugrue and Joseph R. Nolan, Jr.

become an annual highlight on the fall calendar, with an appreciative audience of some 300 Boston business, civic, neighborhood, and political leaders

in recognition of Boston's Irish heritage.

This year's event is chaired by past honorees Mary and Jim Judge; honorary chairs include past honorees former US Sen Paul Grattan Kirk Jr., US Sen. Edward J. Markey, former Mayor of Boston and current US Secretary of Labor Martin J. Walsh, and Ireland Consul General to Boston Laoise Moore.

Members of the Host Committee are Clodagh Boyle, James T. Brett, Aidan Browne, John Burke, John Carroll, Hon. Nick Collins, Stephen Costello, Della Costello, Paul Doyle, John E. Drew, Brendan Feeney, Dick Flavin, John P. Foley, Linda Dorcena Forry, William P. Forry, Maureen Forry-Sorrell;

Also, Anne Geraghty, James Hunt, III, Barry T. Hynes, the Rev. Tom Kennedy, William Kennedy, Mimi La Camera, Paul La Camera, Joe Leary, Mary Ellen Mulligan, John O'Hara, Catherine O'Neill, Grace Cotter Regan, Bill Reilly, Michael Sheehan, Robert Sheridan, Tom Tinlin and W. Paul White. For info about seating & sponsorship, call 617-204-4221.

Apprehension then, warm memories today for the now-diminished Class of '56 at BC High

By JAMES W. DOLAN
REPORTER CONTRIBUTOR

About 20 members of the BC High class of 1956 gathered at the school recently for our 65th reunion and some lunch. Attendance at such events has diminished as class members die or become disabled. The inevitable passage from youth to old age has taken its toll on the boys of 1952 who, fresh faced and energetic, exited the former MBTA Northampton Station and walked to the old high school on Harrison Avenue in the South End. It was there that we spent our first two years before moving to the new campus on Morrissey Boulevard.

It was a grand group of fellows, eager yet apprehensive, particularly after being told at orientation that many of us would fall by the wayside and never make it to graduation. The all- male environment had its advantages. Without girls, there were fewer distractions; we were funnier, less inhibited, and not as self-conscious

as we otherwise might have been.

We were required to wear ties and sport jackets. I swear some of my classmates wore the same jacket and tie for all four years. Those in authority didn't care how you looked as long as you complied with the dress code. I was in the same class with my cousin Craig, who wore a gray jacket with a ballpoint drawing of a flower in his lapel for the last two years.

The class quickly sorted itself out into smart, not so smart, and by-the-skin-of-our-teeth sections. As expected, Craig and I were quickly identified as bottom feeders and gained early admittance to the latter group. We spent so much time in detention, aka "jug," that our parents thought the school day ended at 4 p.m. We continue to honorably represent that group at reunions.

Only the Jesuits could have thought up some of the diabolical punitive assignments we received in "jug," what the kids now say stands for "justice under God." Try writing a 500-word composition, every other word in pencil. Or, for the hard core, every other letter in different colored ink. The assignments included such thought-provoking topics as "On the Inside of a Ping Pong Ball" or "How to Catch a Fly in a Bottle." Some of us would have preferred solitary confinement.

The smart kids took advanced everything. Those of us on the other end of the spectrum took introduction to everything. Occasionally, one of us would find his inner scholar and move up to intermediate something. But for the most part, we managed to hold our own; clinging to mediocrity like a shipwrecked sailor clutching driftwood. How we managed to make it to graduation was our first, and hopefully not our last, salvation experience.



The boys of '52 gathered recently on the BC High campus in Dorchester

We are now grandfathers in our 80s, 65 years out of BC High and looking back on lives that our high school experience enriched. Some have been more fortunate than others for reasons often impossible to explain. We all share a deep appreciation of the values learned and the friendships made at BC High. The significance of the words "A man for others" is as important now as it has ever been.

The BC High of today is different than when we attended. It's more diverse and more academically demanding, but the values remain the same. We old grads are nearing the end of the line. We gladly pass the torch to recent grads knowing they will face challenges requiring character and love, two powerful virtues implicit in the school motto. With this as a goal and a strong moral foundation, developed at least in part on campus, they, too, will one day join the ranks of proud alumni, present and eventually past.

BC High Nocturnal

It's late, school is not in session;
The classrooms and halls are silent.
Listen carefully and in the darkness
You can hear the sounds of classes past.

The air stirs as dim shadows suddenly appear.
Muffled sounds of laughter and boyhood banter
Filter down the hall as a door somewhere closes,
Unseen, the school remains in session.

It's then, when students past return,
To find their youth and bless its joy.
The brotherhood survives in memory and fact
As they make their way from class to class.

Oh yes! We too once walked these halls;
Lived, laughed, and shared our youthful dreams.
The lessons taught are the ones you carry
The values learned have served us well.

For you one day will join us here
When winter strips away the years,
And all that's left to take above
Is how you lived and who you loved.

JWD

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About the pandemic, Brexit, and the French factor

Ireland endured the longest pandemic lockdown in Europe. The vaccination program started later and more slowly than in most countries due to supply chain challenges and the limited leverage the small country had with vaccine producers. Surprisingly, Ireland has now surpassed 90 percent full vaccination for everyone over 12 years of age, one of the highest rates of any country. How?

Once the rollout gained momentum, the most important assets were the Irish people who almost universally trust science/ public health advice and want to be vaccinated to protect themselves and each other. Anti-vaxxers or vaccine-hesitant people are rare. While the people might not trust *this* government, they do generally trust *the* government. Columnist Fintan O'Toole remarked that with such reasonableness "Ireland's reputation for wildness might be shredded."

Dealing with Brexit

The fear of Brexit damaging the economy and peace on the Island of Ireland was justified in the early months when supply shortages in the North sparked frustration in loyalist communities whose Brexiteer leaders promoted the false narrative that the problems were caused by EU meddling rather than the implementation of new Boris Johnson-negotiated rules.

The principal victim of Brexit has been Britain itself. One shocking outcome has been the sheer speed with which international supply chains have been reorganized to accommodate for Brexit. Capitalism has no ideology; it is like a powerful river carving its way to the sea on the path of least resistance. To avoid using the British land bridge for Irish goods destined for the EU market, or the reverse, ferry routes between Wales and Ireland have been reduced with ships redeployed to run from Ireland's ports directly to the French ports of Roscoff, Le Havre, Calais, and Dunkirk. The ferry routes between Ireland and France have quadrupled in 2021. Dunkirk has even named a new port terminal "The Irish Terminal."

Trade has also surged within the island of Ireland. Northern Ireland businesses that relied on goods from Great Britain have turned to suppliers in the Irish Republic. Grocery stores and restaurants in Belfast need butter, eggs, sausages, and lamb, and if it is easier and cheaper to source goods "south of the border," so be it. Likewise, UK-sourced meat, fish, and agriproducts previously bound for continental Europe are being replaced by Irish products shipped directly to mainland Europe to avoid Brexit paperwork. These impacts were predicted, but the pace with which they have hit the UK economy was not.

Trade from the UK to Ireland is down a staggering 40 percent this year, while trade from Ireland to the UK (most of the growth to Northern Ireland) is up significantly. One of the most startling statistics published by the Irish Central Statistics Office is that for the first time in the history of the Irish state, Ireland

has a trade surplus with the United Kingdom.

The lockdown devastated certain sectors of the Irish economy, like hospitality and entertainment, but overall, Ireland's economy grew at 3.2 percent in 2020, the only member state in the EU with growth last year, a situation led by the multinational pharma and tech sectors. With the broader economy now reopening, Ireland is poised for double digit growth for the first time in decades.



Ireland and France

Another unexpected outcome of Brexit it has been the tightening relationship with Ireland's now-closest EU neighbor, France. The Irish relationship with France has been defined historically by mutually aligned interests: weakening England, or escaping its grasp.

Louis XIV supported the Catholic King James in the Jacobite war, won by William of Orange in 1691, after which 14,000 Irish troops and 6,000 dependents were evacuated to France, where they built their military careers and lives. The so-called "Wild Geese" tradition carried on in France, with tens of thousands of Irish descendants or new immigrants serving in the Irish Brigade of the French army until 1815.

France occupies the special role of powerful friend and potential savior in the Irish imagination. In 1796, with Wolfe Tone aboard, France sent 15,000 troops, most of them from Gaelic-Breton-speaking Brittany, to Kerry to join a rebellion. The effort went awry when storms hampered the voyage and prevented a landing in Bantry.

Wolfe Tone met with Napoleon in Paris in 1797 on three occasions, but disputes between Napper Tandy and Tone led Napoleon to conclude that the Irish were not organized enough to execute a successful invasion.

Tone expected that his 1798 invasion would include a large French force spearheaded by the Irish Brigade, but only 1,000 French troops landed in Mayo and the rebellion was defeated. That same summer, Napoleon invaded Egypt.

English fears of Napoleon are still evident on the coastline in the form of Martello or 'Napoleon' towers. They built 50 such fortifications around strategic locations like Dublin to defend against a French invasion and several still stand.

Irish historians continue to wonder if Napoleon had joined Tone's rebellion and a Hibernian Republic been born, how different the 19th century of famine and emigration might have been. Even though the invasion(s) never happened, Bonapartism lived on in poetry, song and story. "Croppies Acre" in Dublin

commemorates the 1798 dead who were thrown in unmarked graves, some bodies mounted on pikes, with this inscription:

*What is that in my hand? It is a branch.
Of What? Of the tree of Liberty.
Where did it first grow? In America.
Where does it bloom? In France.
Where did the seeds fall? In Ireland*

In 1847 at the height of the great famine, Thomas Meagher of Waterford went to France in an attempt to secure naval support to close Irish ports to prevent the exporting of agricultural products (cattle, flour, grain, eggs, ham) from starving Ireland. The help was not forthcoming, but he did return from Paris with the idea for the Irish tricolor modeled on that of the French Republic. Back in Ireland, Meagher raised the new flag during the failed Young Irelanders rising. After he was convicted of sedition in 1848, his death sentence was commuted to transportation to, and hard labor in, Tasmania. Meagher later escaped and made his way to New York, where he founded and led as its general the famed Fighting Irish 69th during the American Civil War. At age 43, he was assassinated while serving as governor of Montana in 1867.

In more recent times, Charles De Gaulle came to Ireland for six weeks in 1969 after he resigned as French president. Irish President Eamonn DeValera hosted him at a dinner at the Aras (the presidential residence) with 30 Irish members of the McCartan clan of County Down. The Irish press described the resemblance of the two leaders, both 20th-century embodiments of their respective countries, as "almost like twins." In his speech at Dublin Castle De Gaulle declared:

"It was a kind of instinct that brought me to Ireland. Perhaps it was the Irish blood which flows in my veins, for we always return to our origins."



Dublin, April 1969: Charles de Gaulle, left, and Eamon deValera.

De Gaulle's Irish ancestor, Patrick McCartan, was hanged and beheaded (seems both cruel and redundant) in Carrickfergus in 1653. Sir George Rowan, the judge in McCartan's trial, personally took possession of the McCartan lands after the execution. Patrick's sons fought on the Catholic James's side of the Jacobite war. One of them, Anthony, fled to France after the defeat to continue a long line of warriors, including De Gaulle.

De Gaulle's grandmother, Julia, lived until the general was 22 and transmitted her love for Ireland to him. As a child, De Gaulle read a published biography of Daniel O'Connell written by the Frenchman's other grandmother, Josephine. While in Ireland, De Gaulle and his wife made a pilgrimage to O'Connell's home in Derrynane and attended Mass. Over 300 years after the execution and dispossession of Patrick McCartan, De Gaulle still held in his consciousness a sense of being Irish and the injustice that his people had endured. His trip coincided with rising loyalist violence in response to John Hume's civil rights protests. At a non-official dinner during the six-week sojourn, De Gaulle provocatively toasted "A free and united Ireland." He delighted in making trouble for England whenever he could. Film and tape recordings of the event were tracked down and destroyed by the British MI6.

During the recent Brexit negotiations, it fell to Frenchman Michel Barnier, who has served in every French government since Francois Mitterrand's, to negotiate with Johnson's government on behalf of the EU. Irish people and politicians suspected that when push came to shove, the EU would prioritize its trading relationship with the UK over the peace and stability of tiny Ireland, but they were thrilled to be mistaken. It was as if Napoleon had finally arrived to liberate Ireland.

Ireland and France, particularly Brittany, share Celtic origins, Gaelic languages, music, and religious traditions. In the 7th century, Irish monks and scribes came to Brittany, preserving European culture during the dark ages. Breton towns like Pontivy and parishes like St. Ivy still bear the name of an Irish monk, Ivy, who arrived in 685 AD. The largest Celtic traditional music festival in the world is held annually in Lorient, Brittany, where musicians from throughout the Celtic world gather to share their languages and music. These age-old cultural links between Brittany and Ireland are now being reinforced by deeper economic ties. Merci, Boris!

The EU has moved on

Another unanticipated effect of Brexit has been the benefit to the EU project overall. In response to the Covid-related economic hardship confronted by member states, the EU passed a trillion euro bailout, the largest financial intervention in its history. EU policymakers describe this collective action as the "Brexit dividend." Put another way, there is zero chance the deeper financial cooperation would have escaped a veto from a UK still in the EU.

There is relief that the United Kingdom is finally out of the EU, which can now pursue initiatives that can only be achieved collectively, like the financial bailout or combatting climate collapse. Before Brexit, nascent movements within other member states were demanding an exit from the E, but Frexit, Grexit, and Hungrexit have fizzled after witnessing the UK's self-harm and the benefits of European solidarity.

(Continued on page 6)

September means getting back to school – and the new normal

This September marks a major milestone in my life. Twenty years ago this month, I left Boston behind to take up a one-year (ha!) visiting fellowship to teach legal research and writing to students in the School of Law at the National University of Ireland, Galway. To say the time has flown is an understatement of epic proportions.

It is strange, however, to be sitting in my office – which I have visited precisely twice in the past 18 months – and typing these words on a desktop computer that looks positively massive after working exclusively on a laptop since Covid-19 arrived on our shores and various stages of “lockdown” ensued. Funnily enough, with all the necessary changes that have been made to our routines on this beautiful campus to ensure everyone’s safety, I feel every bit as confused as the 26-year-old fish out of water I was in 2001. But this, too, shall pass as we slowly, yet surely, collectively adjust to a new normal.

I wasn’t the only one in our house going back to school. While Larry Óg was apprehensive in late summer, particularly about the multiplication and division tables he’ll be endeavoring to master imminently, he greatly enjoyed his first week in 3rd class (rough equivalent of 3rd grade). At the start of the second week, though, he woke with a stuffy nose and a temperature.

Ordinarily, my wife and I’s inclination would be to send him to school regardless. He can always come home if he’s too sick and, after all, whatever doesn’t kill him will make the already fairly robust boy stronger. Yet with warnings about the Delta variant and some worrying trends emerging from the United States about rapid spreads among unvaccinated school-aged children, we kept him out for two days. He took an antigen test, which was negative, thankfully, and has returned to school. But I am guessing that we are not the only parents who will experience this dilemma in the coming weeks and months.

Tim Kirk’s “Letter from Dublin” in the most recent *Boston Irish* was prescient in that its discussion of fairness, and the premium placed on fairness by Irish society, was to the fore in what remarkably became the biggest domestic political story of the summer here: #Zapponegate.

The former senator, campaigner for marriage equality, TD (member of Dáil Éireann, Ireland’s lower house of parliament) and Minister for Children, Katherine Zappone, is an American-born woman who met her late Irish wife, Ann Louise Gilligan, in the US and re-located with her to Ireland after they earned graduate degrees from Boston College. She was defeated in her 2020 bid for re-election and subsequently moved to New York where she assisted with Ireland’s successful attempt to win a seat on the United Nations Security Council. I have met Katherine on several occasions in the past, and I like and respect her.

Without delving into all of the myriad details and



Former Irish Minister for Children Katherine Zappone, pictured above while visiting Boston in 2018, was at the center of a discussion of fairness and the premium placed on that virtue by Irish society that over the summer became the biggest domestic story in Dublin. Ed Forry photo

divergent versions of what has transpired – and an undeniably flawed process – Zappone expressed an interest in being named by the Irish government as a special envoy for freedom of expression, especially in the context of LGBT issues. The appointment was set to be made and the Seattle native would receive a relatively paltry annual stipend of €15,000 plus expenses for two years for approximately 100 days of work in total.

On radio and in a column, I expressed the views that she was an effective advocate; that it would be good for the Irish government to be seen to lead in this area; and that it wasn’t costing very much money. The blowback was extraordinary. In short, many people saw it as cronyism of the highest order that a woman with an access to powerful politicians shared by very few had used it to secure a “make-up” job for herself. I understand their point, but as I said to a friend, I can only imagine what those presently outraged would make of the goings-on over the years on Beacon Hill or at City Hall!

After it was revealed that she had hosted an unwise gathering at the exclusive Merrion Hotel in Dublin that was attended by the Tánaiste (deputy prime minister), Leo Varadkar, among others and may have contravened public health guidelines, Zappone withdrew her name from consideration for the job. The controversy rumbles on, though, and it may claim a political scalp or two before it’s over. The adage that “it’s the cover-up, not the crime” is appropriate

at this juncture. Still, for many, it all boils down to the prized virtue of fairness.

...

The election of Joe Biden was greeted with joy and excitement here, not solely because he is a proud descendant of Mayo and Louth immigrants with a genuine fondness for this country, but also due to his pledge to restore an outward-looking America that values multilateralism after the Trump presidency. Despite the horrendous scenes of carnage in Kabul, Biden touted the exit as a success in the main and, directly addressing the families of military service personnel, reiterated that he was keeping his promise to bring the troops home.

The reaction in Ireland was one of surprise and, in many quarters, anger at a president who much hope has been invested in. Biden has been accused of betraying the Afghan people who aided the US and its allies at great risk to themselves and of actually being an “America First” whose rhetoric may differ from Trump’s but whose foreign policy is not altogether dissimilar.

In truth, Uncle Sam’s inward pivot has been a while in the making. Following futile interventions in the Middle East that have had devastating consequences, the citizenry has had enough. Accordingly, it is hard to find a Republican or a Democratic elected official who would say publicly that the US should be the world’s police force or anything remotely resembling it. Biden’s gamble is that, notwithstanding his drop in the polls in the wake of the chaos in Kabul, he and his party will ultimately reap benefits from pulling out, albeit far from perfectly. If they do – and I suspect they might – it will be to the chagrin of Irish observers who increasingly can’t fathom the new political state of play in a nation they once looked up to.

...

Two quick ones. First, devotees of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) will know that Dublin’s football team fell to Mayo in the All-Ireland semi-final. With apologies to Boston area Dubs, it was a good thing for the game that the boys in blue were thwarted in their quest for a seventh championship in a row. Alas, the 70-year-long “Curse of Mayo” continues. Tyrone defeated Mayo by five points in the All-Ireland football championship played on Sept. 11 in Dublin’s legendary Croke Park.

Second, at a time when we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the unspeakable events of 9/11, it is heartening that, in all sorts of ways, Ireland has been remembering those who lost their lives, including 7 Irish-born men and women and countless Irish Americans. None of us should ever, ever forget what happened on that infamous day.

Larry Donnelly is a Boston born and educated attorney, a Law Lecturer at the National University of Ireland, Galway, and a regular media contributor on politics, current affairs and law in Ireland and the US. Follow him on Twitter: @LarryPDonnelly.

A personal memoir delivered as social history

Boston Irish contributor Larry Donnelly’s new book, “The Bostonian: Life in an Irish American Political Family,” will be released on Oct. 15 by one of Ireland’s leading publishers, Gill Books. Speaking to Boston Irish, Donnelly said that “writing a book that is a memoir and more was equally a labour of love and a welcome distraction in 2020 and 2021.”

In the book, Donnelly tells the story of his family’s rise in the world of Boston and Massachusetts politics since emigrating from the west of Ireland. He also reflects upon his own upbringing in East Milton and early career in law and politics before relocating to his ancestral home county to

take up an academic post in the School of Law at the National University of Ireland, Galway in 2001.

Since then, in addition to founding and directing the law school’s well-regarded clinical legal education programme, Donnelly has become one of Ireland’s leading media commentators on politics, current affairs and law on both sides of the Atlantic.

In *The Bostonian*, he describes the cultural differences between the two countries, analyses US and Irish politics and considers the future of what he calls “the sacred relationship between the two places I am lucky to call home.” He says that, while the book examines

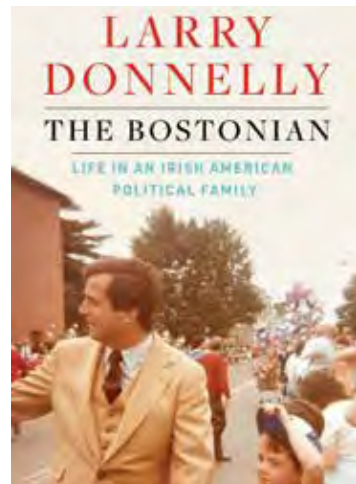
some weighty topics, “there is no shortage of personal anecdotes and mishaps recounted, as well as tales passed down through my family, that I think readers will find interesting and humorous.”

Caitríona Perry, RTÉ’s former Washington correspondent and current anchor of the main evening news, says of *The Bostonian*: “From grassroots insight into local Boston politics to informed analysis of the national polarised picture to transatlantic love stories, this book is entertaining, informative and passionate. A must-read for fans of US politics, Irish American relations and immigration tales.”

And Boston Globe columnist

Kevin Cullen observes that “the political journey of Larry Donnelly’s family, and in particular his own political and cultural odyssey, is a roadmap to the Irish immigrant experience in America, where tribal loyalties eventually gave way to demographic realities. His journey back to Ireland, where he made his life, reveals that the phenomenon of what social scientists call ‘third-generation’ return in which grandchildren of immigrants identify with the old country, is rooted in DNA as much as cultural identity.

Larry Donnelly’s ability to see America through Irish eyes, and Ireland through American eyes, is remarkable and revealing. This is as much a social



Tracking (from the inside) life in an Irish American political family history as a personal memoir.”

“The Bostonian: Life in an Irish American Political Family” is available for pre-order at bookstation.ie/product/the-bostonian.

About the coronavirus pandemic, Brexit, and the French factor

(Continued from page 4)

There will be a border poll in Ireland someday to address the constitutional unity question. Rearranged supply chains have already accelerated the integration of the all-Ireland economy and Ireland's trade with mainland Europe. Unity may be an easier decision over time as the partition that has lasted over 100 years is shown to be not only divisive but increasingly irrelevant.

Global companies headquarter themselves in Ireland for multiple reasons, not solely because of the lower Irish corporate tax rate of 12.5 percent. Pressure from the USA and Europe to adopt a 15 percent minimum corporate tax rate will likely change Ireland's tax policy, but Ireland is now the only native English-speaking EU member, and her deep relationships with the United States and the large European countries position the isle as a cultural bridge between the two. At a human level, European Erasmus students who wish to study in an English-speaking country now have only one option: Ireland. The next Google or Stripe might be started in a dorm room in an Irish University.

In 2009, long before Brexit was even on the table, a 500-kilometer undersea electrical connector from Ireland to Brittany was first proposed. Just last



Dublin, August 2021: Ireland Prime Minister Micheal Martin and French President Emmanuel Macron in Dublin with their respective tri-colors behind them

month (Sept. 6), bids were submitted for the construction of "The Celtic Interconnector" to be completed by 2026. The EU will pay for 60 percent of the billion-euro project, while France

will pay 35 percent, and Ireland 5 percent. Upon completion, Ireland will be connected to the EU electrical grid for the first time, able to buy electricity and to sell energy harnessed from the

abundant Irish wind and powerful Irish tides, all of which will further strengthen the ties between Ireland and her closest EU neighbor.

Fall Activities Swing into Action at Irish Cultural Center

The ICC's annual **Irish 5K Road Race and Kids Fun Run** on Sunday Sept 19 was a huge success. There were 293 registered runners, our highest number ever. It was a beautiful sunny day for the race, capped off by the great tunes of Devri in the tent. Thank you to all our sponsors, runners and volunteers for making this such a great day. A big shout out as well to The Thirsty Irish Runners for all their enthusiastic support – both during and after the race! More information on the winners in each category, and a list of sponsors is further below.

In addition to the return of **Friday night dining**, our **Friday Night Session Players** are also back and going strong!

Our next big musical event is the return of **Rebels**, the great **Tom Petty Tribute band** who always attract a big crowd of Petty enthusiasts to the ICC tent. Get your tickets now for the Saturday night October 2 show at www.irishculture.org.

Sunday October 3 marks the return of our **First Sunday Mass**. The Mass will be said at 11:00am in the Tent, followed by a "Sunday Roast" buffet dinner at 12:15, and Country & Western tunes spun by DJ Ogie G. The Ladies Auxiliary will also host a coffee, tea and dessert table. Reservations are recommended, so please reach out to Maudy at mdooher@irishculture.org.



Non-Competitive Irish Dance at the Irish Cultural Centre of NE



Join us Fall 2021 at the ICC in Canton! Ages 5+

Mondays 4-5pm: Beginner Step/Sean-nós
A fun-filled introduction to the basics of traditional step & sean-nós dance.
Sept 13 - Nov 8, no class Oct 25 | \$136 /ICC members \$125
To register: mdooher@irishculture.org
www.jackieoriley.com www.irishculture.org

DAMIAN MCGINTY
In concert at the ICC
Saturday, November 13 at 8pm

Damian McGinty is a singer, songwriter and actor from Drogheda, Ireland. His career began at the age of 13 when he recorded a charity CD, and his remarkable talent and charisma quickly catapulted him into fame and success. Selected in 2007 by producer Shazzy Bhaer and music director Phil Coulter to join the inaugural cast of Celtic Thunder, Damian quickly became a fan favorite for his fiendish charm and his deep baritone voice. A winner at The X Factor, Damian landed a guest spot on Fox's hit television series Glee, as America's exchange student Rory Flanagan. Damian's debut solo album Young Forever released in 2011 on the iTunes Pop Chart and opened at a spot in "Artist of the Month" by Irish Times.

Tickets available through our website
www.irishculture.org
781-821-8291

October 2nd: Tom Petty Tribute Band – Rebels at 8pm

October 23rd: Boston Irish Beer Fest at noon

October 30th : Slainte in concert in the ICC Tent

November 13: Damian McGinty

December 5th: Andy Cooney

December 12: Christmas in America

December 18: Chloe Agnew

More details available on our website

Irish Cultural Centre
200 New Boston Drive., Canton, MA
781-821-8291 www.irishculture.org



Rian is partnering with Enroot to support local immigrant youth

With funding from the Cabot Family Charitable Trust, Rian Immigrant Center (formerly the Irish International Immigrant Center), is launching a partnership with Enroot, a non-profit organization that empowers immigrant students to achieve academic, career, and personal success through inspiring out of school experiences. Enroot's 4-to-7-year wraparound program model includes 1:1 mentoring, tutoring, leadership, and workforce development supporting high school and college students as they move towards a successful future. Enroot will identify students in need of Rian's services and liaise with attorneys to coordinate workshops. Rian attorneys will provide immigration legal services to Enroot students in Somerville and Cambridge, and equip them with knowledge regarding the immigration policies that affect their lives through consultations, legal representation, and a series of immigration workshops. The workshops hosted by Rian will provide students with an understanding of the basic principles of US immigration law and their rights when interacting with law enforcement or immigration officials. Rian will also provide Enroot staff and volunteers with professional development to equip them with information regarding the US immigration system, and possible options available to immigrant students in order to best support them. This partnership will expand Rian's immigrant youth services and will assist more than 80 students in the next school year.

Ben Clark, the executive director



rian
IMMIGRANT CENTER

Creating pathways to new beginnings.

The Rian Immigrant Center is deeply grateful to the Government of Ireland for their support of our work with Irish immigrants and exchange students in the coming year, and for more than 25 years. Thanks to this grant, the Rian Immigrant Center offers a range of services to the Irish Community in New England including immigration legal services, citizenship services, social services, individual counseling, job readiness programs, and support of young Irish students and graduates who come the U.S. to develop job skills and gain the confidence to become future leaders in Ireland. We thank the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Irish Abroad Unit's Emigrant Support Program's longstanding commitment to the Irish diaspora in Boston and around the globe.

of Enroot commented, "Enroot is thrilled about our partnership with the Rian Immigrant Center and about the crucial support we will be better able to provide together for immigrant students in Somerville and Cambridge."

Somerville Public Schools' Superintendent Mary Skipper added: "We are thrilled about Enroot's partnership with Rian, and the impact that this project can have on immigrant youth so they can have a way to become contributing members of their chosen communities. Enroot has been an exceptional partner in our district. Their partnership with Rian demonstrates the deep commitment that Enroot has to providing immigrant youth with the support and access to legal resources they need to make the positive impact in the world that they are looking to make." Rian's Executive Director, Ronnie Millar said, "We are very excited to be expanding our work with immigrant youth in Somerville and Cambridge by partnering with such a wonderful organization as Enroot. Receiving immigration legal assistance empowers immigrant youth and their families to new pathways to stability and success. We are very grateful to the Cabot Family Charitable Foundation for their support." Said Elizabeth Lynch, executive director of the Cabot Family Charitable Trust: "We are proud to support this innovative partnership that will create a pathway for immigrant students to secure the immigration legal help they need to achieve their full potential." For more information on this new program, please contact Lima James ljames@enrooteducation.org or (617) 876-5214 Ext. 1 or Leah Weigel, lweigel@riancenter.org or (617) 542-7654

Legal permanent residence: key dates

Q. I have an interview scheduled with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on my application for permanent residence. Assuming the interview goes well, what happens next?

A. In cases where the interview is successful, the USCIS officer has the authority to grant you permanent residence immediately. Your new status will begin on the very same day as the interview, and for most people will be valid for ten years. People applying through a US citizen spouse who have been married for less than two years at the time of approval receive "conditional permanent residence" that is valid for two years. After the interview, the officer will order production of your permanent resident card (I-551, or "green card"). In cases where no interview is required, a notice of a favorable decision is mailed to the applicant. In both types of cases, the actual card will be sent to the mailing address on record with USCIS, so make sure to inform USCIS, not just the Post Office, right away if you change your address. The easiest way to report your change of address is online at uscis.gov. New permanent residents should be aware of the following:

(1) "Conditional" permanent residents (those who were granted permanent residence based on marriage to a US citizen) need to petition to have the conditions removed before the two-year green card expires. The I-751 Petition to Remove Conditions on Residence must be filed within the 90-day period preceding the expiration date. Once the petition is approved, the applicant will receive a new green card valid for 10 years.

(2) Once conditional permanent residents have their conditions removed, they are eligible to become naturalized US citizens three years after the date that their first application for permanent residence was approved. Naturalization applications may be filed as early as 90 days before the end of this three-year period.

(3) With certain exceptions (involving military service, for example), all other green card holders are eligible to become naturalized US citizens five years after the grant of permanent residence. Again, naturalization applications may be filed as early as 90 days before the five years have expired. Remember that eligibility for US citizenship involves other criteria in addition to the length of permanent residence - good moral character, English language proficiency, and physical presence in the US. Also remember that permanent residents can not only be denied naturalization but can also be subject to removal from the US if convicted of certain crimes. This is why it is imperative that permanent residents consult with an experienced immigration attorney if ever arrested, for any reason. Rian attorneys are available to provide advice on any immigration matters. Our walk-in immigration clinics have been suspended due to Covid-19, but our attorneys are providing free immigration consultations over the phone and will be happy to speak with you. Please call 617-542-7654 to schedule a phone consultation.

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

RIAN IMMIGRANT CENTER
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CELTIC MUSIC/DANCE EVENTS CALENDAR

A look at in-person Irish/Celtic-related events in Greater Boston for the next few weeks. Please note that details may have changed, or the events may have been postponed or cancelled, since press time. Check with venues for COVID-19 safety protocols.



The New England Irish Harp Orchestra comes to Gore Place in Waltham on October 27.

BY SEAN SMITH

BOSTON IRISH CONTRIBUTOR

Not surprisingly, the recent Covid-19 resurgence has slowed somewhat the resumption of live events at area venues. Continued concern and uncertainty as well as travel restrictions related to the pandemic have forced many performers from Ireland, Scotland, and elsewhere abroad – and even within the US – to scale back, postpone, or cancel their plans for touring; Altan’s scheduled gig at Somerville Theater this month was one such casualty.

•But the calendar isn’t completely blank, certainly not at Club Passim in Harvard Square, which will host fiddle-cello duo Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas on Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. For two decades, this pioneering partnership has been a study not only in instrumental mastery and sheer ability, but also in musical chemistry and creativity, vis-à-vis their archetypal “ducking and diving,” in which they exchange riffs, trade off melody versus rhythm, and otherwise converse in various tones of emotion and intensity. Fraser and Haas have long since moved beyond the Scottish tradition that was their starting point, exploring music from places like Scandinavia, Spain, England, and Appalachia as well as other genres such as classical, jazz, and swing. Their

most recent album, “Syzygy,” marked yet another new milestone, featuring entirely original compositions – making their own music “from the ground up,” according to Fraser.

Former Boston-based quartet Corner House will be at Club Passim on Oct. 14 at 7 p.m., demonstrating its impressive range of Irish, Scottish, Appalachian string band, New England contra dance, and bluegrass traditions, which often provide a basis for their own material. Virginia-born guitarist Ethan Hawkins, Scottish fiddler Louise Bichan, mandolinist Ethan Setiawan from Indiana, and Western New Yorker Casey Murray on cello – all of whom met via the Berklee College of Music – cultivated their easy-going, groove-centric sound through many get-togethers at the Brighton House, a hub for young Boston-area roots musicians. Since then, Corner House has released two EP albums and appeared at BCMFest, the Red Room at Café 939 and the Grey Fox and Falcon Ridge festivals, among other places.

Tickets and information available at passim.org.

•The internationally renowned ballad group The High Kings comes to the Chevalier Theatre in Medford on Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m. with newest member Paul O’Brien joining

co-founders Finbarr Clancy, Darren Holden, and Brian Dunphy. Inspired by the classic Irish ballad style that swept into popularity during the 1950s and ’60s through the likes of the Clancy Brothers and The Dubliners, the quartet has toured extensively throughout the US and Europe, combining modern songs in the folk idiom – and even from other genres – with some of the classic ballad repertoire. Their most recent recording, “Home from Home,” captures their performance at the Concert Deck in Dublin, and includes “Wild Colonial Boy,” “Farewell to Nova Scotia” and “Carrickfergus,” as well as contemporary songs like “Streets of London,” “City of Chicago” and “Green Fields of France.”

Tickets and other details at chevaliertheatre.com.

•The acclaimed Irish tenor Ronan Tynan will be at Cary Hall in Lexington on Oct. 3 at 3 p.m. – an event that had previously been scheduled back in the spring of 2020. A Dublin native raised in Kilkenny who began his career path as a medical doctor, Tynan didn’t start formal voice training until his early 30s. But he quickly blossomed as an operatic/classical-style singer and in 1998 co-founded the Irish Tenors, which enjoyed international success. Since

then, Tynan has toured around the world and sung at such landmark events as the state funeral for Ronald Reagan, the Belmont Stakes, benefits and memorial services for 9/11 first responders, and the first inauguration of Boston Mayor Martin Walsh. In addition to a number of audio recordings, Tynan has released a DVD of his motivational speaking.

•Gore Place Carriage House Concerts in Waltham hosts the quartet of Laurel Martin, Jim Prendergast, Mark Roberts, and Kieran Jordan on Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m. The four – Martin (fiddle), Roberts (flute, banjo, bouzouki), Prendergast (guitar) and Jordan (sean-nos dance) – are each individually accomplished and heralded performers in traditional Irish music and have often joined forces in various configurations or as part of other collaborations. Martin, Roberts, and Jordan, for example, often appeared with the fiddle ensemble Childsplay, while Prendergast has played alongside Martin and Roberts at BCMFest.

The New England Irish Harp Orchestra will be at Gore Place on Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. NEIHO is a multi-generational group of harpists who play Irish traditional tunes, slow airs, and songs in various combinations as well as a full ensemble –

including with fiddlers, flutists, and singers. The group has released four albums.

Go to goreplace.org/whats-on/carriage-house-concerts.

•Boston College’s Gaelic Roots series returns with Keith Murphy and Becky Tracy on Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Theology and Ministry Library Auditorium on BC’s Brighton Campus. This husband-wife team is a veritable resource center for traditional music found in New England (including Irish, English, Scottish, and Quebecois) and are well respected individually in their own right as teachers and mentors as well as top-flight musicians – Murphy on vocals, guitar, mandolin and piano, Tracy on fiddle. In addition to the concert stage, Murphy and Tracy have been stalwarts of New England’s celebrated contra dance scene, having been two-thirds of the groundbreaking trio Nightingale. Murphy also is familiar to the Boston area as music director for the annual “St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn” production. Last year, after some three decades of playing together, they released their first album as a duo, “Golden.”

The concert is free. For directions to Brighton Campus, go to events.bc.edu/group/gaelic_roots_series.

Larry Kirwan talks about the whos and whys of his new 9/11-driven novel, 'Rockaway Blue'

By SEAN SMITH

BOSTON IRISH CONTRIBUTOR

Rock 'n roller, radio show host, playwright, author, historian, and incorrigible raconteur, Limerick native and longtime New York City resident Larry Kirwan has never been short on inspiration in chronicling the Irish odyssey, whether in the homeland or in far-flung places and amidst various cultures around the world.

Now, Kirwan – a frequent visitor to Boston as co-founder, lead singer, and spiritual leader of the now-defunct rock band Black 47 – has published "Rockaway Blue," which might be described as the first Irish American 9/11 novel; it's awash in memory, mystery, regret, gritty gallows humor, and the desire for redemption.

When "Rockaway Blue" opens, the third anniversary of 9/11 is nearing, a prospect that fills New Yorkers Jimmy and Maggie Murphy with dread and sadness. Their older son, Brian – an NYPD cop, like his father – died a hero on that day at the World Trade Center, but it's small comfort to the couple, not to mention their younger son Kevin, a firefighter, and Rose, Brian's widow.

Nestled within the Irish American enclave of Rockaway Beach, Jimmy and Maggie have sought to cope with the sorrow and other emotions released by the tragedy by making major life changes. But having left her job as an English teacher, Maggie has become increasingly reluctant "to deal with a traitorous world that had taken away her son," often gazing out at the ocean or following the flight of an osprey – that personification of sorrow in Yeats' "The Wanderings of Oisín." At Maggie's insistence, Jimmy quit the NYPD and is now running security for a downtown "Irish" pub, Dolan's, which gives him little pleasure.

But something else is eating at Jimmy, and it's not just his disturbing memories of serving in Vietnam: He's never been clear as to how and why Brian happened to be in the vicinity of the Twin Towers that day, and nobody in the NYPD seems able or willing to provide an explanation. Nor does his friend Yusef, an Egyptian falafel parlor owner who had his own, mysterious ties to Brian – as did Yusef's daughter Fatima.

The unanswered questions about Brian underscore the complicated relationships he'd had with his loved ones, and compound not only the grief of Jimmy, Maggie, and Kevin, but also Rose, who is struggling with her troubled young son – and her unresolved feelings about Kevin.

If that all sounds like too much misery and angst to bear, know that "Rockaway Blue" is decidedly not a depressing read. There are powerful emotions in play, to be sure, but most of the characters here are, in their own way, moving forward, however tentatively or perhaps even ill-advisedly. Kirwan's prose has the same fire, crackle, and zing as his songwriting, and it keeps the book from



He delivers more than a touch of the Irish way: memory, regret, gallows humor, need for redemption

sagging into melancholy.

The dominant plot thread concerns Jimmy's efforts to find answers about Brian, including from former colleagues, and Kirwan flavors the narrative with the patois and zeitgeist of the law enforcement fellowship. But this isn't a mystery or cop novel, per se: Jimmy's reflections (and Kirwan's by extension) on a changed, and changing, New York City are a key motif – one particularly vivid, lyrical passage occurs early on, as Jimmy takes in the city's skyline and landmarks on a ride back to Rockaway.

Another important element to the book is the condition of being Irish, or of Irish descent, in America. Through Jimmy and the other main characters, there are glimpses of the social and cultural history, faith tradition, customs and legacies the Irish carried to the US, and that which their descendants promulgated. Rockaway, a hotbed for an ascendant Irish American middle class, embodies the Irish American stew of complexities and paradoxes: compassion and acts of kindness on the one hand, judgmentalism and gossip on the other.

"Like all closed-off societies," Kirwan writes, "the peninsula could be unforgiving, and there was a fascination with personal failings, especially when titillating or salacious."

Earlier this month, with the 20th anniversary of 9/11 coming up, Kirwan took time to talk about what went into writing "Rockaway Blue."

Q. Some might assume you wrote the book with the 20th anniversary milestone in mind – but that's not the case, is it?

A. I actually began writing it within days of 9/11, but it took a long time before I knew the direction I wanted to go in.

What happened was this: Black 47 always had a place to play – we were

New York City's house band. And so, days after 9/11 we put the word out that we were going to play; we didn't advertise, just put the word out informally. A lot of first responders would show up, or people who'd worked in or near the WTC. At that time, nobody was really sure who'd survived, so at these events, you'd hear, "Hey, John, made it out in time" or "Mary didn't go in that day." So there was relief mixed in with the sorrow. Everyone seemed to know someone who'd died or been directly affected by 9/11.

But it wasn't long before we could hear the drums of war starting, and of course they only got louder as time went on. I just had the sense that regular people's stories of 9/11 were being hijacked or left aside, and I really wanted to make sure those stories were being told. So you could say that's the starting point for "Rockaway Blue."

Q. At one point, you manifested this idea as a play, right?

A. Yes, "The Heart Has a Mind of Its Own." In 2004, Black 47 had made an album, "New York Town," which dealt with the events of 9/11 in some of the songs – for example, there was one about Fr. Mychal Judge, the NYFD chaplain who was killed. Afterwards, I realized that I'd written about people who had died on 9/11, but not those who survived – family, friends, coworkers.

It's harder to write about survivors, because surviving is not dramatic or glamorous. Being a playwright, I thought that maybe putting it on stage would be a way to get at the story, so I created the Murphy family. And I set it three years after 9/11, because that way they would be feeling a different kind of grief; not dealing with the events that had just happened, but trying to make sense of everything. It's pretty much the same story as the book – Yusef is also

in there, though he's doesn't actually appear on stage.

When I saw it on stage, even though people liked it, I realized I hadn't gotten to the root of Jimmy or this family; their story needed to be a much bigger one. A stage has limitations, in that you're mainly dealing with dialogue and actions but not memories or sensations or thoughts within a person. I felt I had to go bigger, do some more digging. After about four years – I tend to be a slow thinker – I just said to myself, "This is more a novel."

I actually finished it a couple of years ago, and wanted to do a release in 2020, but my agent said nobody reads books during an election year. So that's how it wound up being published this year.

Q. So many different communities were touched by 9/11. What moved you to frame 9/11 in the context of the Irish American community?

A. Well, I think the Irish American community was significantly affected just in terms of sheer numbers, because so many were first responders who went to help, and were injured or killed. I've made friends and acquaintances in many different communities in the city, but the Irish American community was one I knew so well, and had a lot of strong connections there. They were my blood and bone.

[Black 47 co-founder] Chris Byrne was a New York cop, so that's how I got a good sense of what a cop's life was like. Black 47 had a lot of fans who worked in law enforcement and public safety, and we had tremendous respect for them. They didn't necessarily agree with our point of view on everything, like when we made it clear we thought the Iraq war was a terrible, tragic mistake. But they knew where we were coming from and they would say, "You guys tell it like it is."

Q. Jimmy's the main character, though Maggie, Kevin and Rose certainly get a lot of attention. This guy's been through a lot, to put it mildly. What went into envisioning him?

A. He's complicated. He's been to Nam, and he went through something bad there, but being the stoical kind of character he is, he's never shared it with anyone. He always holds a part of himself back, even from his family. And because of Vietnam, he's distrustful of authority, while Brian knows how to deal with authority, so that's an important division between them.

In a small way, through Jimmy I wanted to show what America's been like in the time that I've been here. The Vietnam War was just ending when I arrived, and I was dealing with so many vets who were coming home. And America was trying to come to terms with what had happened in Nam, what effect it had on guys like Jimmy who'd served. And then, we saw these other events, the other wars America was in leading up to the Iraq war. That war had a special meaning for me, because

(Continued on page 15)

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| 2018 Rev. Richard “Doc” Conway
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Dr. Trevor McGill, MD | 2014 Katherine Craven
Boston Mayor Marty Walsh
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State Senator Tom Kennedy
Joseph Corcoran & Family
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Tom Mulvoy & Family |
| 2017 Nora, Annmarie & Bill Kennedy
Tom Tinlin
Kevin Cullen | 2013 Therese Murray
Gerry & Bob Mulligan & Family
John P. Driscoll Jr. (Posthumous) | 2010 Hon. Ed Markey
John Donohue
Peg Geraghty & Family
Jim Brett & Family
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| 2016 Jim & Mary (Cahill) Judge
Senator Paul G. Kirk Jr.
Kevin & Joe Leary & Family | | |

Her debut recording, “Sunrise Summit,” and her fiddle in hand, Lily Honigberg decamps to LA to explore other vistas

BY SEAN SMITH
BOSTON IRISH CONTRIBUTOR

After seven years as a quite active musician in Greater Boston’s Irish/Celtic and folk scene, Lily Honigberg has traded in “Love That Dirty Water” for “California Dreaming”; cold, icy winters for warm, rainy ones; the Atlantic for the Pacific; Red Sox for Dodger Blue.

Last month, Honigberg packed up her fiddle and other possessions and headed out via the scenic route to Los Angeles, the latest development in what has already been an eventful period for her, highlighted by the release this past summer of her debut recording, the EP “Sunrise Summit.” The album – the first volume of an envisioned larger work – comprises mainly original tunes by the Washington, DC, native that reflect her wide-ranging musical experiences and interests, including Irish, Scandinavian, and Americana, and features renowned Irish guitarist John Doyle on two of the tracks.

For many years, Boston’s Irish/Celtic music scene has been energized by the presence of young people who come to the area to attend college, especially the New England Conservatory – Honigberg’s alma mater – and Berklee College of Music but also the likes of Harvard, BC, BU, Northeastern, and other institutions. They fan out to area sessions, form ties with local or other college-age musicians, start a band or two (or three), play at coffeehouses and festivals, and contribute fresh energy and ideas while enjoying Boston’s fertile landscape of Irish and related music traditions.

Not all of them end up staying in Boston, of course. Maybe it’s the tug of home and family, graduate school or employment opportunities elsewhere, the cost of living, or as in Honigberg’s case, the desire to explore other musical vistas: She’s looking to spread her wings in the contemporary/singer-songwriter domain, and since she already has contacts in LA in the form of old high school friends, she’s feeling hopeful about her prospects (a trained Pilates instructor, Honigberg also can find work outside of music to support herself).

“I just turned 25 in June, there’s nothing tying me down, and I feel I want to explore my musical identity,” says Honigberg, who earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from NEC. “It seems to me that I’ll have better luck finding the kind of music I want to be involved with in LA than Boston, and I feel that some of the skills I have – being able to read, write, and arrange music – will be helpful in these kinds of collaborations. It’s a leap of faith, but sometimes when your gut instincts tap you on the shoulder, you just have to pay attention.”

Still, Honigberg values her time in Boston, a significant chunk of it spent building on her childhood interest in Irish fiddle, which she traces to her mother’s own enthusiasm for learning the instrument after a trip to Ireland. When at age 10 first she listened to recordings of Irish fiddle, Honigberg – who, raised by musical parents, began classical violin at age four – recalls, “I thought, ‘Wow, the violin can do that?’ And I kind of tucked that in the back of my mind.” But it wasn’t until her freshman year at NEC that she began playing by ear, a vital skill for Irish fiddlers, and this enabled her to get a handle on learning tunes (“I played along to Martin Hayes in my dorm room”). As her comfort level grew, she began meeting and playing with other musicians through sessions at The Burren and The Brendan Behan Pub, among other places; a couple of sojourns in County Mayo strengthened her Irish fiddle-playing.



“It seems to me that I’ll have better luck finding the kind of music I want to be involved with in LA than Boston, and I feel that some of the skills I have – being able to read, write, and arrange music – will be helpful in these kinds of collaborations. It’s a leap of faith, but sometimes when your gut instincts tap you on the shoulder, you just have to pay attention.”

LILY HONIGBERG

But Honigberg notes that NEC, and its own community, took up the majority of time and head space in her life. Her most substantial Boston-based venture was joining five other NEC students to form Night Tree, which fused Irish and Scandinavian music with classical, jazz, klezmer and Afro-Cuban influences and incorporated improvisation as part of its sound. The band recorded two albums that were produced by former Solas member Seamus Egan, and performed locally at The Burren Backroom series and Club Passim as well as venues around the East Coast and even at the Kurro Musikfestival in Sweden. Solas co-founder and fiddler Winifred Horan also worked with Night Tree as an NEC faculty coach.

Night Tree parted ways amicably in 2019, but planned to reform for a reunion concert last year at The Burren that was subsequently cancelled because of Covid. Some of its members, including Honigberg, played in a short-lived successor, Fade Blue.

“Night Tree was an incredible experience, such a huge project for us all. We missed so much school, I’m surprised NEC allowed us to graduate,” she says with a laugh. “I feel that those three years we were together gave me a lot of the tools – and the courage – to do ‘Sunrise Summit.’”

After Night Tree broke up, Honigberg found



herself with a “huge window” in which to work on ideas with fiddle. This led her in early 2020 to Asheville, NC, and a fellow NEC alumnus who had set up a recording studio and invited her to come try it out; accompanying her was Fade Blue bandmate bass player James Heazelwood-Dale. Asheville also is home to John Doyle (another Solas co-founder), whom Honigberg had met and jammed with in Sweden. It would have been unthinkable not to let Doyle know she was in town, so Honigberg sent him an “I’m here!” text. The ball had started to roll.

“I sent John the tunes we were going to play, and when he showed up at the studio, we just got right down to it,” says Honigberg. “It was tremendously inspiring to have this powerhouse player with us. I actually had what I think was an out-of-body experience in the middle of it – I just thought, ‘Wow, I’m sitting on a couch in Asheville with John Doyle.’ He brought all his years of experience into that moment, and I felt like I could do anything.”

“Reunion,” the EP’s first track, begins with a classic pulsating Doyle introduction that lays a 6/8 groove for Honigberg’s delectably soulful fiddling, which here tends toward the lower register; then Doyle breaks off into a 4/4 rhythm and Honigberg revs up into reel time, displaying lift and attack with gusto. Doyle’s other appearance is on “If and Only If,” composed by traditional/experimental/avant-garde fiddler Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh, and an entirely different animal: a pensive sojourn in a slow, stately 6/8, Doyle adding occasional harmonies in his accompaniment and leading a lovely little interlude with Heazelwood-Dale.

Also on the EP is “Eleanor,” a homage to Honigberg’s grandmother and her Norwegian ancestry that was inspired by Swedish-born accordionist Sunniva Brynnel, a former member of Night Tree. Honigberg tunes her fiddle to GBGB, which, along with Heazelwood-Dale’s bowed double bass, creates a moody Scandinavianesque soundscape before segueing to a sprightly old-timey vibe. The title track – the name of the Asheville street where the studio is located – has an American-Scottish feel to it, Heazelwood-Dale playing both acoustic and electric bass to supply a jazzy undercurrent (“Having James along was fantastic, just changed the whole dynamic of what I do,” says Honigberg).

Honigberg sees the “Sunrise Summit” project as a potential springboard for other musical adventures, in LA or elsewhere (she has a tour scheduled later this year with her cello-playing father).

“I listen to the album, and I can’t believe it’s me, yet I feel so connected to every track. I find it comforting music, though it was recorded in a highly emotional time for the world. We were very fortunate to create this work when we did, and looking back I think of it as a meditation on how musicians and performers adapted to the challenges of the pandemic, even as global issues confronted us all.”

For more on Honigberg, and to purchase “Sunrise Summit,” go to lilyhonigberg.com



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Get ready for all the inspiration that's been distilled over the past year to bubble over into nights reconnecting with family and friends, home-cooked food, and the kind of nostalgia-fuelled, laughter-filled chats you can't find anywhere else.

2 Take to the open road

Wind along the Wild Atlantic Way and tick off your bucket list, from Kinsale's world-class restaurants to the spectacular Ring of Kerry and the enchanting expanse of Connemara. Or head up north, cruise the Causeway Coastal Route and take in the magnificent views at Dunluce Castle.

3 Get out into nature

In Ireland, Mother Nature truly owns the catwalk. Savor the stunning landscape with a hike up Croagh Patrick, or a round at Royal Portrush Golf Club; take a dip in the Irish Sea at Dublin's Forty Foot, or cycle the Waterford Greenway. You won't find fresher air anywhere else!



4 Tickle your tastebuds

Ireland's green pastures, deep valleys and pure waters have helped create outstanding natural flavors. Get a real taste of the island with a food tour around Cork city. Chat to the talented artisan producers who line the colorful stalls around our many farmers' markets. Or go fishing off the Causeway Coast and catch your own breakfast. You really can't get any fresher than that!

Left: Traditional music session on the Wild Atlantic Way

Below left: Fresh seafood at Harry's Shack, County Londonderry

Bottom left: The Guinness Storehouse, Dublin

Below: Dunluce Castle, County Antrim



5 Enjoy our star attractions

The Cliffs of Moher and the Mourne Mountains. Killarney National Park and the Rock of Cashel. Kylemore Abbey and the Dark Hedges. It's easy to understand why so many people have fallen in love with Ireland's irresistible beauty. A visit to some of these iconic spots might be just what you need to recharge your spirit. Time to sit back, soak it all in and savor every moment.

6 Make a break for the cities!

Home to dramatic stories and historic buildings, Ireland's vibrant cities are just waiting to welcome you home. Try dining on award-winning food in Belfast; listening to thrilling traditional Irish music in Galway; and filling up on culture in the museums of Dublin and Derry-Londonderry.

7 Only in Ireland

Fill this trip with experiences you want to recommend to all your friends on your return! Cycle the Aran Islands, meditate at the monastic village in Glendalough, visit the filming locations of Game of Thrones® and Star Wars. Just take the time to be a tourist. You won't regret it.

8 Last but not least...

Whether it's the unbeatable pint poured by Mick at the local pub; your Nana's famous currant cake; or the tufts of grass running down the middle of the road to your great-grandparents' house: there are pieces of Ireland you just can't take with you when you leave. Friends and family you'll get to hug for the first time in what feels like forever. Home is home. Make the most of it.

Start planning, visit

 **Ireland.com**

On tap online: 'Refractions' and 'Masters of Tradition'

"Virtual Celtic" explores online concerts, festivals, workshops, and other events that feature or include Celtic music. Please note that details may have changed, or the events may have been postponed or cancelled, since press time.

•Dublin's National Concert Hall and the Arts Council's "Refractions" concert series includes the return of its "Tradition Now" showcase from Sept. 30 through Oct. 3, with an impressive array of performances that will be available online:

"The Golden Thread," with **Iarla Ó Lionaird** and **Steve Cooney** – the former being an outstanding Gaelic singer who has been part of Afro Celtic Sound System and, more recently, The Gloaming; the latter one of the more ubiquitous and talented guitar players in the Irish folk/trad music revival. They'll be joined by pianist **Ryan Molloy**, who bridges traditional Irish and classical music.

Edwina Guckian, an acclaimed Irish dance performer and teacher who's appeared with the likes of Altan, De Danann, and Dervish, among others; and All-Ireland champion concertina player **Caitlín Nic Gabhann**, one-third of the popular music, song and dance trio The High Seas.

Andy Irvine, who presumably shouldn't need much in the way of an introduction by now, presenting "The Woody Guthrie Project" with fiddler/mandolinist/guitarist **Rens van der Zalm**.

Thomas McCarthy, who carries on the Irish Traveller song and storytelling



Martin Hayes is artistic director for the "Masters of Tradition" series, and will be appearing in the first two installments.

tradition of his family, and was the 2019 TG4 Gradam Ceoil Singer of the Year award winner.

Austrian-born fiddler **Claudia Schwab**, noted for her genre-crossing works and collaborations with many Irish artists, including Dervish's **Cathy Jordan**, who'll be joining her for the premiere of Schwab's commission, which draws on the rich, ancient mythology abundant in the landscape of her newly found home in Sligo.

Clare concertina player **Jack Talty**, leading an ensemble in a collaboration that "honors the centrality of solo performance while also exploring sympathies between traditional ensemble playing and minimalist composition" – and inspired by the playing of the late,

beloved uilleann piper **Liam O'Flynn**, no less.

You can buy tickets to catch the livestream of these events at nch.ie/Online.

•The all-virtual West Cork Music "Masters of Tradition" weekly series also gets under way at the end of September, beginning on the 29th with a "conversation" between County Clare fiddler **Martin Hayes** – the series' artistic director – and American/old-timey fiddler and multi-instrumentalist **Bruce Molsky** (who's a member of Irish/American/pan-European band Mozaik, with Andy Irvine, Rens van der Zalm, Donal Lunny and Nikola Parov).

On Oct. 6, Hayes will team up with aforementioned guitarist **Steve Cooney**

and uilleann piper **David Power**, whose resumé includes appearances in theatrical productions ("Love's Pure Light," "The Field") and with poets like Kerry Hardie and Clodagh Beresford-Dunne.

Musical settings of poems by William Butler Yeats will be in the spotlight on Oct. 13, with Irish singer and composer **Christine Tobin**, guitarist **Phil Robson**, and multi-instrumentalist **Francesco Turris**. The program focuses on the full spectrum of Yeats's poetry and draws on folk, jazz and 20th-century classical influences.

Afascinating mix of genres and sounds for Oct. 20, as **David Power** adds his uilleann pipes to **John Walsh**'s flamenco guitar and **Marja Gaynor**'s baroque violin, integrating Irish, contemporary, baroque, and 19th-century music.

Steve Cooney is back on Oct. 27 with accordionist **Derek Hickey** (formerly of De Dannan and Arcady) alongside **Doireann Ní Ghríofa**, a poet who writes in English and Gaelic and has six books of poetry to her credit as well as the award-winning "A Ghost in the Throat," a blend of memoir, literary studies and autofiction.

Each "Masters of Tradition" concert will be broadcast twice: first in Irish Standard Time (GMT +1) and then again in US/Eastern Time. Concerts will be available to view on demand for a period of 48 hours following the North American broadcast. For tickets, go to ourconcerts.live/masters; for more on the series, see www.westcorkmusic.ie/masters-of-tradition/programme.

–SEAN SMITH

BOSTON IRISH Album Review

BY SEAN SMITH

Niamh Ní Charra, "Donnelly's Arm" – When she's not playing fiddle or concertina, or singing in Gaelic or English, Killarney native (and one-time "Riverdance" musician) Ní Charra toils as a professional archivist. If that summons up images of somebody spending long hours combing through dusty tomes or obscure, archaic objects in dimly lit rooms, you might consider that the work of folks like her – according to the Society of American Archivists – "serves to strengthen collective memory [and] protect the rights, property, and identity of citizens." A keen appreciation of history, and the ability to engage others through imaginative, thought-provoking interpretation of archival material are often cited as highly useful qualities for the job.

In that light, Ní Charra certainly seems to have effectively melded her callings as archivist and traditional music performer. Her 2013 album "Cuz" (on which she was joined by Liz Carroll, Jimmy Keane, Seamus Begley, and Mick Moloney, among others) was a tribute to Kerry-born Chicago-based musician Terry "Cuz" Teahan, and included excerpts from a cassette tape he'd made for her as well as liner notes that offered useful, and fun, details on the music and its place in Teahan's life. Here, the album title – also the name of a reel Ní Charra composed – offers further evidence that she knows a good (if macabre) story when she hears

one, and can derive inspiration from it in more than a few ways.

Most importantly, though, Ní Charra once again has made a fine recording that is distinguished by excellent musicianship, some really good ideas, and the general *joie de vivre* that seems to suffuse her body of work. Her versatility on fiddle and concertina are at the forefront, of course, but leaves plenty of room for her core accompanists, Kevin Corbett (guitars) and Dominic Keogh (bodhran), and other guest musicians. While firmly rooted in traditional Irish music, she's not at all hesitant about exploring beyond it.

Consider the opening track, a trio of jigs that begins with Corbett laying down a gentle arpeggio, supplemented by Keogh, until Ní Charra enters on fiddle with the moderate-speed "The Copper Mines of Killarney," which she composed, full of lovely swoops and slides; when she gets to the tune's B part, Corbett shifts into a chordal, jazzy backing that helps set up the transition into Diarmaid Moynihan's "Covering Ground" – Ní Charra and Corbett doubling on melody in the B part – and then Keogh and Corbett fire up the engines for Ní Charra's dandy rendition of a jig associated with, and named for, Métis fiddler Andy de Jarlis (although often lumped in with the Nova Scotia/Cape Breton tradition).

A set of reels combines Tony Sullivan's intense, D-mixolydian "The Exile of Erin"; "Richie Dwyer's" (the Cork accordionist) – Ní Charra switches from

fiddle to concertina for this one; another Ní Charra original, "Red-Haired Catherine," which memorializes World War II Irish heroine and Belgian resistance fighter Catherine Crean; and an ebullient French-Canadian number, "Ril Du Forgeron," with Claire Sherry's banjo adding punch.

Elsewhere, an agile Basque melody, "Amaitzeko Soñu," on concertina (learned from Basque musician Ibon Koteron, with whom she recorded in 2009) leads into a trio of polkas, including the classics "As I Looked East and I Looked West" and "The Glen Cottage," and then yet another Ní Charra piece, "I Will, Yeah" – yes, her liner notes explain the meaning of the phrase.

For the album's eponymous tune, Ní Charra drew on the legend of 19th-century Dublin boxer Dan Donnelly, whose right arm became a well-traveled memento after his death (she heard the story at a Dublin pub originally opened by Donnelly). She follows with two well-known reels, "Pretty Peggy" and "Julia Delaney's," assisted by Sherry and flute/whistle player Órlaith McAuliffe.

Ní Charra's trad roots really come to the fore on the air "Eanach Dhúin," the melody taken from a song commemorating a tragic event in 1828 Galway. The track highlights her masterful control of the concertina – it's often said the true test for an Irish musician is playing the slow tunes, not the fast ones – and ability to transmute the instrument's often raucous

sound to one more hushed and plaintive. Adding to the depth, and emotionality, of the tune is cellist Kate Ellis.

The album's three songs, two of them in Gaelic, also make for an intriguing mix. "Cad é Sin Don t'É Sin," from the repertoire of South Kerry sean-nos singer Mícheál Ua Duinnín – Ní Charra describes the song as being "from the point of view of someone who probably likes his cider a little too much but is unconcerned what others might think" – is propelled along by Corbett's relentless multi-tracked guitars and Keogh's bodhran. Uilleann piper Mikie Smyth joins Ní Charra for "Ceoil an Phiobaire," a beautiful-in-all-its-melancholia lament of (fittingly enough) a piper for the object of his unrequited affections.

The third is "Gone, Gonna Rise Again," one of American singer-songwriter/activist Si Kahn's best-known and most deservedly popular creations, a reminder of the bond that exists – however little appreciated or acknowledged these days – between generations: "I think of my people that have gone on/Like a tree that grows in the mountain ground/The storms of life have cut them down/But the new wood springs from roots in the ground." It's a song that doesn't require a rabble-raising delivery, and Ní Charra sings it with appropriately quiet resolve, and yet more outstanding work by Corbett in helping lend a bluesy disposition. [niamhnicarra.com]

Larry Kirwan talks about the whos and whys of his new 9/11-driven novel, 'Rockaway Blue'

(Continued from page 9)

of Black 47 coming out against it, yet we had so many Black 47 fans who were over there fighting. We stayed in touch with them, so right from the start we were getting the word back that "These people don't want us here. They're shooting at us!"

Q. Of course, there also were changes over time more specific to New York. Jimmy makes reference to that in a few places.

A. Right. In one chapter, Jimmy's riding the subway to go see Yussef in Bay Ridge, in Brooklyn, and he sees Hong Kong girls holding hands with second-generation Cantonese who work on Wall Street, and there are Caribbean nurses, North African women in hijabs and burqas, and so on. And he remembers how he used to visit the neighborhood as a kid, when it was mostly Irish and Italian, and also Norwegian.

But he's certainly tried to adapt to the change, take New York for what it is, and his friendship with Yussef is part of that. Which is why he wonders what was going on with him and Brian, and what it all means.

Q. Jimmy also has some observations about the different generations of native Irish he's encountered in New York. He's not too wild about what he calls the "Celtic Tiger breed."

A. I had a bit of fun with Jimmy's perceptions of Irish people. Even though they share a lot of the same qualities, there's really a huge difference between Irish Americans and Irish, and a kind of suspicion between them. And Jimmy, having been a detective for so many years, he can't stop observing and thinking about the Irish he saw in the 1970s and '80s, and comparing them to those he's seeing now, and it's a totally different breed in his mind: "Is everyone in Ireland now named 'Conor'?"

Q. What about other characters? Were there some who were challenging for you to write?

A. I had to put more of Brian in there: He's the golden boy who becomes a hero and martyr, but now we can see that he had doubts about himself and aspects of his life and work.

I suppose the one I struggled with the most was Maggie. I had her as a victim, and I could just feel her dragging on the whole thing, and that didn't seem right to me. But then there's a crisis that has implications for

her marriage, her family, her whole life in Rockaway, and she has to decide what to do. I feel like her actions really help to bring the book to a close.

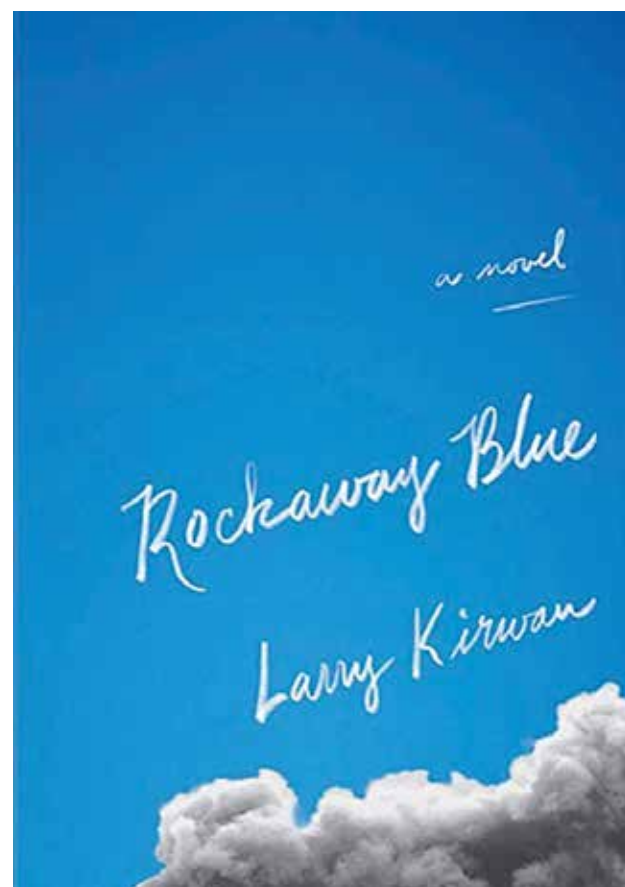
Q. What's your take on Rockaway?

A. Definitely a special place. It used to be called "the Irish Riviera." To us, it was Black 47 country - we were instantly accepted there - and we called it "the Republic of Rockaway," because they did things their own way. They had a great Irish festival that, sadly, Rudolph Giuliani killed - you'll find there's no great love for him in this book. I remember being out there the first time, and the people looked like a different kind of Irish people to me. They looked like people who had come over after the Famine and had settled in Rockaway and inter-married and everything. They had a lot of the camaraderie that Irish people used to have, these great enveloping friendships, and so I thought, "Well, let me set the book there and I can play against that." What happens to a family that's surrounded by people who love them but at the same time are dealing with this grief themselves?

Q. And, as you write, Rockaway also is a place that can be "unforgiving," so there's another thing for the Murphys to deal with.

A. [Laughs] Do something wrong in Rockaway, and it sweeps up the beach, to Breezy Point, hits the bars there and sweeps back down, and by the time it does, you're twice as bad a person. It was always a great bargain to live in Rockaway and the first responders could always get their starter house out there easily, until the 2000s. It's a long train ride to get out there, so you have to be hardy.

But Rockaway, you have to earn your spurs there. It's not like Southie, it's not as enclosed as Southie used to be, but there are certain similarities.



Q. Do you have your own way of observing the 9/11 anniversary?

A. I don't do anything special, really, no gigs or anything - that would be kind of weird. I mean, it's not something to celebrate. I live 10 blocks away from where it all happened. To this day, I don't even like passing by the place - I get so many memories, and not always healthy ones, you know? I feel like the book is there as my statement.

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Éire Society of Boston awards Gold Medal to famine scholars Christine Kinealy, Maureen Murphy



Dr. Maureen Murphy

The Éire Society of Boston held its 84th Annual Gold Medal Award Ceremony on Saturday, September 18th. The recipients were esteemed Irish History and Famine Scholars, Dr. Christine Kinealy, of Quinnipiac University and Dr. Maureen Murphy of Hofstra University. The event was chaired by Éire Society President Dr. Mimi McNealy



Langenderfer. Msgr. Liam Bergin gave an invocation followed by welcoming remarks from Laoise Moore, Consul General of Ireland to New England. Dr. Catherine Shannon provided opening remarks on behalf of both honorees. Due to the pandemic, the awards were presented in a virtual event.

Dr. Catherine McKenna, Harvard



Dr. Christine Kinealy

Chair of Celtic Languages and Literature and Dr. Kelly Matthews, Éire Society Board Member and Professor of English and Coordinator of Liberal Studies at Framingham State University, provided a tribute to Dr. Murphy's accomplishments and former Quinnipiac



University President, John L. Lahey and Gerard Moran, emeritus researcher at the Social Science Research Centre at NUI Galway did the same for Dr. Kinealy. The honorees expressed their gratitude for the designation as Gold Medal recipients.

BC names historian Guy Beiner to Sullivan Chair in Irish Studies

Guy Beiner, whose academic and research experiences in Ireland have helped shape his career as an award-winning historian with a unique expertise in memory studies, has been appointed as the Craig and Maureen Sullivan Millennium Professor in Irish Studies at Boston College, the university announced in a release early this month.

Beiner also will serve as director of the University's Center for Irish Programs, the university said, a responsibility that encompasses all Irish initiatives at Boston College including the Irish Studies Program, the John J. Burns Library Irish Collections, Boston College-Ireland in Dublin, and the Gaelic Roots Program.



Professor Guy Beiner

A full professor of history at Ben-Gurion University in Israel since 2017 — he began teaching there as a lecturer in 2003 — Beiner served as the Burns Library Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies at BC for the 2019-2020 academic year. The Israeli native earned his doctorate from the National University of Ireland-University College

Dublin and was a Government of Ireland Research Fellow at Trinity College Dublin.

He was also a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow with the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame, a Government of Hungary Scholar at the Central European University, and a Marie Curie research fellow at the University of Oxford.

"Guy is a remarkably innovative historian whose interdisciplinary skills will enhance Irish Studies at Boston College," said Robert Savage, interim director of the BC Irish Studies Program.

For Beiner, the Sullivan Chair appointment means not only joining another university

but relocating thousands of miles — a transition he is happily prepared to make, according to the statement.

"At Ben-Gurion University, in Israel's relatively remote Negev desert, I was the only historian in the country specializing in Ireland," he said. "Moving to Boston College, a leading American university with a first-rate History Department and a distinguished Irish Studies Program, opens many opportunities to forward my research and to contribute to the global development of Irish studies."

Beiner's scholarly methodology, the university pointed out, is reflected in his 2018 book, *Forgetful Remembrance: Social Forgetting and Vernacular*

Historiography of a Rebellion in Ulster, which explores the contrasts in how the 1798 rebellion against British rule in Ireland's Ulster province — a conflict marked by an unusual, if short-lived alliance between Catholics and Protestants — has been remembered by different Irish communities and constituencies. Whereas the uprising was fervently and publicly recalled in the Catholic/nationalist south, the Protestant/Unionist north — mindful of solidifying ties with Britain — gradually scrubbed it from official commemoration or record, until the events of 1798 lived on more through oral histories, personal memoirs, historical fiction, and folklore.

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Please call our Immigration Coordinator,
Maryann Cassavant at 617 265 5300 to sched-
ule an appointment.

AN EARLY THANKSGIVING:

Join us for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday November 18 at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury at 11am. Fr Dan will celebrate mass and Strawberry Hill Band will perform. Please call the IPC

IPC Welcomes New Staff Member

We are delighted to welcome Patsy Dineen RN from Weymouth who has recently joined our team.

As our Community Health Advocate, Patsy will work to build partners, resources and referrals for home care and support.

IPC is also looking to hire a part time Social Worker, and a Community Outreach and Programming specialist. Please call the IPC for details



Coming up at the IPC

September 23rd 11am: First Anniversary Mass and lunch for IPC Volunteer Kevin O'Sullivan at the Irish Cultural Centre Canton. Please call to register!

October 1st First Friday Fish and Chips Night Returns at 5pm. Please call to register!

October 7th 8:00pm Weekly "25" Cards Night resumes.

October 4th Line Dancing for Seniors this week in Brighton, West Roxbury and Dorchester.

October 14th Bi -Weekly Knitting Club resumes at the IPC at 11am

Our "Le CHEILE" (Together) Sobriety Support Group takes place every Saturday at the IPC at 6pm – all are welcome.

IPC Annual Golf Tournament at Brookmeadow Country Club



Special thanks to all volunteers, donors, golfers and IPC staff for a fabulous day! It was wonderful to finally get together! Your support is greatly appreciated.

**To receive our monthly newsletter
please call the IPC at 617 265 5300**

‘UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF ST. PATRICK’

October 2021 marks the 150th Anniversary of a charitable milestone for the Boston Irish

BY PETER F. STEVENS

BOSTON IRISH CONTRIBUTOR

On Oct. 1, 1871, a landmark event for the Boston Irish unfolded on Harrison Avenue as Boston’s Catholic Bishop, John J. Williams, dedicated a stately edifice whose very name reflected the new building’s lofty purpose: The Home for Destitute Catholic Children. The institution was founded in large part for the care of orphaned or abused Irish and German Catholics suffering in the waterfront “rookeries” — tenements — of the city’s waterfront, largely the North End. One of the facility’s chief goals was to place Catholic children with Catholic families, thereby keeping them connected to their hereditary faith.

That John Joseph Williams played a prominent role in the creation and mission of the Home was fitting. He was born on April 27, 1822, to Irish immigrant parents who lived on Franklin Street in Downtown Boston. His mother and father had been married in the city’s first Catholic cathedral, close to their front door.

Upon completion of his clerical studies and ordination in Paris in 1845, the young cleric was stationed back in Boston, serving first as a parish priest in the suburbs and then as head of the Cathedral Sunday School near his boyhood home.

A rising star in the American church, Williams ran the Boston diocese following the death of Bishop John B. Fitzpatrick in February 1866. He was appointed its new bishop the next month.

Prior to Williams’s tenure, charitable efforts to aid orphaned and often abused Catholic children in the city materialized with the St. Vincent Orphan Asylum for Girls and the House of the Angel Guardian for Boys. The emphasis on boarding needy Catholic children slowly shifted to a desire to place them with Catholic families.

Local Brahmin luminary Samuel Eliot had established the first incarnation of the Home with a so-called charity school in 1850. Largely underwritten and funded by Protestant philanthropists, the school educated mostly impoverished Catholic children for free. After Eliot departed the school in July 1856, it reopened in September with a change that upset many anti-Irish, anti-Catholic Bostonians — the Catholic Diocese was given a partnership in running the school. The church’s growing influence led to the establishment of the Association for the Protection of Destitute Catholic Children in 1864. The organization soon gained stewardship and officially morphed the institution into a new venture entitled the Home for Destitute Catholic Children. Along with diocesan funds, the Home received donations from Protestant Bostonians. Over the years during Eliot’s and the Association’s tutelage, the school changed locations several times, including on Channing and High streets.



The Home for Destitute Catholic Children, built, above, in 1870-71 on Harrison Avenue, was dedicated by Boston’s archbishop, John J. Williams, on Oct. 1, 1871. “During the first fifty years of its operation,” wrote Bernard H. Cahlander in his history of the facility, the Home provided shelter and care for 28,658 children.”

In the *Boston Pilot* (May 20, 2019), Thomas Lester wrote: “It met the need of placing orphaned and destitute children into homes, and also differed from earlier Catholic institutions in that the superintendent actively sought out children in need from poor homes, the court system, and prisons. It was believed that by removing children from these threatening situations they would be prevented from falling into a life of crime. The boys and girls who entered were cared for free of charge while they stayed, but were discharged as soon as a suitable home could be found for them.”

The number of at-risk Catholic children swelled with the influx in the early years of the second half of the 19th century of Irish, as well as German, immigrants to Boston. The Daughters of Charity took control of the Home in January 1866, and a few months later, the new bishop, John Williams, played a key role in the purchase of a large lot on Harrison Avenue with the intent to erect a large new facility to help Catholic children in dire need.

According to Bernard H. Cahlander, in “A Home for Catholic Children, Boston, Massachusetts,” “the Home soon outgrew its quarters and moved in 1866 to a location on Common Street in Boston. The need of the establishment was so great that more spacious quarters were soon required, and in 1867 a site on Harrison Avenue... was selected and purchased by the archdiocese. In 1870, the present building was begun.”

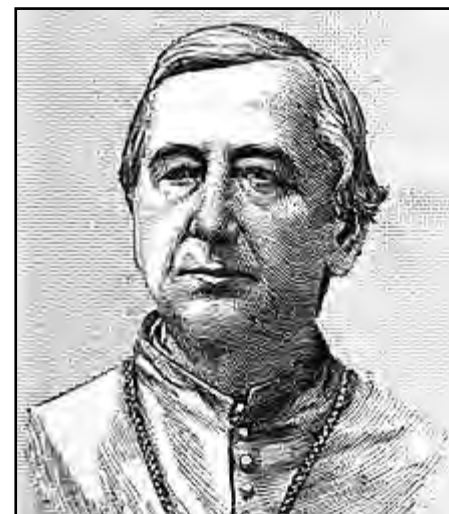
The official unveiling of the new Home for Destitute Catholic Children arrived on Oct. 1, 1871, with Williams offering the dedication “under the patronage of St. Patrick.”

Cahlander notes: “The Home accepted all destitute children above the age of infancy.... It alleviated an extreme type of poverty, and prided itself on never rejecting a needy child for whom an appeal was made. Pitiful, indeed, are the stories recorded in its reports of the state in which these little ones were often found: Neglected, abandoned or abused by pauper or drunken parents; covered with rags, dirt and vermin; starving and huddling together for mutual warmth in wretched and unheated tenement dens.”

He adds, “During the first fifty years of its operation the home provided shelter and care for 28,658 children.”

Eventually, other charitable institutions would arise in Boston. Still, the October 1871 dedication of the Home for Destitute Catholic Children stands as a landmark moment in the annals of Boston and the Boston Irish. The success of the Home also marked an instance in which kind-hearted Boston Catholics and Protestants joined in doing good works in an era when both groups were often at odds.

Peter F. Stevens’s new book, “Untold Tales of the Boston Irish,” (The History Press) is available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and in bookstores.



A bishop who knew how many of Boston’s Catholic children lived

That John Joseph Williams, shown in sketch above, played a prominent role in the creation and mission of the Home for Destitute Catholic Children, was fitting. He was born on April 27, 1822, to Irish immigrant parents who lived on Franklin Street in downtown Boston. His mother and father had been married in the city’s first Catholic cathedral, close to their front door, so from early on he had experience with the kind of children who needed help en route to adulthood.

Prior to Williams’s tenure, charitable efforts to aid orphaned and often abused Catholic children in the city materialized with the St. Vincent Orphan Asylum for Girls and the House of the Angel Guardian for Boys.

Obituaries tell all sorts of stories

BY MARTIN MCGOVERN
BOSTON IRISH CONTRIBUTOR

When pandemic-related deaths surged last year, I was concerned about the impact on friends and others, and began paying more attention to the obituaries in *The Boston Globe* every morning. In doing so, however, something unrelated to Covid-19 caught my eye: frequent obituaries for an older generation of Irish immigrants.

I noticed a small but steady stream of them for folks in their eighties or nineties—those who had immigrated to America as teens or young adults during an era of economic hardship in Ireland that ran from the late 1930s to the 1950s.

Cast out into a wider world from rural towns like Shannonbridge, Clonmany, Barna, Moycullen, Skibbereen, Bantry Bay, and Claremorris, they must have had lonely, wrenching departures. No instant, reassuring connections via iPhones, What's App, or Zoom for them.

Yet, the first thing that their obits mention are those home towns of which they remained so proud. As an obit for an immigrant from Skibbereen notes. "Billy was a great storyteller and loved sharing stories of his days as a boy in Ireland." Another recalls the deceased as "an accomplished Gaelic footballer," with a passion for "his home-county club of Meath."

Equally significant is how their obits highlight what these immigrants achieved in their long American lives in raising families, making a living, serving their adopted country, and balancing American and Irish cultures.

Obituary writing is a terse but telling art as the following excerpts from recent *Globe* obituaries demonstrate.

Nora ... "was devoted to motherhood, an occupation she excelled at...delighted in seeing her grandchildren grow and succeed, making every effort to attend games and graduations."

Paddy... "was a skilled carpenter and master union tradesman...worked all over the City of Boston and the South Shore, often helping his family, friends and neighbors in his spare time."

Lily... "was a nanny her whole life. She adored the children she helped take care of".

Kathleen... "worked for over fifty years as a registered nurse and supervisor."

Chris "worked for HPHood Inc. in Charlestown, MA for 36 years and for more than 45 years as a landscaper, which was his passion."

Tom... "served in the US Air Force as Pipe Sergeant, and later made his career as Ships' Engineer in the maritime service."

Frank... "a proud member of the Carpenters Local 40 union...a member of the successful Irish music band The Shannoneers."

These are credible testimonies to full and well-lived lives of people who came to America with very little. At the time of their arrival, it would have been easy to underestimate or dismiss them. Yet, they went on to contribute fully to American life.

What appeals to me about them is the steadfastness of the people memorialized in the obits—immigrants who, day in and day out, attended to their responsibilities and priorities and, in the process, created something larger than themselves.

Credit to the obituary writers whose words remind us that a generation of immigrants on the verge of extinction really did do their best and that their contributions were plentiful, indeed substantial.

As a case in point, here is how one family said farewell to their immigrant matriarch:

"She was a pillar of strength, time tested, a diminutive giant, she was a role model for all of us. Her legacy will live on for generations to come."

Given the unforgiving conversation around immigration in recent times, obits like these, which are flush with humanity, stand in contrast to such harshness.

Kevin W. Leary, at age 80; founded VPNE parking firm

Kevin W. Leary, a man of great charm and wit who spread his generosity across many facets of life in Boston, died on Aug. 10 at age 80. After his graduation from Boston College in 1962 and three years in the US Navy, Mr. Leary began a long career in the investment business before founding VPNE Parking Solutions in 1990, a company he successfully built with his son Kevin J. Leary.

A recovering alcoholic who shared openly about his own personal struggles, Mr. Leary inspired

many, believing in them when they didn't believe in themselves, and gave generously of his time and resources to help those less fortunate.

He was an active member on many boards and supported many others, including Boston Health Care for the Homeless, Nativity Prep, Laboure College, Project Place, the Gavin Foundation, The Phoenix, Rodman Ride for Kids, Camp Harborview, and Christmas in the City.

He leaves his wife, Mary Kelleher,



three daughters, Nora Leary and her husband Dan Corey of Milton, Erica Prince and her husband Kevin of Walpole, and Tess Grande and her husband Jonathan of Milton; and three sons, Kevin and his wife Jenna of Scituate, Matthew and his wife Annie of Wakefield, and Timothy and his wife Sarah of Milton, along with 16 grandchildren.



Fathers and Sons: Joseph F. Leary, Jr., with Joseph F. Leary III; Kevin W. Leary, with Kevin J. Leary. Bill Brett photo

Brian Burns dies at 85; founder, funder, of BC's Burns Library

Philanthropist, business executive, and former Boston College Trustee Brian P. Burns, the founder and principal benefactor of the John J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections at Boston College, passed away on August 12. He was 85.

The former chairman of BF Enterprises, Inc., a publicly owned real estate holding and development company, the Massachusetts native was the fifth of seven children born to 1921 BC alumnus John J. Burns and his wife, Alice.

Mr. Burns, a graduate of The College of the Holy Cross and Harvard Law School, served on the Boston College Board of Trustees from 1998 to 2002.

In 1963, Mr. Burns became the youngest director of the American Irish Foundation. In the mid-1980s, he spearheaded its merger with the newly established Ireland Fund to form The American Ireland Fund. Since its inception, the AIF has raised more than \$450 million in support of Irish charities that promote peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, and community development. Mr. Burns was a lifetime trustee of the foundation.

Mr. Burns was widely praised for his activities in support of the library at Boston College named for his father, who rose from humble origins to become a Harvard Law School professor and the youngest associate justice of the Massa-

chusetts Supreme Judicial Court, before being appointed the first general counsel for the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Burns Library opened in 1986, following the renovation of the Bapst Library building where it is located. The Burns Library preserves and provides access to archives, manuscripts, rare books, and special collections of art, photographs, prints, and artifacts, with special emphasis on the religious, cultural, intellectual, and political history of Western Civilization and the Jesuit, Catholic tradition.

The library's Irish Collection, the most comprehensive in the United States, documents all aspects of Irish history and culture. Premier book and manuscript holdings of Nobel laureates William Butler Yeats and Samuel Beckett; the library and personal papers of prominent writer Flann O'Brien; significant collections related to other literary luminaries including laureates George Bernard Shaw and Seamus Heaney; collections on fine presses such as Dun Emer and Cuala; scores and recordings of traditional music, and the principal archives of John McCormack and Mary O'Hara, among other materials, combine to form the most comprehensive array of Irish studies resources outside Ireland.

To promote use of the collections and enhance Boston College's Irish Studies Program, Mr. Burns



Philanthropist Brian P. Burns

established a visiting scholar endowment through the Burns Foundation, which he chaired. Since 1991, the Burns Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies program has brought to campus a distinguished series of academics, writers, artists, journalists, librarians, and notable public figures who have made significant contributions to Irish cultural and intellectual life. Burns Visiting Scholars have included former Irish president Mary McAleese, Ireland Professor of Poetry Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill, historian and Irish Times columnist Diarmaid Ferriter, among more than thirty others.

"The extraordinary support provided by Brian Burns, members of the Burns family, and their associates and friends has helped make Boston College one of the world's leading centers for the study and appreciation of Ireland and the Irish diaspora," said Burns Librarian Christian Dupont. "Everything Brian did, he did to honor his father and his Irish heritage. He was a devoted son of Ireland, and a loyal friend and benefactor of BC. I will miss him dearly."



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Connecting Boston to Ireland: Where things stand with Aer Lingus

BY ED FORRY

The city of Boston historically has been a “Gateway City” to Ireland, one of only three American cities with that distinction. Over six decades, Ireland’s national airline, Aer Lingus, has delivered maybe a million or more happy Irish folks to and from Boston and the Emerald Isle.

For many, the route has been straightforward – a ride over to Logan Airport at supertime to board a green-colored, shamrock-bedecked aircraft for an overnight flight to Ireland. For many years, the flight went directly to Shannon Airport, in Co. Clare, and after a brief stopover, it would continue on for the half-hour flight to Dublin. In the mid-1990s, a direct to Dublin non-stop was added, and in the busy summer tourist season, there often were three or more daily direct flights to both Irish cities.

Many Boston Irish have family roots in the west of Ireland – Galway, Cork, Sligo, Kerry and the midlands among others – and they found that the five+-hour flight across the Atlantic to Shannon would deliver them close to their home counties.

But that all changed around St Patrick’s Day 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic struck, and the airline industry shut down worldwide. The next month, when the Irish government imposed strict rules that dramatically curbed the number of visitors coming into the country, and required 14-day quarantines for all arrivals, Aer Lingus canceled the Shannon flights, continuing flights from Boston only to Dublin throughout the pandemic.

Faced with a long road trip by bus or rental car back to the west of the island after the overnight flight to Dublin, many Bostonians have found those trips much less convenient. Still, even as Ireland begins to re-open for visitors, the Aer Lingus Dublin flights remain the only reliable way to get from here to the Irish homeland.

Bill Byrne, Aer Lingus’s Senior Vice President for Global Sales for Aer Lingus, spoke recently with BostonIrish.com about the airline’s strategy for travel between the eastern US and Ireland.

“Certainly, New York, Chicago and Boston are the gateways to Ireland. Throughout the pandemic, those are the only ones that we’ve operated and we’ve continued to operate those, even though we’ve had few to no passengers up until recently,” he said in a Zoom interview.

“We did that for a couple of reasons: There were some that still travel coming out of those cities; People had to get back, that is, they might have had investments or sick relatives or something they had to get back to. And also, we’re the airline that connects America and Ireland. And if you can’t fly out from those cities, then what are you saying about yourself as a business?”

Byrne said Aer Lingus has routes from 14 North American cities, but New York, Boston, Chicago, Washington DC and Toronto are now active. “We follow most cities booking requests every day. We have had all the other cities on sale,



Tourism Ireland’s Niall Gibbons and Alison Metcalfe with Bill Byrne of Aer Lingus.

with the hope that travel would return at some point. And then when it becomes obvious travel is not returning, we must cancel. So that’s kind of how we’ve been operating.

“What’s happening with the Shannon service from both Boston and New York is pretty much the same,” said Byrne. “If we could get substantial numbers of people that want to fly on that flight, we’ll put it into service.

“Shannon isn’t flying right now for a couple of reasons. One, there’s little or no corporate traffic moving at all, and there’s not a significant amount of tour business going into Ireland right now. So, without those two elements, you really only fly in people who want to visit family, and that flight to Shannon is not enough to save the day.

“We’re currently into the fall season,” he said. “And even though we fly Shannon continuously, we’re the only airline that has committed to Shannon and we’ve committed to Shannon for 60 years. The winter is not a great time to fly to Shannon. You don’t have the tour groups, don’t get a lot of corporate. And even the Irish Americans in Boston and New York go to Ireland much less frequently in the fall and the winter than they do from Paddy’s Day through August or September.

“I think the issue that we’re looking at for Shannon very carefully is this: We’ll fly there if there’s some interest, but we really honestly don’t expect the interest really to come back ‘til St. Paddy’s Day next year. I mean, that’s kind of what we’re doing.”

Byrne refuted Irish media reports the airline had pulled out of Shannon. “Because of the pandemic, we haven’t operated any flights out of Shannon since April of last year. Two daily flights to New York and Boston and three flights a day to London, that’s our usual schedule. And what’s happened since April last year is we’ve had no flights

and don’t know what our schedule is going to look like in the immediate future. So, we decided to relocate flight attendants based in Shannon and crew them with flight attendants now based in Dublin. So we’ve closed the flight attendants base, but we haven’t closed the airport. We still have airport staff. And like every company is doing all around the world, we’re looking at ways to economize how we do business. But we haven’t closed Shannon operations.”

Byrne also said the airline has begun charging new baggage fees, but they are limited to short-haul flights only, matching similar fees charged by Ryanair. “What it is, it’s a bag that goes in the overhead, and Ryanair charges. And so we put the same program in place. There’s still a small carry-on bag allowed for free.” The new carry-on charges have “nothing to do” with the flights from the US and Canada, he said. “We do have baggage fees on the long haul, but that’s explained clearly on the website and we’ve had those in place for five years, at least.”

Does Aer Lingus have a message for Bostonians thinking about a visit to Ireland any time soon? “I think a couple of things we’d like to stress, especially with your readership, I mean,” said Byrne, “is that for 60 years Ireland has counted on the business of the Irish going back home and visit family and friends. And we think we’ve served the community pretty well, and we try to continue to serve the community really well. And so we just hope that as they’re gearing up to go back – and we’re seeing it every day in Boston – they’ll take a look at us because we’ve been there for 60 years. We have a uniquely Irish experience. You’re not going to get that on anybody else.

“I think that’s one of the things that we want to stress – as the social media builds up and as you talk about it more, Ireland is ready for them.

They’ve missed having Americans come over. And I think Bostonians know all too well that their family that wants to come visit them have not had the opportunity. And they’re waiting for that as well. And we’ll be there when that door opens.

What’s Aer Lingus’ core message today? “I think the lead would be Ireland is opening,” said Byrne. “We’re there waiting for it. I think that’s the best we can do. And when all the places you go to when you go back – I mean, some of these pubs have been closed, right? – they’re just dying to have Americans come back, spend a few bucks and talk to them.

“You know how it is in Ireland. It’s not about the money; it’s about the social life. And they’re just waiting to talk to them. “There’s no better time than now, fares are not going to be any cheaper than they are now. Things are open and they’ll have places just to go and see and do when they get there. And the Irish are waiting to see them, especially for Boston. I get questions about buying to come back to Boston constantly.

“We’re hoping the doors open at least in time for the fall when we can get a rush of people and then, hopefully, a little bit for Christmas and we can do pretty well for ourselves. Connecting Boston to Ireland is what we do, and we take it pretty seriously.”

In a statement issued in mid-September, Byrne added: “After a slow summer, we are thrilled to be welcoming customers back on board this winter, reuniting families and friends and offering long awaited trips to Ireland. We are delighted to see the restart of our North American routes such as Toronto this weekend and Washington last month.

“Aer Lingus has great offers for our North American customers, with something to suit all families, couples, groups and solo travelers. We look forward to welcoming you on board soon.”

Ireland features change, but old faithfuls offer stability

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO BOSTON IRISH

Change is inevitable but there are few places where change is more obvious to the frequent visitor than Ireland. Attractions, hotels, and restaurants you visit and enjoy this year, could very well have changed hands or be gone by the next time you visit. But there are still some “old faithfuls” that have stood the test of time and seem as though they will be around forever.

DROMOLAND

One such old faithful is Dromoland Castle Hotel, which celebrated 50 years of service to the public in 2013.

Dromoland is in Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare, close to Shannon Airport, and it is such a fun place to stay with lots of activities on site, including a spa, leisure center, golf, falconry, fishing, estate walks, trails, and much more on 450 acres.

Meals there have always been outstanding and, if you love them as much as most guests do, you can take home the “Dromoland Castle Cookbook” that was released as part of the hotel’s 50th anniversary celebration. Chef David McCann, who was responsible for the entire book, including photography, said, “In-house and local production goes with my philosophy about food as well, because I believe in sourcing as much locally as possible. The cookbook was an exciting project and I enjoyed it.”

The food and accommodation writer Georgina Campbell said McCann’s cookbook offered “not only a fine range of modern classic recipes...but also some insights into life behind the scenes at the Castle.”

THE ANNIVERSARY

Dromoland’s management and staff celebrated the 50th anniversary in varied ways. In addition to publishing the cookbook, the hotel commissioned its own tartan plaid, branded a special Dromoland Blond Ale, and two young bartenders who were there at the time - Niall and James - created a 50th anniversary cocktail with apricot brandy, elderflower liqueur, lychee liqueur, and champagne.

Another milestone – albeit in July 2012 – was bringing back into the Dromoland family the former Clare Inn, which once belonged with the castle but had been sold some years before.

A massive three-year, six-million Euro renovation project was launched at the Inn in 2013 and, when we visited, much had already been updated and improved. Halls were painted and the lobby was brightened with a fresh coat of light-colored paint. There were new furnishings, too, and the Inn’s name was changed from the Clare Inn to The Inn at Dromoland.

Lunch is offered in Shannigan’s Pub at the Inn and breakfasts are available in Deerfield’s Restaurant where the walls are decorated with lovely photographs of Ireland.

WEDDINGS

The Inn shares gardeners and groundskeepers with the 5-star Dromoland Castle nearby and, with 151 available rooms and a function room that overlooks the manicured grounds, we can imagine that the Inn would be the perfect venue for a wedding.

There are a number of different wedding packages available there. For more information, contact the Inn (theinnatdromoland.ie)

And for those concerned about Covid-19, which has affected Ireland and its tourist industry as well as the rest of the world, Dromoland has taken extensive measures to protect the staff and guests. The dining room and bar have been reorganized to provide more space between guests.

There are hand sanitizers, gloves, masks, paper towels, and disinfectant located throughout the hotel. Updated advice from Irish health agencies and the government is constantly shared with employees to clarify procedures and policies and mitigate risks associated with the pandemic.

Signs throughout the hotel detail Covid-19 preven-



Lough Rynn Castle Hotel , Co. Leitrim.



Ashford Castle, Co. Mayo

Judy Enright photos

tion measures, good hand and respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette. There is also increased cleaning of public areas and the frequently touched surfaces (such as door handles, elevator buttons and the reception desk) using effective disinfecting products on all surfaces.

Management noted that “We will no longer be able to shake our guests’ hands on arrival, but hope you enjoy the warmth of the welcome you receive.” Guests are asked to follow the health authority and government guidelines regarding personal hygiene and Covid-19.

THE INN

The Inn at Dromoland is a perfect spot for someone flying in or out of Shannon Airport and it’s also a great base for exploring nearby attractions, such as the Cliffs of Moher, which are less than an hour away. Galway is about an hour and Limerick is only half an hour from the Inn.

Having been a guest there, I definitely recommend the inn. The food was excellent, the room was bright and clean, and The Inn is far more affordable than Dromoland Castle, while still allowing guests to enjoy

some of the castle’s facilities. It is just a short walk, car, or coach ride from the Castle. For more information, visit: theinnatdromoland.ie.

Both the Inn and castle offer seasonal specials. Visit dromoland.ie for more information on the castle hotel.

CASTLE HOTELS

And if you’re intrigued by the tales of lords and ladies who once ruled and rode through the hills and valleys of Ireland, be sure to book a stop at Ashford Castle in Co. Mayo and Lough Rynn in Co. Laois for more castle adventures.

There are other castle hotels in Ireland, too, but your choice obviously depends on your travel budget.

TRAVEL

Don’t think for a minute that there’s nothing to do in Ireland just because summer has passed. Even though the weather may have cooled down a bit, there are still many fun festivals, walking weekends, water sports, and other events to be enjoyed.

Be sure to visit travel sites on the internet for the best deals on air and ground travel and see Tourism Ireland’s excellent website – discoverireland.com – for updates on the latest happenings all over the island.

In his own words: When my dad flew over to the island that his parents called home



That's the 707 that carried John Forry and his sister Kate to the old country.

My father, John Forry, paid his first (and only) visit to his parents' native land in the summer of 1961. He was traveling with his sister Kathleen, and the two of them were the first of our clan to make the trip "back home" in the early days of what would become a wondrous travel experience for so many Irish Americans.

The introduction by "Irish Airlines" of a Boeing 707 jet aircraft made Ireland accessible **and affordable**, and local travel agents offered packages that **quickly** became wildly popular.

My aunt and her brother signed on as members of a New Bedford group, the Corky Row club, availing of special group rates for the air passage.

For our family, it was a major event. In those days, a visit to the airport was an exciting and exotic adventure, and we all found our way over to Logan to see them off.

My father kept a handwritten diary on the trip, and the following is the first part of his narrative about the hours leading up to his arrival in the Emerald Isle:

"Scene: Logan Airport. July 24, 1961: Joey is driving '55 Olds.--Kate--Anna--Dora--myself--passengers--Irish Airline crowded--friends--relatives all in animated confusion. Happy people--checking in at "Corky Row" desk to be identified and receive seat assignment on plane. Mother, Mary, Eleanor, Eddie and Bill arrived about same time--Jimmy Fitz, F. Colagiovanni, Fr. Connolly welcome sight at airport to wish us bon voyage--Mark and Nora--bless them--arrived shortly after. John and Paul Morrissey--Tom--Fay--Kathy--all the gang on scene.

Finally checked baggage and had nothing to do but await signal to embark. Why waste good time waiting in waiting room when there are other more "interesting" places--That's right--lounge across the way--The boys at a signal moved as a well-trained army and bivouacked in--one quick round and hurry back to get under wire for boarding plane.

"A welcome sight to see Dot Madden-Dorothy and Jay--thankfully accident to Jay's hand was not too serious--3 stitches in finger--just a scratch to Jay--Hark--an announcement for passengers to embark--Farewells to gang--kisses from girls--handshakes from boys--Bon voyage from all--Extra kiss to "Lulu"--Long walk across airport--looking back often for final wave--a stop before boarding--group pictures taken of passengers--Then up gangplank--Finally aboard--seated--We're off 10:45 p.m. Hooray! Airborne 10:55 p.m. Goodbye, U.S.A.! -- on to Erin.

11:15 p.m. Plane cruising at a speed of approximately 500 mph.--at an altitude of 25,000 feet--This data being supplied by captain via public address system. Now approaching Bangor, Maine. Climbing to approximately 33,000 feet--where ship will cruise as a matter of routine--

Flight has been quite smooth - hardly any sensation of movement - but for the sound of motors you might imagine you were on a train minus the clackety-clack of wheels passing over the joints on the steel rails.

Captain advises passengers to set watches to "Irish" time (5 hours ahead) Imagine - suddenly it is 4:15 a.m. Tuesday - my shortest night ever. Hostesses passing up and down the aisle bearing trays loaded with glasses of champagne cocktails - mmm- quite good - Crowd in holiday mood, no thought of sleep - everyone happy and pleasant. Spotted an old friend of mine, Ed Harding former M.T.A. employee, now retired, sitting with his wife - hand shake and cheerful wishes exchanged for a happy trip.

Now settling down to the long ride "across the seas to Ireland." Ah - just dwell for a moment or two on that phrase! Soon we will be approaching the shores of that isle of which so much has been said in song and poetry -the land of our dear parents' Mothers



60 years ago- That's John Forry Sr. with his sister, Aunt Kate Forry on the day in 1961 they visited their mother's ancestral home in Ballymacarbry, Co. Waterford. Our cousins in Co. Waterford sent us this photo just last month.

and Dads - the land we have learned to love almost as much as our own dear America - Well so much for now -the hostesses are on the scene once more this time with food - Food - What am I saying? "Irish time" or not, it is still 1:00 a.m. U.S.A. And the menu is steak - salad- baked potatoes - tomato soup - coffee - rolls - and for dessert a peach concoction with whipped cream.

I am afraid I am not quite up to it - but I will try to eat something to postpone later pangs of hunger.

6:30 a.m. - Dawn breaking gradually almost imperceptibly - Sun appearing under clouds - what beautiful coloring - Oh to be able to capture that scene on canvas - No one thinking of sleep now, that's for sure.

Suddenly it is day - beautiful day up in the sky - What a time to reflect on the wonderful things that Almighty God has created - How small and unimportant man really is when you gaze out the window of a plane flying miles above the earth and realize the great expanse around you - Nothing but clouds as far as you can see under you - and a pale blue sky high above - Although the plane is cruising at a speed of well over 500 m.p.h. -in the seemingly endless expanse around the airship we seem to be floating gently in space -

7:30 a.m. Tuesday 7/25/61 - There is a feeling of drowsiness creeping over me - Morpheus is asserting himself - but the urge to resist is strong - how can one close one's eyes to the things of beauty surrounding us - -- Oh hum - beauty is as beauty does -to come back to practicality my eyes -- a r e c l o s i n g Zzzzzzz -- Eh --what -- what's that? I must have dozed - Oh, it is the captain speaking over the P.A. system. Guess what -- My estimate of the speed of the plane - given a page or two back - only 190 m.p.h. off -- correct: we are now cruising at a rate of 690 m.p.h. -- a while back there was a slight disturbance or more properly turbulence which the captain just now explained was caused when ship entered the "Jet Stream." We have picked up a tail wind and at present are a little ahead of schedule - we have reached a point of 40' West - It is now 7:40 a.m. Tuesday -- It also apparently is time for breakfast -- hostesses are passing up and down aisle serving juice - coffee - and rolls. Oh dear, here we go again - well the inner man must be fed. ----

We are now preparing to land at Shannon Airport

--- Thank God --- It is 8:45 a.m.

WE HAVE LANDED!--9:05 a.m. We disembark -- take a few camera shots of the airport -- walk over to the store where tourists generally purchase gifts to be taken or sent home duty free - anything, it seems, is for sale in the form of gifts: glass, china, tweeds, toys, liquors --- Shannon Airport not quite so large as I expected --- Ready again to take off -- only a matter of one hr. or less is permitted for refueling of plane etc. ---

Off for Dublin -- short trip by plane: 25 minutes -- First view of the countryside -- marvelous sight from the air -- the varying shades of green of the farms below us like a patchwork quilt stretched over the ground below us.

--- We arrive at Dublin Airport at approx. 10:30 a.m. --disembark once again - pass through customs - no bother there -- look around for the person assigned to greet us as arranged with Mr. J. Shields. No sign of person -- oh well - we are always a little vague about details must have been a conflict of time -- we were a little late going through customs anyway -- Thing to do now is to follow the group already on the buses sent to transport the group to greet the Lord Mayor of Dublin at Mansion House, which is the city hall.

We board bus, settle down --beginning to feel the lack of sleep or at least the effects of not having had any sleep --- Here comes Billy Butler M.T.A. associate of mine --- it seems a cousin of his who has been waiting for him told Billy that a woman had been inquiring for a Miss Forry at the airport.

Billy went searching for the woman; however, in the ensuing confusion failed to find either the woman in question or his cousin --- cousin is a native of Donegal, a brother of a very good friend of mine back in the States. Danny McDevitt. Eddie McDevitt, the cousin, had previously arranged to pick up Billy at a designated place after the meeting with Lord Mayor Briscoe so that no harm was done because of Billy's valiant effort to help us ---

Back on bus again -- off to City Hall. Group gathers in reception room where visiting "firemen" and others usually meet the Lord Mayor ---room is furnished in old traditional style -- massive furniture -- gorgeous draperies undoubtedly many years old but wonderfully preserved --- Lord Mayor enters room -- very distinguished-looking chap -- gracious -- courteous --- real politician ---shakes hands with each person - saying a few words of welcome to each --- drinks are served to any so desiring -- sherry - or cool drink, as you prefer, a few pictures taken of certain members of the party wishing to have themselves seen standing beside Mr. Briscoe -- then an informal short speech of welcome by the host wishing everyone the pleasantest of visits to Ireland ---

Then followed a grouping of the entire party on the steps of the Mansion House for a formal picture taken with Mr. Briscoe, a cheery goodbye, and back to the bus. (This photograph was printed in the Irish Independent - a daily newspaper of Dublin - the following day and we all brought home copies of the paper to show to the folks at home.)

The usual general confusion followed upon our return to the bus -- some people wishing to remain on the bus to be driven to their various hotels, others deciding that the time for parting and going their separate ways had arrived -- bus drivers climbing on top of the roofs of the buses to retrieve the luggage, passing the bags down, usually the wrong one, but finally we leave City Hall and are carried to our hotel, the Hotel Gresham on Upper O'Connell St. in the Heart of the City of Dublin. Check in at the hotel, go to our rooms, and decide and prepare to take a much-needed rest.

- ED FORRY

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