

September 2011

VOL. 22 #9

\$1.50

Boston's hometown  
journal of Irish  
culture.

Worldwide at  
bostonirish.com

# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

All contents copyright © 2011 Boston Neighborhood News, Inc.

## MAKING MUSIC HAPPILY



Long Time Courting, from left: Shannon Heaton, Sarah Blair, Ariel Friedman, and Liz Simmons.

## Long Time Courting four celebrate friendship and yen for exploration

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

There is no one formula or blueprint for forming a band. Sometimes it's by conscious design, sometimes it's a matter of happenstance, a confluence of the right factors at the right time.

And then there's Long Time Courting, which combines all that and more.

The all-female Boston-based Celtic music quartet is celebrating its third birthday with the release of its debut CD, "Alternate Routes," a showcase of the enchanting vocals, top-rank musicianship, and well-conceived, intelligent arrangements that have charmed and impressed audiences throughout the Northeast, and elsewhere. The anniversary also has served as an opportunity for reflection among the "LTC" members: Liz Simmons (lead vocals, guitar); Shannon Heaton (flute, whistle, lead vocals); Ariel Friedman (cello, vocals); and newest member Sarah Blair (fiddle, vocals), who handily filled the void left by the departure of original co-founder Ellery Klein last year.

As the four explain it, Long Time Courting represents that elusive, coveted blend of talent and temperament, an ideal union of musical backgrounds and experiences that spur collective creativity and individual growth. In LTC, for example, a classically trained cellist gets to devise an arrangement for a centuries-old folk ballad

that came from a Johnny Cash record, a fiddler finds that her voice can be an equally important instrument, and concert sound-checks become a laboratory for cobbling together what is arguably their CD's highlight track.

Most of all, LTC is four people who get a clearly obvious kick out of being with each other, even if those times do not come all that often, given their copious musical activities and family considerations.

"I just feel blessed to play with them," says Simmons, who shares lead vocal duties with Heaton. "Musically, I've grown so much. Working in a band is such a great education anyhow, but I feel I am always learning things from the girls I never knew about music, or myself."

"When I talk about Long Time Courting as a 'work in progress,' I mean it in a totally positive way," says Heaton. "In this band, there is so much room to grow and develop a bond. It's a wonderful place where we can all bring ideas and know they'll be treated fairly, honestly, and with respect."

Fairly, honestly, and with respect also describes how LTC treats the music they play, as is evident on "Alternate Routes," which includes energetic, bravura tune sets, sprightly, smart versions of traditional songs like "Maggie Dean" and "The Miller and the Lass," a soulful, sensitive rendering of Robbie O'Connell's "Islander's Lament" and the elegiac "Barbara Allen,"

(Continued on page 17)

## Feds raise ante in BC archive case

### Subpoena university for all 'Belfast Project' recollections

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER STAFF

The Justice Department, in the person of US Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz, continues to work on behalf of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in an attempt to force Boston College to release from its archives recollections that are part of an oral history project on the Irish Republican Army and the time of the "Troubles" in the North.

Citing a pledge of confidentiality given to those interviewed for the history, BC has been resisting subpoena actions for those portions of the archive known as the "Belfast Project." Initially, federal officials requested copies of the recollections of two individuals who were involved with the IRA some 40 years ago; they have since followed up with additional subpoena actions, essentially asking for the whole Belfast collection.

While the matter wends its way through the judicial process in the hands of Federal Judge Joseph Tauro, members of the media have begun to weigh in with their theories of, and comments on, the case.

In a recent column, the *Boston Globe's* Kevin Cullen wrote that the PSNI, via Ortiz's office, now wants what he calls "the whole enchilada: anything and everything ... related to the 1972 disappearance and murder of a Belfast mother of 10 named Jean McConville, who was abducted and executed by the Irish Republican Army as a suspected informer. Her body was recovered in 2003."

Initially, reports Cullen, the PSNI-US Attorney team wanted the recollections of but two individuals in connection with long-ago IRA activities. But the bottom line to all this activity, Cullen says, "is an attempt by police in Northern Ireland to certainly embarrass and

(Continued on page 5)

## Boston Irish Honors program set for Oct. 20

Story, Page 3



Millard Fillmore, meet Ms. Bachman, Gov. Perry  
Peter F. Stevens writes, Page 5

## From Andrew Square to Port-au-Prince, Brian Concannon fights for Haiti's causes

BY GREG O'BRIEN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It may be hard to imagine any parallel between Ireland and destitute, still earthquake-ravaged Haiti, and yet there are any number: analogous gripping histories of famine, long stretches of political and economic repression, and the bad geographical luck of being adjacent to a super power or dominant force that presents undesirable attention. It is always difficult fighting a bully in your own backyard.

Human rights attorney Brian Concannon wrote of these dilemmas three years ago in the Boston Irish Reporter and in the Boston Haitian Reporter. "Like the British response to Ireland's famine, bank programs (in Haiti) do not rise to the need," he wrote, predicting the inevitable in a column headlined: Eating Dirt in Haiti and Ireland. "They are too late—they will not



Brian Concannon: Human rights crusader

nation for generations.

Newly based on Dorchester Avenue in Andrew Square (a celebration of the move to 666 Dorchester Ave. will be held on site on Wed., Sept. 14, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.), the Institute has set its mission succinctly: "To work with the people of Haiti in their non-violent struggle for the consolidation of constitutional democracy, justice and human rights by distributing objective and accurate information on human rights conditions in Haiti, pursuing legal cases, and cooperating with human rights and solidarity groups in Haiti and abroad."

Under Concannon's resolute direction, the IJDH seeks restoration of the rule of law and democracy in Haiti and works to sustain changes required to avert Haiti's next crisis.

For such a small organization—a cadre of well-

(Continued on page 6)

# BLACKTHORNE RESORT

LOCATED IN THE IRISH CATSKILLS



## Bigger and better than ever!

Come and create new memories with us in our beautiful new building. Blackthorne offers the very best Irish music, activities and gourmet home-cooked meals — all combined to make the best vacation you've ever had! Included in Mid-Week and Weekly stays: Horseback riding, go-karting, mini-golf, hay rides, pony cart rides, moonwalk, Haunted House tour, antique taxi cab rides, cotton candy, movie night, exotic animal shows, karaoke-masquerade party, magic shows, phenomenal Fireworks display every week, plus much more!

**Book Now For:**

**September 2-5:**

**Labor Day Weekend**

**Blackthorne's Celtic Festival**

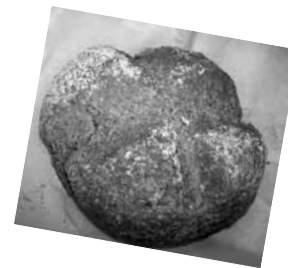
**Camping and RV Sites Available  
BOOK EARLY!**

[www.BlackthorneResort.com](http://www.BlackthorneResort.com)

**348 SUNSIDE ROAD – EAST DURHAM, NY 12423  
518.634.2541**

## GREENHILLS BAKERY

- Hot Irish Breakfast
- Irish Sausage Rolls
- Brown Soda Bread & Raisin Bread
- Round Bannock
- Treacle Soda Bread
- Irish Barm Brack



**GUINNESS BEEF STEW IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE!**

**Hot, Home-Made,  
Stick-To-Your-Ribs  
Lunch Specials Daily!!!**

- Irish Boiled Dinner • Guinness Beef Stew • Shephard's Pie

**Scones - 5 Flavors!**

Trifle

Baileys Sponge Cake

Bailey's Swiss Rolls



Bailey's Eclairs

Porter Cakes

Barry's Irish Tea

*Many Other Specials Every Day*

Greenhills Bakery  
780 Adams Street,  
Dorchester, MA 02124  
(617)825-8187

Open Monday - Saturday  
5AM to 6:30PM  
Sunday 6AM - 2PM  
[greenhillsbakery.com](http://greenhillsbakery.com)



## BOSTON COLLEGE

Center for Irish Programs/University Libraries – will host an Irish art exhibit in the Burns Library during November 2011. The collection of several dozen Irish paintings, including works by Sean Keating, Paul Henry, and Jack B. Yeats, is owned by the Government of Ireland and is scheduled for additional American venue sites following the Boston College showing.

The Center will also host a program featuring William Hay, Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly, together with Dr. Phil Budden, British Consul General, at Boston College on Tuesday, September 6.

Irish Studies will host the first presentation in its 2011-2012 lecture series on September 21 at the Burns Library. Professor Colin Barr, a prolific young scholar on the Irish Church will speak on "Ireland's Empire: The Roman Catholic Church in the Anglo-World, 1830-1922".

For additional information about other Center activities regarding Irish Studies, the Irish Institute, the Burns Library's Irish Collections, the BC-Ireland operation in Dublin, or the Gaelic Roots traditional Irish music concerts, visit [www.bc.edu](http://www.bc.edu).

# Boston Irish Honors returns to Seaport Hotel on Oct. 20

## Corcorans, Hunts, Mulvoys, Kathy O'Toole, State Sen. Tom Kennedy to be honored

The Boston Irish Reporter, the region's leading chronicler of all things Irish-American, will host the second annual Boston Irish Honors luncheon on Thursday, October 20, 2011 in the main ballroom of Boston's Seaport Hotel.

In keeping with our own heritage, the newspaper publicly recognizes three exemplary local Irish families whose ancestors emigrated from Ireland to give better lives to their children and grandchildren. We also will give special recognition to two Boston Irish persons for their special achievements in government and in business.

This year's honorees will include former Boston Police Commissioner Kathleen O'Toole, who has just returned from Ireland after several years work-

ing as a top police official; and State Senator Thomas Kennedy of Brockton, who has represented the city of Brockton for more than 25 years in the state legislature.

Three illustrious Boston Irish families will also be celebrated at the event: the Corcoran family, who have been among the state's leading builders and philanthropists of the last half-century—a tradition now carried on by a new generation of Corcorans. The Hunt family—led by James and Jean Hunt of Dorchester—will be celebrated for their pioneering work in the fields of community health care and government in the

Commonwealth. And the Mulvoy family—originally from Dorchester by way of County Galway—will be honored for, among other things, two brothers' many decades of good works in the field of sports and news journalism.

"This year's honorees are all wonderful examples of the success and dynamism of the Irish diaspora here in the United States," said Ed Forry, founder of the Boston Irish Reporter. "They have all excelled in their respective fields and fulfilled the dreams of their parents, who turned to these shores for a better life. And all have—in one way or another—contributed

mightily to the collective good. We are a better city and state for their work—and in saluting the Mulvoys, the Corcorans, the Hunts, Kathy O'Toole and Senator Tom Kennedy—we seek to pay homage to their ancestors—and our own—who carved out a life for us in this land—and made it our home."

The Boston Irish Honors event debuted in October, 2010 before an appreciative audience of more than 300 top Boston business, civic and political leaders. The 2010 honorees were: U.S. Congressman Edward J. Markey; John Donohue CEO, Arbella Insurance; the Brett family, the Hynes family and

the Geraghty family.

This year's Boston Irish Honors will once again be hosted by Dick Flavin, the legendary Boston television commentator, speaker, playwright and actor who brought us the critically-acclaimed one-man show, "According to Tip."

The 2011 Boston Irish Honors event has been planned and encouraged by a powerhouse host committee led by chairman Matthew Power, President of Risk Specialist Companies Insurance Agency, Inc. of Boston; founding event chairman Robert Sheridan of SBLI and Hon. Michael Lonergan, Consul General

of Ireland and Reporter publisher Ed Forry.

Committee members include Jim Brett, Bill Bulger, Jim Carmody, John T. Carroll, Della Costello, John Cullinane, Dan Driscoll, Dick Flavin, John Philip Foley, Anne Geraghty, Dave Greaney, Steve Greeley, Barry T. Hynes, Kieran Jordan, Jim Keefe, Edris Kelley, Bill Kennedy, Rev. Tom Kennedy, Paul and Mimi LaCamera, Barbie Langis, Joe Leary, Mary Joyce Morris, Sean Moynihan, Jim O'Brien, Bill O'Donnell, Bill Reilly, Jack Shaughnessy, Gil Sullivan, Bobby White and Paul White.

For more information on tickets and sponsorship opportunities, contact Ed Forry, President & Publisher of the Boston Irish Reporter at 617-436-1222.

## Hero crossing guard's legacy helps kids get to school

By PAT TARANTINO  
REPORTER STAFF

The death of a loved one can be a paralyzing experience regardless of circumstance, but one Dorchester family has fought back their tears and continues to give to the community that embraced them while they wrestled with the sudden loss of their mother.

On the morning of October 21, 2008, Marie Conley, a crossing guard at the Mather School on Meetinghouse Hill, was guiding children towards the school when an elderly driver sped through the intersection. Standing in the middle of the road, Conley was able to shield one of her 10-year-old charges from the oncoming vehicle. But the mother of four from Pope's Hill was fatally injured during the incident.

While the Conley family still struggles with the loss of Marie, they say the outpouring of support from friends

and neighbors in the difficult months following the accident inspired them to continue the community-oriented work of their mother, eventually organizing the Marie J. Conley Scholarship Fund, which has generated more than \$90,000 in tuition money for community-minded children attending Catholic high schools in the area.

Joe Finn, Marie's brother and one of the fund's lead organizers, said the choice to give back was an easy one.

"Marie loved those kids, she was good to everyone in the neighborhood and they were good to her," Finn said. "All of this is our way to remember her

### Irish Social Club cites progress in reopen effort

The Irish Social Club of West Roxbury, which was abruptly closed in April due in the main to building maintenance issues, is making strides in its fundraising and membership drives as it looks to reopen.

A July 24 fund-raising dance at Florian Hall raised about \$2,400 and a newly formed steering committee charged with reopening the doors of the club has gathered more than 425 new members since April.

The closing of the club came with a declining membership and strong pressure from the Boston Fire Department for the installation of a new fire alarm and sprinkler system.

The club had long operated as a Sunday night venue that charged \$10 for an evening of dancing and Irish music.

Members of the steering committee said that club officers are moving toward renovating the HVAC system and replacing the roof in anticipation of a major fundraising dance now set for Sept. 24 at the club's Park Street location.

"We're making great strides," said steering committee member Mary Mulvey Jacobson. "We're really overwhelmed by the wonderful generosity of those who are helping."

Jacobson urged those interested in attending the Sept. 24 dance to go to [Irishsocialclub.org](http://Irishsocialclub.org) for more information.

—MICHAELCAPRIO

and all the hard work she did for all of us."

Funding for scholarships comes largely from an annual three-course charity golf tournament, raffle, and auction. Now in its third year and scheduled for September 30, Marie's son Michael said the support from so many familiar faces has helped ease their grieving.

"The majority of people in some way or another knew my mother, family, friends, everyone on the golf course somehow knew her," Michael said. "Sometimes it feels like the accident happened a month ago, but it's so nice to see people show their appreciation. That's what makes me feel really good about all this."

While the Conleys continue to remember Marie through their charity work, they are not the only ones to remember the October morning that changed their lives. Earlier this year, a panel composed of

America's surviving Medal of Honor recipients recognized Marie's sacrifice out of hundreds of applicants by awarding her a posthumous Citizen Service Before Self Honors, one of the nation's highest awards available to civilians.

The recognition was particularly touching for Christopher Conley, a United States Marine Corps veteran who was serving a tour in Iraq at the time of Marie's accident. Christopher said he was gearing up for a patrol a day after the incident when he learned his mother had been hurt and rushed back to the states to be by her side. Following her death, Christopher recalled the countless meals brought to the grieving family, a sign that they were not suffering alone.

Now back in the States, Christopher was able to receive the award for his mother this March at the Arlington Cemetery in front of more than 90 Medal



**MARIE CONLEY**  
Killed at crossing



Join us **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th**  
for a day full of goodies and prizes!

- Totally Free Checking and your choice of a FREE gift!
- FREE initial order of checks for personal checking accounts\*
  - Donuts and apple cider served all day long
  - Double cash buy-back...up to \$30!\*\*
- **PLUS:** Enter for your chance to win a *Fall Weekend Getaway to Vermont* or one of eight (8) digital cameras!

*Proudly serving the South Boston, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury and South End communities.*  
Connecting all offices: 617.268.0379 • [www.MtWashingtonBank.com](http://www.MtWashingtonBank.com)

Mt. Washington Bank

A Division of East Boston Savings Bank



Customer purchases checks. \*The FREE initial order of checks offer is based on 50 standard style checks for any personal checking account opened on Friday, September 30th. \*\*Bring in your checks and debit card from your current bank on 9/30/2011. Mt. Washington Bank will pay \$10 for your old checks and \$20 for your debit card. We reserve the right to substitute a gift of similar value. No purchase necessary to enter. Official entry forms available at Mt. Washington Bank branches on 9/30/2011. Must be 18 or older to enter. limit one entry per person. Grand prize is a Fall Weekend Getaway to Vermont. One digital camera will be given away at each of our eight banking offices. The value of the prizes will be reported on form 1099-INT. Mt. Washington Bank employees and members of their household are not eligible to win prizes. Winners will be drawn on 10/6/11.



Member FDIC | Member DIF



## Publisher's Notebook

## Goodby summer, hello, autumn; busy days ahead

By ED FORRY

The summer of 2011 is all but history now. The sultry days are mostly behind us, some of the kids are back in school, the tomatoes are at last almost all ripe on the vine. In just the last fortnight, Bostonians have lived through first an earthquake, then, days later, the first hurricane of the new decade. Even the Olde Town team is sitting in first place as we enter Labor Day weekend. What an August month it was!

If you believe in omens, then perhaps you will agree that a World Series championship is almost a certainty. Almost.

But back to reality: The arrival of September brings a return to the activities of the many Irish organizations in greater Boston.

In Canton, the Irish Cultural Centre has unveiled an ambitious program of classes this fall that will be centered on the culture of Ireland. The "ICC Academy" will open for registration this Sunday (Sept. 4) at 1 pm, with a variety of course offerings, including Traditional Aran Cable Knitting, Tin Whistle for beginners and intermediates, and Mancy Grady teaching the bodhran and tipper hand skills.

There will be group set dancing every Monday night, a three-session workshop series in Irish baking and cooking, and even the formation of an ICC knitting group to meet on the first Sunday of the month.

There are a range of fees for the courses, from \$5 donations up to \$200 for some courses. As always, paid-up members are afforded a reduced discount price for the offerings. All the classes are offered at the ICC's Canton campus, and pre-registration is required.

Meanwhile, in Dorchester, the Irish Pastoral Centre has completed its relocation to offices in the rectory of St. Brendan's Parish on Gallivan Boulevard. The rectory mail address is 15 Rita Road, Dorchester MA 02124, and the phone number is 617-265-5300. The IPC will host an open house to show off its new digs next Thursday (Sept. 8) from 3 p.m. to 7 pm.

And plans are underway to stage the third annual one-day Irish Festival on Columbus Day weekend (Sun., Oct. 9) at Adams Corner. That neighborhood boasts of one of the city's largest Irish attractions, including Gerard's Adams Corner restaurant and general store, Greenhills Irish Bakery, and the world-famous Eire Pub. And for that one day in October the streets will be closed to traffic as thousands enjoy music, dance and merriment.

The holiday weekend event is free of charge, and organizers have planned a Sept. 17 fundraiser at Florian Hall, featuring music by the Fenian Sons.

In downtown Boston, the Irish Network INBoston is getting ready for the season today with a "Celebrate the End of Summer" reception at the Irish-owned Back Bay Hotel on Stuart Street. Also this month, the board of the Eire Society will gather in Dedham to prepare for the new season's events, and also to make plans for a gala Gold Medal Dinner, likely in the spring of 2012. The Society was founded in 1937 to promote awareness of Irish culture in Boston, and next year will celebrate its 75th anniversary.

And our own special project, the 2011 Boston Irish Honors luncheon, is set for Thurs., Oct. 20, at the Seaport Hotel main ballroom. This is an event conceived by this newspaper as a way of honoring the lives of contemporary Boston Irish families and individuals who can serve as living examples of the great Irish values of loyalty and fidelity, family, friends, and country. A story on Page 3 in this issue gives more details on this signature event for the Boston Irish Reporter.

Our honorees once again are exemplary in every way of all that is good among Boston's Irish community.

**BOSTON IRISH REPORTER**

The Boston Irish Reporter is published monthly by:

Boston Neighborhood News, Inc.,  
150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 120, Dorchester, MA 02125  
[news@bostonirish.com](mailto:news@bostonirish.com) [www.bostonirish.com](http://www.bostonirish.com)  
Mary C. Forry, President (1983-2004)  
Edward W. Forry, Publisher  
Thomas F. Mulvoy Jr., Managing Editor  
William P. Forry, Contributing Editor  
Peter F. Stevens, Contributing Editor

News Room: (617) 436-1222 Ads : (617) 436-1222

Fax: (617) 825-5516 [news@bostonirish.com](mailto:news@bostonirish.com)  
On The Web at [www.bostonirish.com](http://www.bostonirish.com)  
Date of Next Issue: October, 2011  
Deadline for Next Issue: Tuesday, September 20 at 2 p.m.  
Published monthly in the first week of each month.

The Boston Irish Reporter is not liable for errors appearing in advertisements beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error. The right is reserved by The Boston Irish Reporter to edit, reject, or cut any copy without notice.

## Commentary

## The fact is that US companies like doing business in Ireland

By JOE LEARY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

At least one segment of the Irish economy is doing very well this year – exports of goods and services are way up, largely due to American companies doing business in Ireland. Some of the largest American corporations in the world and many smaller ones have chosen



Joe Leary

Ireland as their European base of operations while employing over 100,000 Irish to run their businesses. Another 300,000 Irish are employed by Irish companies to supply and service the 500 American businesses who have located in Ireland.

The Export/Import figures for June and for the first six months of 2011 were released last month. They showed a growing surplus for exports over imports, which are increasing year over year. The surplus for June was 4.08 billion euro and for the first six months of 2011, 38.6 billion euro. And exports were also up a very healthy 9.1 percent for the year. American companies were responsible for roughly 75 percent of that growth.

IDA Ireland in Dublin is primarily responsible for recruiting these companies and assisting them with their decisions. A company that chooses Ireland to help expand its business can rely on the IDA to make the move as easy as possible. IDA, rated as one of the top inward investment groups in the world, has John Conlon, executive vice president of IDA Ireland in New York, heading a team of 21 executives stationed in critical decision making areas of the United States – New York, Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. These men and women are all Irish themselves and among Ireland's best and brightest.

In an interview with the BIR, Conlon said, "We are up 20 percent over last year in bringing American companies to Ireland. In the first 6 months of this year, Amgen, Google and Intel, just to name a few, have spent hundreds of millions of dollars increasing their investments in Ireland."

Skeptics should heed the words of American executives on the IDA website if they doubt the appeal of Ireland. Brian Ruane, CEO of Alternative Investment of BNY Mellon in New York, says, "We have 1,700 employees in Ireland. The labor pool is exceptional and

Ireland is a very positive place to locate our business." Adds John E. Kelley, senior VP and director of IBM research: "We get support from the Government whenever we need it quickly and have an excellent relationship with Irish Universities to assist our research projects. Ireland has wonderful technical people, some of the most talented in the world."

Cormac MacDonncha of ThermoKing in Galway with 500 employees said, "The quality of life in Ireland is key to attracting talent and, additionally, the Irish are extremely efficient. In terms of hours per unit required to produce a unit they are half of others."

And Jim Peterson, CEO of Microsemi (close to a billion dollar company), says Ireland is "our European headquarters. If you ask me why Ireland, I'll tell you it's because of IDA Ireland. They have become our strategic partner. We work very well with the government." Richard Finn, managing director of Microsemi, says Ireland has the best-educated talent pool compared with similar operations in the US and Europe.

There is no doubt that Ireland is suffering. Its 14 percent unemployment rate refuses to go down. Taxes are higher and salaries are lower. But there is also no doubt that Ireland is changing for the better. The banking insolvency, the housing foreclosures, the unscrupulous developers have all been revealed. Hard measures have been taken to prevent such risk-taking and opportunism from occurring again. It was Ireland's tiny size and an unbelieving leadership that made it so vulnerable.

Today, housing prices are way down, business space rental costs in Dublin are down 52 percent, employee salaries are falling, the cost of living is down, electricity costs for manufacturing are lower than in Europe, all of which paints a more attractive picture for American companies seeking to expand their investments in the country.

IDA's John Conlon is enthusiastically proud of the work his team is accomplishing. "When I go in to talk with a new prospective company I can point to a very successful track record. Nine out of the world's top ten Biotech companies for instance have located in Ireland. The companies are very pleased with our talent pool. We have the youngest population in Europe with a high degree of computer proficiency and appreciation of technology, including the most cutting edge software applications. Our universities are another valuable asset doing research and advanced biomedical study.

"Our corporate tax rate is important also. At 12.5 percent, it allows companies to reinvest their profits and help them grow.

It's a big success story. We are up significantly in each of the last three years."

## Off the Bench

## The Mad Hatters have taken over

By JAMES W. DOLAN  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The country has slipped down the rabbit hole and the mad hatters are in charge. As if to confirm the fear of many Americans that the country is in decline, our leaders seem incapable of governing.

Has democracy run its course? Are we at a point where the "common good" has been so distorted it is beyond recognition? Have the system's checks overwhelmed its balances?

How do we defend against ourselves as internal conflicts multiply? Were we naive to think that the greatest threats to our security were external? Doesn't history teach us that great nations decay from within?

Were we at a point where one devastating terrorist attack was enough to topple our house of cards? Were the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan overreactions that sapped our strength and diverted us from more important problems at home?

Do we honor our veterans, past and present, by losing the American dream ... not to some foreign power but by our own failings?

These are some of the questions we should be asking as we watch this once proud and powerful nation spin out of control. These self-inflicted wounds may not be fatal but they could be unless our leaders agree that the common good is paramount.

The welfare of the rich is not in jeopardy. That will not happen because they have the power and the money to get attention. Lacking resources, the poor are at a distinct disadvantage. Their welfare is easily ignored.

The middle class, despite its size, can be overlooked in the clash between the "wants" of the rich and the "needs" of the poor. The middle class is the fulcrum on

which the other two are balanced. Maintaining that balance could be defined as the common good.

Republicans tend to weigh in on the side of the rich while the Democrats advocate for the poor. They both stretch to reach the middle class where most of the voters reside. The middle class is also where most of the independents are located, split between those that hope and believe they have a chance to be rich – the upper middle class – and those that fear they may slip into poverty – the lower middle class.

The "plight" of the rich is not particularly worrisome. One would not expect the poor or middle class to be up nights worrying about the haves. Unfortunately, not many rich seem to be concerned about the poor. Those that do now tend to be Democrats or that fast disappearing class of liberal Republicans.

One would think that in a democracy the poor and middle class, by the sheer weight of numbers, would dominate the system. That was never the case. The rich have always been able to assert more power and influence.

Our country has written too many checks and our account is unbalanced. The Republicans are right in focusing our attention on the spending problem. If only they were as concerned about the checks and balances essential to social equilibrium, like health care for all, social security and tax fairness.

While the Republicans precipitated the debt ceiling crisis, President Obama could have avoided it by immediately shutting down the two wars he inherited and letting the Bush tax cuts expire. By not doing so, he backed into the debt ceiling crisis and set the stage for a shabby display of brinkmanship by House Republicans.

Almost all of whom signed a "no tax increase under any circumstances" pledge as part of their election campaigns. Was that a promise to assure their election or an abdication of responsibility?

We need more politicians who will not confuse their own good with the common good. I fear it is becoming more difficult for people like that to be elected.

Alice is not the only one who ventured into "Wonderland."

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

**POINT OF VIEW / PETER F. STEVENS**

# Here's hoping the 2010's Tea Party story ends the same way the 1850's Know-Nothings era did

BY PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

The Boston Irish community of the 1850s would have recognized the ways and means of the Tea Party of today. Those immigrants from the "old sod" would have known exactly what the "I-want-my-country-back" crowd of 2011 was up to and would likely be part furious, part ashamed to learn that any of their descendants were imbibing the tea of Texas Governor Rick Perry, Congresswoman Michelle Bachman, Dick Arney, FreedomWorks, the Koch brothers, et al. (In a case of art imitating life, check out the old Eddie Murphy-Dan Aykroyd comedy "Trading Places" for a look at the uber-rich, bigoted, social-experimenting, morally bankrupt "Duke" brothers played by Don Ameche and Ralph Bellamy and you will that some "Koch-like" traits abound.)

The Boston Irish of yesteryear would have sized up the 2011 Tea Partiers for who and what they are – simplistic, doctrinaire, and incapable of the slightest vestige of reasonable compromise (see "Debt Ceiling Debate") at best, of tolerance at worst. As we plunge into the upcoming presidential election, those in the Irish-American community who have sipped deeply of ideological tea might ask themselves a single, simple question: "What would my great-great-grandparents from any of the counties have thought about the Tea Party?"

I suspect that our ancestors with green bloodlines might have approved a name change for the Tea Party – to the Know Nothing Party. As noted in this space in May, the Know Nothings, aka, the American Party, which infected the local and national landscape, was a hate-filled party that not only appeared locally and nationwide, but that also ruled the political roost for a few years. Its goal was to turn back the calendar to some half-mythical land where "real Americans" held sway and were governed by the Bible in all ways and in all walks of life."

The Know Nothings (that label comes from the story that whenever they were asked what they were up to, the answer was always, "We know nothing") worked to deny immigrants and anyone seen as not a "real American" a foothold in the nation. Like Rick Perry, much of their so-called solution to society's woes mirrors country star Carrie Underwood's hit song, "Jesus Take the Wheel."

Too harsh a comment? Aside from Perry's evangelical stadium event a few weeks ago and his campaign for drought-stricken Texas to pray for rain, a look at

## *The Boston Irish of the 1850s would have recognized today's presidential political landscape*

the 1850s "Platform of the American Party of Massachusetts" is illuminating. The Know Nothings, like the Tea Party, feared "the imminent peril of Freedom, both from internal and external foes." They asserted "that the Bible as the source and fountain of all true and national liberty should be made."

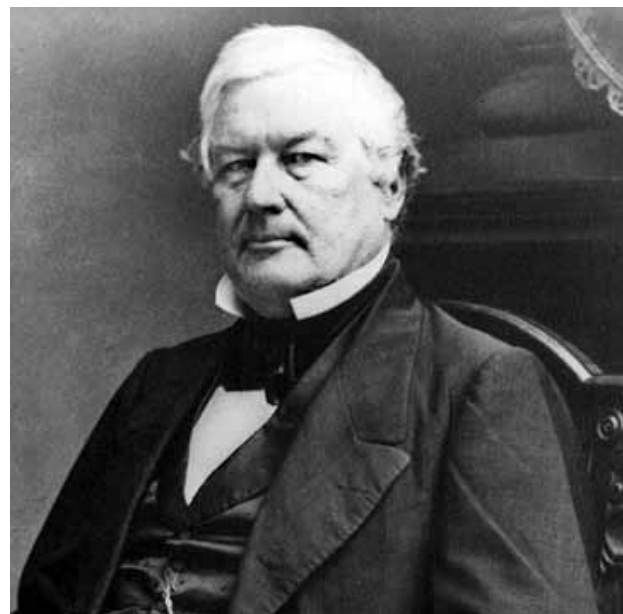
Yes, the Tea Party shrieks that its tenets are fiscal sanity and no taxes. I'll leave it to economists to determine how sane the Tea Party cadre's willingness to let the nation default on its debt was, and is. What I don't need anyone to explain is the Tea Party's avowed crusade – yes, crusade – to achieve the ouster of the "other" from the Oval office, no matter the cost to the nation's well-being. One can certainly be vehemently opposed to the president on any and all policy issues, but it flies in the face of reason to state that the Tea Party's antipathy toward him is all about taxes and politics.

Again, people are entitled to their beliefs, but not their own facts, half-facts, and outright distortions. Anyone in the Boston Irish and Irish-American community who holds the current political tea to his or her lips should look carefully into history's mirror for a glimpse of the lives of their forebears some 160 years ago. They were then the other. They were then the outsider. The code words of today once applied to them.

The Boston Irish saw a fractious, bitter presidential election in 1856, when the Know-Nothing American Party mounted a viable campaign for the White House. They ran a former president, Millard Fillmore. And while many Boston voters no doubt cast their ballots for him, his ticket captured but one state, Maryland, and just a few years later, the Civil War would shove the Know-Nothing era into the fetid backwaters of history.

In the decades that followed, prejudice toward immigrants endured, but the Boston Irish had learned from the Know Nothings: power comes through the ballot box.

If history repeats itself next year, the Tea Party/Know Nothings of the 21st century will fall short of a President Rick Perry or someone of his ilk, and Democrats, Republicans, and independents will all



**Campaign issues for former President Millard Fillmore, the Know-Nothing American Party's candidate for president in 1856, US Rep. Michelle Bachman, and Texas Gov. Rick Perry, evolve around "real Americans" and Biblical values in all ways of life.**



win. Meanwhile, we are left to wonder how long it will be before moderate Republicans, a breed rarely, if ever, seen in public these days, restore sanity to their fissured party. (Which isn't to say that the Democrats' fissures don't run deep, too.)

To torture the adage, our Boston Irish ancestors of the 1850s surely would have warned their descendants that if "it quacks like a Know Nothing, it quacks like a Tea Partier."

## US Attorney raises ante in Boston College archive case

(Continued from page 1)

possibly prosecute Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams."

Meanwhile, in a recent OpEd page column published in the Globe, Ed Moloney, the director of the Belfast project at BC, and Anthony McIntyre, identified in the column as the project's lead researcher on the IRA, lament what they called a "fishing expedition," saying the stability of the power-sharing government in Belfast could conceivably be threatened by this case."

"The United States played a huge role in bringing

about peace in Northern Ireland; wouldn't it be ironic if now it played a part in undoing it?" they ask.

For his part, veteran journalist Niall O'Dowd, founder of the Irish Voice newspaper and Irish America magazine, writing on his website, Irish Central.com, questioned the college's connection to Moloney ([he] "has written repeatedly in hostile fashion about Adams, a fact that BC conveniently ignored when they hired him"), and to McIntyre ("a leading dissident republican who also had a deep loathing for Gerry Adams").

O'Dowd also notes that Moloney, a former journalist in Northern Ireland, apparently felt "the rule of confidentiality or immediate release of information from sources did not apply to him."

O'Dowd points out that "the recollections of Brendan Hughes, one of the IRA men in the oral history project [whose recollections are being sought in the federal subpoena case], formed a major basis of the 2010 book by Moloney called 'Voices from the Grave.'"

All parties now await word from Judge Tauro.

Subscribe Today to Boston's Own Hometown Newspaper

# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

We accept phone orders  
with your Visa or Mastercard.

Call 617-436-1222

Or Fax this order form to 617-825-5516

Order today, and we will send  
a gift card in your name.

Enclose \$35.00 for each gift subscription.

Mail to: Boston Irish Reporter  
150 Mt. Vernon Street, Dorchester, MA 02125

A Subscription to the Boston Irish Reporter  
Makes an Ideal Gift for Any Special Occasion.  
Why Not Order One Today for Yourself,  
or for That Special Irish Someone in Your Life?

Order today, and we will send a gift card in your name.  
Enclose \$35.00 for each gift subscription.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Gift from \_\_\_\_\_

Charge to Visa \_\_\_\_\_

Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp \_\_\_\_\_

# Concannon, Haiti: a visceral connection

(Continued from page 1)

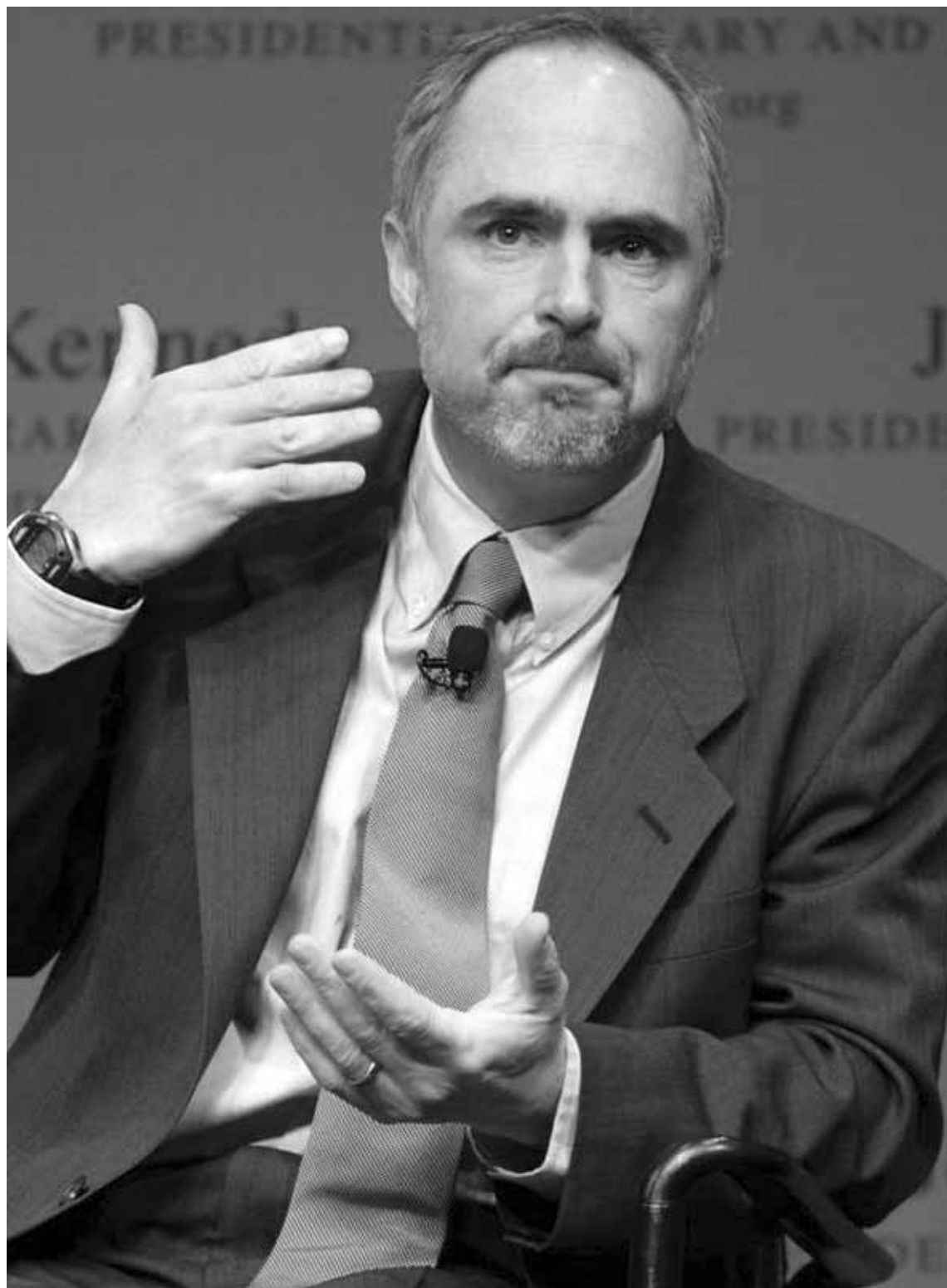
trained attorneys, policy coordinators, communication specialists, and legal interns—you might think that co-founder Concannon is fighting out of his weight class in the poorest country in the Americas, one with a tortured past and a history of oppressive dictators. “It is the mother of all social justice struggles,” says Concannon. Resources at IJDH are slight, given the enormity of the task. The organization today has an operating budget of \$750,000, two thirds of which is allocated to the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI)—a public interest law office in Port-au-Prince founded in 1995 and co-managed by Concannon from 1996 to 2004. In the latter year, an armed rebellion led to the overthrow of then President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the creation of a provisional government, prompting Concannon to leave the country after nine years of residency.

But he is used to fighting out of his weight class. To understand his mission in life is to appreciate the man, his impressive energy, and his sense of purpose. At the BAI, he helped prepare the prosecution in the highly publicized Raboteau Massacre trial in 2000, one of the most significant human rights cases anywhere in the Western Hemisphere. The trial led to the conviction of 53 soldiers and paramilitaries for their brutal attack on a pro-democracy neighborhood. As Concannon’s biography notes, he also has represented Haitian political prisoners before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, as well as the plaintiff in *Yvon Neptune v. Haiti*, the only Haiti case ever tried before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In addition, he has worked for the United Nations as a Human Rights Officer (1995–1996), received fellowships from Harvard Law School and Brandeis University, and trained international judges, US asylum officers and law students across the country. He is a member of the editorial board of *Health and Human Rights*, *An International Journal* and often speaks and writes about social justice in Haiti. Holder of an undergraduate degree from Middlebury College and a law degree from Georgetown, he speaks English, Haitian Creole, and French.

Not bad for a lawyer who quit his first job at a major Boston law firm after three and a half years because he felt his corporate work was “morally neutral.”

Such moral bearing came at the collective encouragement of his Dorchester-born parents, who raised five children, two of them public interest lawyers and three of them social workers. Perhaps there was something in the water at the family home in Marshfield.

Concannon’s late father, Brian, of St. Mark’s Parish, was a personal injury lawyer, “always fighting for the little guy,” says his son in noting his father’s Galway roots. His mother, RoseAnne, whose family came from Monaghan, was raised in Savin Hill, taught English as a young woman at Roxbury High School in Dudley Square, then, after raising her children, earned a degree from New England Law School and became a domestic relations attorney with a strong commitment to the enforcement of legal rights of abused women. “Dad was a gregarious guy;



**“A lot of bad things happen throughout the world in our name—things that Americans, if they really knew, would not accept. They are contrary to American notions of human rights and democracy.”**

he was fairly intellectual, well-read, and the kind of person who liked to spout off Greek and Latin,” Concannon recalls. “Mom was more intense and deeply focused on social change.” Concannon and his siblings, he says, are a blend of the two—an amalgamation of great passion, perseverance, and strength of character.

No slouch when it came to perseverance, Concannon early on pursued his passions with conviction—as a young athlete in tennis and cross country, and later at BC High with a social justice orientation. He then attended Middlebury in Vermont where he majored in history and French. After graduating, he went down to Georgetown. “It was a good match for my interests and skills,” he says. “I had the feeling that law was a way of reform.” And so it was no surprise that he followed in the footsteps of his parents and his paternal grandfather, John, who was a state rep from Dorchester, a member of James Michael Curley’s political organization, and an unsuccessful challenger to incumbent Congressman John McCormack, who would later become House Speaker.

Law, politics, and social justice are all essential ingredients in the mix of Concannon’s life. Seven years ago, he was honored with the St. Ignatius Award at BC High, the school’s

highest honor for moral character and selfless service among its many thousands of alumni.

After Georgetown, Concannon worked in corporate law at the Boston firm Mintz, Levin, but just long enough to pay off his tuition; the call of social service was unmistakable and compelling. In 1995, he accepted a job in Haiti with a United Nations mission as a human rights officer after a military junta takeover that cost 3,000-to-5,000 Haitians their lives. After working for the UN for close to a year, he joined the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI) to advocate more for prosecutions.

Haiti’s political and economic problems have causes and effects very much tied to the island nation’s relationship with the United States. Today, people remember Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier and his father, Francois “Papa Doc” Duvalier, who ruled Haiti with iron hands for decades until 1986, when the young Duvalier fled the country, bringing to a close a two-generation reign of terror and plunder. But a root cause of the country’s political and economic troubles, says Concannon, can be found in troubling international policies and meddling directed at Haiti across the Caribbean.

“There have been more unjust US policies imposed on Haiti than any other country,” he says, referring to generations of politi-

cal and economic interests here.

In 1804, Haiti became the second nation in the Americas to declare its independence, yet the young United States did not immediately recognize Haiti’s new status; it took 60 years. “You would think that the first independent country in this hemisphere, the Cradle of Liberty, would let the second one in. ... I don’t think it’s too blunt to say that it was racism at play.”

Haiti, which in its own way had assisted the colonies in their fight against the British, earned its independence by the hands of freed slaves who led a rebellion after pro-slavery U.S. interests had placed an embargo on the island in support of Haitian slave owners. Haiti, it was thought by some, presented a threat of contagion, says Concannon, noting that the prevailing attitude was simple: “We can’t let spread the idea of blacks being free and running their own country.” At the time, key political and economic interests in the Americas and abroad were in focus as well.

Habits are hard to break and the meddling has continued over time, says Concannon. The US, seeing its self-interest in play, has propped up a number of regimes that proved to be unsavory. “A lot of bad things happen throughout the world in our name—things that Americans, if they really knew, would not

accept,” he notes with characteristic fire. “They are contrary to American notions of human rights and democracy.”

Concannon and his Institute have become a battering ram for Haitian justice and the implementation of US policies that respect Haiti’s democratic sovereignty. Formed in 2004 when Concannon left Haiti in the wake of Aristide’s ouster, the organization draws on its founders’ internationally acclaimed successes in the fields of law, medicine, and social justice activism. “We saw ten years of democratic progress slip away because the US disagreed with policies that Haiti’s leaders were elected to implement,” he says today.

IJDH board members today include, among others, Paul Farmer, a founder of Partner’s Health, professor at Harvard Medical School, and a UN deputy envoy to Haiti; the attorney Ira J. Kurzban, adjunct professor of law at University of Miami and Nova Southeastern University; the attorney Byran Stevenson, a Harvard Law graduate, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama, and clinical professor at NYU School of Law; Rob Broggi, a Harvard graduate, a hedge fund manager with Raptor Funds, and board member of the ONEXONE Foundation, and Roxbury Latin School; and the author, teacher, and activist Laura Flynn, former director of international relations for the Aristide Foundation for Democracy in Haiti.

Concannon’s wife Marcy, an economist whom he met years ago at a UN mission in Haiti, assists at IJDH in concert with her husband and also at home in Marshfield where they are raising Evan, 3 1/2, and Georgia, 1 1/2.

There have been successes at IJDH over the years, but the work is never done. “There are days when you don’t succeed,” says Concannon from his basement office. “The failures come hard, and that’s when faith must prevail.”

Raised in the church by devout Irish-Catholic parents, Concannon concedes that he’s not a churchgoer, but he says he works daily to live the Gospel. “I try to heed the call of Matthew 25:36,” he says, referring to the passage that proclaims, “I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me; I was in prison and you visited me.”

Over the last several decades, Concannon has seen the insides of many prisons in Haiti. On this day, he was making preparations for another trip while pondering the country’s future. The stereotypes that accompany any mention of his adopted homeland are bothersome to him.

When he first arrived in Haiti two decades ago, he says he was overcome by the spirit and resolve of its people. “There is a wholesale lack of public knowledge about Haiti,” he says, pushing back into his chair, his hands cupped behind his head. “Gaps in knowledge are filled with misperceptions. Haiti is not the basket case that some think. Such stereotypes are a way of deflecting penetrating issues, and many of them point to us as a nation.”

Greg O’Brien is president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political/communications strategy company based on Cape Cod. The author/editor of several books, he writes frequently for national and regional publications.

# Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

**Lenihan Family Passes On Politics** – For the first time in a third of a century no member of the Lenihan family will stand for election in Dublin West. The death three months ago of Fianna Fail TD and former Finance Minister **Brian Lenihan** has brought to a close the active participation of the family members in Irish national politics. **Mary O'Rourke**, an aunt of Brian, and a longtime Fianna Fail TD and minister, was defeated for reelection earlier this year.

One brother, former junior minister **Conor Lenihan**, who also lost his seat in the February election, is now living and working in Moscow; **Tom Lenihan**, 20, a son of the late Brian, has announced he will not be a candidate.

It has been a long and successful political reign for the Lenihans, decades of service going back to the late Brian's father, **Brian Senior**, who was a veteran Dail member and appointed Tanaiste by **Charles Haughey**, and before Brian Sr. to his father, **Patrick**, and a sister in Dail Eireann. The elder Brian Lenihan served as minister in four posts including Justice and Foreign Affairs, was a candidate for the Irish presidency in 1990, and died in 1995.

The Fianna Fail Party, already staggered by its February electoral rout, will, going forward, be less a party of the people with no Lenihans answering the quorum bell.

**Students Warned On Fake Passports** – The Union of Students in Ireland has sent out an alert to Irish holders of J-1 working visas and US travel visas urging them not to travel on modified passports. It seems that traveling students, many interested in improperly adding a year or two to the age to conform to alcohol licensing rules in the states, have been using laminates to alter birth dates.

The attachments used by some traveling students "compromises the travel document" and its removal will cause permanent damage, all of which are easily detectable by border control officials. There have been several instances where travelers with false or altered passports have been arrested.

Students are further warned that altering a passport is a criminal offense in Ireland but a federal offense in the US and subject to serious penalties. The Union of Students in Ireland is advising anyone with altered passports to take action to obtain a replacement passport before attempting to return to Ireland. The USI stresses that while holders of these altered passports may believe that they will pass border inspection and arrive home unchallenged, that is not the case.

The USI urges students with improper passports to contact the nearest Irish embassy or consulate before attempting to travel.

**We Remember 9/11** – It has been a fast-moving, fraught decade since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America. The recent Seals raid that removed Bin Laden from our midst did not solve America's political, financial, or social problems but it told a world too often doubtful of America's spine and resilience that we can still take care of business.

I clearly remember that September day when the planes crashed into the two towers and the Pentagon and into that Pennsylvania field because we were in Ireland, outside Dundalk to be precise, following an overnight flight into Dublin. It was great fun to be back and along with favorite in-laws. The four of us, **Jean** and myself and my sister-in-law **Pat** and husband **Will** had left Logan the evening of Sept. 10 and arrived at the airport after a fast flight from Boston very early in the Irish morning of the 11th.

The five-hour time difference meant we were with our hosts at the Trainor family home well before the planes crashed in Manhattan. We saw the second plane, United Airline Flight 175, on live television crash into the South Tower of the World Trade Center at 9:03 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time; American Airlines Flight 11 had struck the North Tower of the Center 17 minutes earlier, which we did not see.

We spent the next two weeks traveling through northeastern Ireland, to places like Waterford, Cork, Mayo, Galway, Clare, and Kerry. It was, after our scores of Irish visits over the years, the most unsettling and surreal but memorable of our trips there. The kindness of the Irish, the reaching out, the understanding and, yes, the tears from strangers once they knew we were Yanks, was profound in its communion, the benchmark Irish oneness with America. The warmth of the Irish people in those wary, uncertain days is a fresh and recurring memory.

After several frantic days trying to reach our daughter by phone we finally talked, uncertain if our return flight date or time could or would be honored. We learned that our daughter **Erin**, 28, had lost a friend from years earlier, a Girl Scout pal she hadn't seen in years. The news that **Amy Jarret**, the former scouting friend, had been a crew member among the 65 people on United Flight 175 brought the substance and sadness of the 9/11 loss into even more painful focus for her, for us ... and so it has remained.

**The Generous Irish** – The film footage of Somalia and the surrounding Horn of Africa as it suffers its worst siege of famine in decades is nothing less than heartbreaking. The suffering has stunned the world

and generated food and related aid from many quarters. Yet none has done more as a people, or contributed more generously in money and organizational resources than has Ireland. Once again, be it Haiti or Chernobyl, Ireland is among the global leaders in charitable giving and response to desperate need.

The fund-raising figures for Horn of Africa famine relief among the Irish people, the Dublin government, and an array of humanitarian private non government agencies who call Ireland home, has been stunning. In terms of fund-raising the Irish people have donated more than \$17 million while the Irish state has sent some \$10 million to ease conditions in Somalia. Dochas, the umbrella organization for Ireland's overseas NGOs, estimates that there are at least eight member organizations working on the ground in the famine-ridden Horn. They include Goal, Concern, Trocaire, Oxfam Ireland, Unicef, World Vision, and Plan Ireland.

This typical outpouring from Ireland comes as the Irish nation and her people struggle with high unemployment and cutbacks in everything from education to social welfare, hospital care and pensions following a bare-bones austerity program that has seriously impacted working and middle class Irish.

**Irish Mortgage Relief A Possibility** – The state of the Irish homeowner contending with the broad-based collapse in housing prices is, in a word, desperate. One leading Irish economist who was quoted in the *Irish Independent* newspaper described the situation faced by thousands of homeowners as "the biggest crisis the Irish economy is facing." Less than two weeks ago, a gaggle of respected economic academics, including UCD Economics Professor **Morgan Kelly** and others, along with former Barclay senior bond trader **Peter Brown**, came out in support of a proposal calling for the mortgage debt of thousands of struggling families to be either written down or, in the most extreme cases, written off completely.

The latest figures from the Central Bank estimate that almost 50,000 Irish mortgages were in arrears over three months, the majority over six months behind in their payments. A major economist said at a mid-August conference that spending a relatively modest \$7 - \$8 billion to underwrite those unable to meet mortgage payments now or in the future would probably solve most of the national problem.

The Irish government is as yet unenthusiastic, while banks say they would consider such a plan but only if other Irish banks joined in the proposal. Stay tuned.

**Did You Know ...** that **John Morrissey**, born in Templemore, Co. Tipperary, in 1831, created the celebrated Saratoga Race Course in upstate New York, host to thousands and the grassy heartland of elegant horse racing during its hugely popular seven-week summer racing meet held yearly?

**Morrissey** was a youthful roustabout and later a champion bare-knuckle boxer who taught himself to read and write in a brothel, became a renowned gambler and wealthy casino operator, and, with **William Travers** and others, founded the Saratoga Race Course. In 1996, **Morrissey** was elected to the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Each summer meet at Saratoga features a stakes race dedicated to the memory of John Morrissey.

**Bertie: Lessons To Sell, Will Travel** – When your name is **Bertie Ahern**, a man with a short memory but a long pension, you can get away with giving speeches to foreigners who don't read the Irish papers or know any better. Bertie, the wrap-around king you'd like to have a pint with, is supplementing his government pension by giving lectures at \$40,000 plus to American companies about how he transformed the moribund Irish economy into the Celtic Tiger glory. Yes, the same good-natured chap with a flair for dinnertime fund-raising, who is considered by many of his former constituents to be the architect of the disastrous recession, is offering tips to the American CEOs on how to be competitive. Isn't that beyond precious? Imagine, verbal gold at around \$700 a minute, and worth every sou.

Included in Bertie's Strut & Spout stemwinders are topics taken directly from his career in the Dail and as Taoiseach:

His approach to executing a successful long-term vision. How to persuade stakeholders to embrace change. How to bring people with you by building consensus. What every leader must do to achieve large-scale success.

Labor TD **Ciaran Lynch** says he is astonished that companies want to employ Ahern to give them advice. It's absolutely bewildering, says Lynch, given the broad coverage of Ireland's economic collapse, that Ahern is being promoted as a strategic thinker. I share Deputy Lynch's disbelief.

Finally, in case you're in the Leinster House neighborhood this month, you may want to stop by to see Bertie's portrait (government issue at \$14,000) freshly hung near the entrance of the Dail chambers. When the hell is the Mahon Tribunal Report due?

**New Philly Church Leader Flays Media** – The about-to-be-installed archbishop of Philadelphia, **Charles Chaput**, presumably parachuted in to clean up the monstrous clerical abuse residue there, decided to try a bit of distraction by calling TV's CNN and MSNBC and the *New York Times* "untrustworthy" when it comes to religion. Maybe he means they don't take dictation.

He may have the odd point occasionally well taken,

but I generally find CNN and the Wolfman pretty harmless and reasonably fair, although the Times and the evening segments of MSNBC have certainly shown "attitude" and as their biggest "failing" they occasionally cast a cold eye on the disjointed, contradictory, and oft-times baffling monologues that come out of the Vatican, from principals and spokesmen alike. Slow learners we all, apparently, on VaticanSpeak.

Unsurprisingly, the hard-nosed archbishop is silent on the "fair & balanced" Fox News regime. Devotional enough, I guess. What would be surprising if we were to hear Archbishop Chaput castigate some of his colleagues in the Catholic hierarchy (bishops to cardinals) who have been consistent enablers and clerical re-assignment specialists (CRS).

**Stop Whining – Do Your Homework** – I am so weary the past August weeks of hearing everyone from **Peggy Noonan** to some of the scraggy wannabe Republican candidates for President carping about **Barack Obama** and his annual vacation, all 9 or 10 days of it. I don't know how much down time the estimable **Fred Thompson** took as senator or presidential candidate, but it was probably more than enough. However, I did look at the vacation schedules of two of our earlier GOP leaders, **George W. Bush** and **Ronald Reagan**.

**The Facts:** President Obama, after 31 months in office, has taken 61 vacation days. At the 31-month point in their presidencies, Bush had taken 180 vacation days and Reagan 112 days. All in all, President Bush (II) spent more than 1,000 days on vacation during his two terms.

## RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Ireland has lost one of its premier sculptors and artists with the death of **Eamon O'Doherty**. Among his public art works are Galway's Eyre Square signature sculpture, Dublin's James Connolly Memorial near Liberty Square, and the Anna Livia fountain (flooie in the Jacuzzi). ... **Mary McAleese** reminds the flock to observe a minute's silence on September 10 in memory of those who died in the Great Famine. ... **Gerry Adams**, he of the short memory, is inveighing against the IMF, and the European Union. The questions: Did he take and use EU funds for pet projects? And isn't it a bit late to seek fiscal virginity? ... A top tax expert in the North predicts that the Republic will never give up its 12.5 percent tax rate, and urged NI to lower its 26 percent rate. ... **Eogan O'Dea**, a pro poker player from Dalkey, Co. Dublin, is in a good position to grab the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas when the tables reopen for the final on November 5.

... The senior Muslim cleric in Ireland says there is nothing in his religion that forces a woman to have her face fully covered. A Cork councillor is trying to ban burkas. Can we talk? ... Sad news out of London: The weekly Irish Post has closed its doors. A sign of the times. ... I love the story of the Limerick man and his American bride. They were married after only two weeks. The bride from North Carolina is a smooth talker. She says she is loving living in West Limerick because "I love overcast weather and rain." ... The rumor mills in SDLP circles are suggesting that **Margaret Ritchie**, the SDLP leader, is "ready to quit as leader." The hardest worker in that party is the MP for South Belfast, **Dr. Alasdair McDonnell**, who would like (and deserves) the top job to get the party moving again. ... **Mike Quinlin** of the Boston Irish Tourist group is seeking input from Boston area Irish in an attempt to keep the Aer Lingus flights active through the winter months, which was not the case last winter. ... **Rick Perry** is all hot air and hat but little substance and less cattle. The Texas state debt is staggering, the jobs created in Texas are low paying and minimum wage like Mississippi's, the education system is one of the worst in America, ranking 46th to 49th in literacy and SAT scores, and Texas employment is largely state and federal jobs. We already had one Texas governor fool us. Not a second time. ... Haven't seen it yet, but the reviews for the Irish-made "The Guard" are putting it on everyone's top-film list. Made in Connemara. See it, they say.

Congratulations to the venerable Black Rose on lower State Street. An honest pub marking its 35th anniversary this year. ... Pawtucket's Friendly Sons of St. Patrick will honor pardoned Irishman **John Gordon** on Oct. 8 at St. Mary's Cemetery. ... It's disappointing news to hear that **Jay Severin** is returning to the world of radio with low signal WXKS. He joins other frothing right wingers like **Rush**, **Glen Beck** and **Sean Hannity** with their one-note destructive garbage. ... Cancel the tickets for **Michael Flatley's** "Lord of the Dance" spectacular planned for the Cliffs of Moher. It has been postponed indefinitely due to the recession or whatever. ... Weather forecasters are predicting a severe winter in Ireland. It would be the third harsh winter in a row. ... Belfast is the best city value for tourists in the UK. Closest are Liverpool, Cardiff, Glasgow, and Manchester. ... Good Luck to the members and leadership of the Irish Social Club for a resurgence. ... Hopefully it will have a different ending. The 100th anniversary cruise retracing the voyage of the Titanic will sail from Southampton on April 8, 2012 bound for Cobh. ... The Vatican is planning some dramatics for the Irish Church that could mean dioceses reduced in number and a new lineup of Irish bishops replacing the current crop. Hope this doesn't mean that Dublin's irreplaceable **Archbishop Martin** will be jettisoned.

## IMMIGRATION Q &amp; A

## Be very careful when moving to new address

**Q.** I recently filed an application to adjust my immigration status to legal permanent residence, based on my marriage to a US citizen. We have not yet heard from US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) about an interview with them to decide my case. Meanwhile my wife and I are planning to move soon to a new apartment. We will be filing a change of address notice with the US Postal Service so our mail will be forwarded to the new address. Will mail from USCIS reach us at our new address?

**A.** It is very likely that the Postal Service will not forward mail from USCIS, because of security concerns. Unfortunately, at IIIC we hear from immigrants who moved to a new residence and have been waiting a long time for some communication from USCIS, only to learn later on that a piece of important mail was lost or returned as undeliverable.

So what should you do? First, practically all aliens residing in the US for 30 days or more, not just those with pending applications, are required to file a notification with USCIS within ten days of an address change. This includes legal permanent residents (green card holders) but not people with A or G visas. There are two ways to do this. First, one can file on-line by going to [uscis.gov/AR-11](http://uscis.gov/AR-11) and following the instructions. Second, one can choose instead to use the simple, one-page AR-11 form that you can download from the government's website at [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov) and mail to the address shown on the form. There is no charge to file an address change.

Second, and actually much more important if you have an application pending, you need to inform USCIS directly of your address change so that the officers processing your case will mail future communications to your new residence. You can do this either by filing online as indicated above and following the instructions pertaining to people with pending cases, or by calling the USCIS help line at 1-800-375-5283 and providing your address change information.

Remember: If you choose not to use on-line filing, just mailing the AR-11 form is not enough if you have a case pending with USCIS. You need to contact the agency as soon as you move.

For record retention purposes, in order to have proof that you complied with the address change requirements, (1) if you mail the AR-11 form you should keep a copy and mail the signed original by certified mail, return receipt requested, and (2) if you file on-line you should record the confirmation number you receive, and you should print out the page with the information you submitted, and sign and date it. Keep all such records in a safe place.

A further note: In cases where an applicant has a financial sponsor who submitted an affidavit of support (Form I-864) in his/her case (such as usually happens where an immigrant has a US citizen or legal permanent resident spouse or other petitioning relative), the sponsor (not the immigrant) also has an obligation to file a change of address form when the sponsor's address changes. The form for this purpose is I-865, and there is no fee required.

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



**IIIC Immigration Legal Services** – The Irish International Immigrant Center provides comprehensive, professional, and confidential legal assistance on immigration, and citizenship issues. We provide specialized individual consultation and immigration case assistance and education. For free assistance with legal questions please attend one of our free weekly legal clinics and meet with immigration attorneys and citizenship specialists. Please call 617-542-7654 in advance. Our clinics are free.

**Sept. 6 – 4 p.m.-6 p.m.:** The IIIC, 100 Franklin Street, Boston.

**Sept. 12 – 6:30 p.m.:** Green Briar Pub Brighton.

**Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m.:** St. Mark's Parish (Church Basement) 1725 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester.

**Saturday Sept. 17 – Free US citizenship application assistance**

– A new collaboration of organizations coordinated by the Fish Family Foundation, and the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) has launched a new initiative intended to increase naturalization rates in the Greater Boston area. The collaborative is hosting its first event on Sat., Sept. 17, at 11 a.m. at the Irish International Immigrant Center on the lower level of 100 Franklin Street, Boston, in recognition of US Citizenship Day to assist eligible Legal Permanent Residents apply

for US citizenship.

If you are interested in becoming a US citizen, and attending this event, it is very important that you first call John Rattigan at 617-542-7654, Ext. 15, as you will need to bring some documents to ensure that you are eligible.

The collaboration also includes Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center; Centro Latino; College Bound Dorchester; Irish International Immigrant Center; Jewish Vocational Service; and Massachusetts Association of Portuguese Speakers.

The benefits of becoming a citizen include:

**Civic Engagement:** Voting, eligibility for a federal job, and becoming an elected official

**Family:** Bringing family members to the US, obtaining citizenship for children abroad

**Ease of travel:** US passport benefits, visa, foreign services

**Security:** Protection against future restrictions for permanent residents (e.g., SSI, food stamps and Medicaid)

**Financial:** The N-400 carries a one-time fee whereas the I-90 needs to be renewed every 10 years.

Note that you will do not lose your Irish citizenship by becoming a US citizen!

We encourage you to take the first step on becoming a US citizen by calling John. We will do our best to help you.

**IIIC Learning Exchange Programs** – The IIIC continue to manage the Wider Horizons pro-

grams here in Boston. We currently are hosting a group of 18-28 year-olds from the Tyrone and Donegal Partnership, and are gearing up to for the arrival of our Clanrye group in early September. Jude Clarke reports that we are receiving a record number of applications for the J1-IWT visa, and our director of intern placements, Megan Carroll, is making great progress in matching our interns with placements. Our volunteers are doing an amazing job in contributing to the program. We are sorry to say goodbye to Mark Fitzgerald, who has interned with us from the University of Limerick. Best wishes, Mark, on all your studies back home.

**IIIC Wellness and Education Services**

– The IIIC offers free counseling, health clinics, job skills workshops, and other resources to immigrants. Danielle Owen, a licensed substance abuse counselor, can assist you if you are experiencing issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence, anxiety, depression, lack of access to health care, or homelessness. Please contact Danielle, at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14 or at [down@iicenter.org](mailto:down@iicenter.org). All calls will be treated confidentially.

**Free Health Screening: Mon., Sept. 26, 3-6 p.m.** – The IIIC in partnership with the Cathedral of The Holy Cross (Cathedral Cares), and Cumann Airigh, Runchara Na hIreann (Association of Irish Caregivers and Con-

fidants) invite you to a free Health Screening at 100 Franklin Street on 9/26 between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. This is a great opportunity for you to get your blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol checked along with a free dental screening. Experts will also be available to answer your questions on health insurance. The event is open to all. Appointments are recommended, but drop-ins are welcome. Please call Kielan at 617-542-7654, Ext. 42, to make an appointment.

**Q.P.R.: Suicide Prevention & Intervention – Free Workshop – Aug. 31, 6 p.m.** – We invite you to attend our next QPR Suicide Prevention Training on Wed., Aug. 31, at the IIIC in Downtown Boston, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer, three steps that you can learn to help save a life from suicide. The workshop is 90 minutes. Please call Kielan at 617-542-7644 to register.

**Our Stories ~ Our Lives: A Community Reflection of September 11** – On Sun, Sept. 11, the Irish International Immigrant Center in partnership with the Malden Irish American Club will be hosting an afternoon of storytelling, music, and Irish dancing to remember the event that changed our lives, honor those we've lost on September 11, and celebrate the resilience of this great nation. Please join us between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the Club in Malden.

## Matters Of Substance

### Growing Older with Alcohol and Medications

BY DANIELLE OWEN  
IIIC STAFF

My Dad is 70 and has always been very healthy. It has only been in the last year, since my mam died, that I've noticed he is not doing so well, but it's hard to put my finger on what is wrong. I keep finding bruises on his arms that he can't always explain, he rarely wants to come out with my daughter and me at the weekends, seems to have more memory lapses (like forgetting he took his meds and taking double the dose), says he is not sleeping well, forgets to eat and doesn't always notice wearing the same outfit a few days in a row.

He insists he is fine and that I'm just 'fussing' but something doesn't feel right. What should I do?

A. It is very difficult to see someone we love, who used to be self-sufficient, become gradually less so as they age. It is especially difficult when this person used to take care of us, and now we find our roles reversing. It is completely normal for you and your dad to experience some resistance to this change. However, some of the symptoms you have mentioned could indicate a problem he may be having with his medications and/or perhaps his alcohol intake. It might also be helpful to keep in mind that your dad may still be grieving the loss of your mother last year. Do you think he could be experiencing depression, taking more medication than usual (like meds to

help him sleep), or using alcohol in a harmful way?

As we grow older, our bodies respond differently to alcohol and medication than when we were younger. It's helpful to be aware that some of your dad's current medications may not be mixing well with others, like over the counter meds or herbal remedies, and most medications do not mix well with alcohol. It may seem strange to mention alcohol specifically, but in my experience, some of the symptoms you note potentially indicate a problem. According to SAMHSA & CSAT, signals for concern include:

- Memory trouble after having a drink or taking medicine
- Loss of coordination (walking unsteadily, frequent falls)
- Changes in sleeping habits
- Unexplained bruises
- Irritability, sadness, depression
- Changes in eating habits
- Wanting to stay alone a lot of the time
- Failing to bathe or keep clean
- Having trouble finishing sentences or concen-



**Danielle Owen**  
trating

•Difficulty staying in touch with family or friends

•Lack of interest in usual activities

If you have noticed any of the above, it might be helpful to chat with your dad about your concerns, showing him this list. If he still insists there is nothing to worry about, chat with your own doctor, get advice from your local Senior Center or program, or perhaps your spiritual advisor. The Irish Pastoral Centre runs a great senior program, and you can call Cora Flood to learn more at 617-479-7404. You can also confidentially contact me, a licensed counselor, at the Irish International Immigrant Center (617-542-7654, Ext. 14, or via e-mail at [down@iicenter.org](mailto:down@iicenter.org)).



Irish International  
Immigrant Center

100 Franklin St., Lower Level 1, Boston, Massachusetts 02110  
Enter at 60 Arch Street or 201 Devonshire Street  
Tel: (617) 542-7654 • Fax: (617) 542-7655 • [www.iicenter.org](http://www.iicenter.org)

### Immigration and Citizenship Services - Free Legal Clinics:

**Aug. 30, 6 p.m.:** The South Boston Labouré Center, 275 West Broadway, South Boston.

**Sept. 6 – 4 p.m.-6 p.m.:** The IIIC, 100 Franklin Street, Boston.

**Sept. 12 – 6:30 p.m.:** Green Briar Pub Brighton.

**Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m.:** St. Mark's Parish (Church Basement) 1725 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester.

### IMMIGRATION LAW

FOLEY LAW OFFICES, P.C.

Attorney John Philip Foley

Permanent Residency & Citizenship • Family & Business  
Immigration • Labor Certification & Temporary Visas  
ALL Nationalities & AILA Members

(617) 973-6448



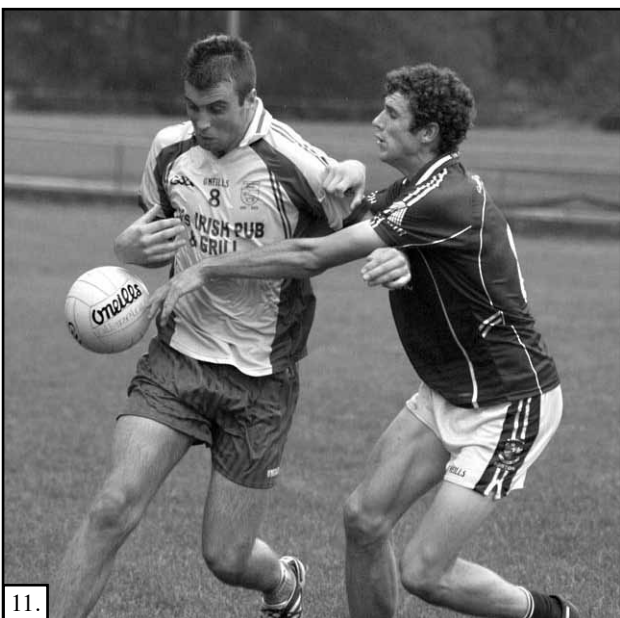
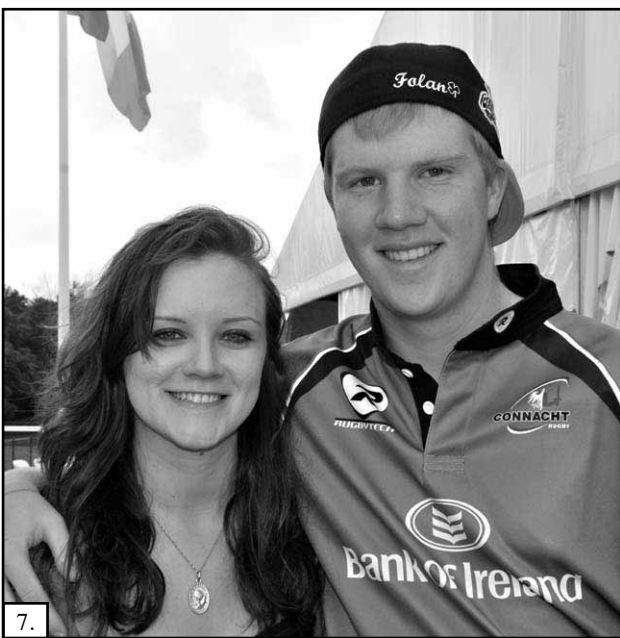
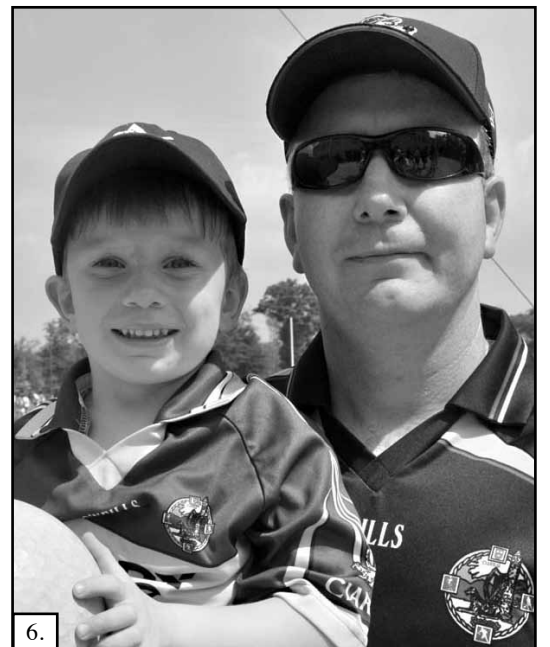
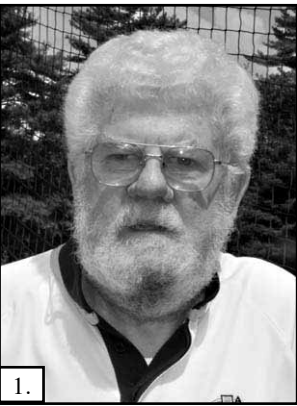
# BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The Irish Cultural Centre in Canton played host last month to the annual O'Neill's Continental Youth Competition, which over four days featured more than 100 teams with players aged 6 to 18 from the US, Canada, England, and Ireland competing in the traditional sports of Gaelic football, hurling, and camogie. The BIR's Harry Brett was on hand to record some of the the proceedings.

1.) Connie Kelly, PR Officer for Kerry football club; 2.) Nianh McManus, Westmeath; 3.) John O'Driscoll, Quincy, coaching under 10 year olds; 4.) Martin and Aine McDonagh with children Roisin and Fioina, Quincy; 5.) Paul and Erica Boyce with children Fionn and Liam, Braintree; 6.) Seamus with dad Shane; 7.) Kate Lee, Dorchester; Sean Folan, Dorchester; 8.) Michelle Pafundi, So. Boston; Alieecia Lewis, W. Roxbury; Fawn Lofton, Medford; 9.) Rory Moore, Stoughton; John Connolly, Canton; Pat Kelly, Milton; 10.) young players; 11.) footballers; 12.) Mai Gallagher, Needham; Jal Peters, Quincy; Denise Murray, Milton; Sr. Marguerite Kelly, Irish Pastoral Centre.



# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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

## From Boston College, a Man For All Seasons

By R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Actor, singer, pianist and director Will McGarrahan has been part of Boston's theater community for more than a decade. During that time, he has established himself as one of the city's most reliable and diverse talents. He's an accomplished musician, gifted at comedy, and he can just about stop your heart with a dramatic moment. A graduate of Boston College, he has appeared at Lyric Stage Company, Gloucester Stage, Publick Theatre, and Nora Theatre, among others, in everything from "A Moon For The Misbegotten" to "Grey Gardens," "Some Men," "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," "9 Circles," "The Last

Sunday in June" and "A Class Act."

On Sept. 16, he returns to SpeakEasy Stage Company to open the season in "Next Fall." Written by Geoffrey Nauffts and nominated for a Tony Award in 2010, the play looks at the ups and downs of an unlikely gay couple's four-year relationship with humor and honesty.

In the play, Luke (played by Dan Roach) is devoutly religious. Adam, (played by Will) does not believe in God at all. A crisis changes everything in their lives while giving new insight into what and how we believe.

The *New York Times* called the play "an intellectual stealth bomb" with the "stinging breeziness of a cosmopolitan comedy."

When Will read the play, he not only found it funny, but could see himself in the role of Adam.

"He certainly has my rhythms," he said. "What's interesting about the play is that we all end up [dealing] with the prejudices of people who are very religious . . . It's not only between two people, it's really how you exist in the bigger community and the smaller community. How people label, and people get judgment, and all that."

Performing first beckoned while Will was still in middle school just outside of Albany, New York. "I was always doing theater since I knew what theater was," he said.

Music entered the picture around the same time, first with the violin. "That was a total disaster," he said. Next came the

flute. "I still wasn't very good at it." And finally, the piano. "We had a piano in the house which my folks bought for my sisters . . . I started taking lessons. And then I was like, 'Oh, I get how music works. This goes up and this goes down' and it all made sense."

He made his professional acting debut at the Four Seasons Dinner Theater in Albany playing Yonkers in "Gypsy." "I think I was 16 at the time. I don't know what they paid us. \$20 a week? Something like that." His first union job followed with a summer production of Neil Simon's "Biloxi Blues" at Lake George.

He then tried his luck in New York City. Calling the experience frustrating and tiring of



Will McGarrahan returns to the SpeakEasy Stage Company on Sept. 16 in "Next Fall."

sublet after sublet, he headed to Seattle. "I'd never been there, I didn't know anyone there," he said. In his mind, he saw the city as gray and cloudy. Having spent a couple of months in

(Continued on page 12)

## GAELIC ROOTS SCHEDULE SET

### Legendary Derrane will be honored

A special tribute to the legendary Joe Derrane – and a performance by the Boston-born Irish accordionist and composer himself – will highlight this fall's Gaelic Roots Music, Dance, and Lecture series. The series, under the direction of Sullivan Artist-in-Residence Séamus Connolly, also will feature "The Musical Priest," Monsignor Charlie Coen, fiddle-piano duo Gráinne Murphy and Kathleen Boyle, and a program of holiday music by harpist Aine Minogue.

This fall also will introduce a new venue for Gaelic Roots, which is sponsored by the Boston College Center for Irish Programs and features music from Ireland, Scotland, Cape Breton, Appalachia as well as other Gaelic-related traditions. Unless otherwise noted, Gaelic Roots events – previously held in Connolly House on BC's Chestnut Hill Campus – will now take place at 2101 Commonwealth Avenue on the BC Brighton Campus.

A look at this fall's Gaelic Roots schedule:

#### •"The Genius and Growing Impact of Joe Derrane"

Thurs., Sept. 22, Gasson Hall Irish Room, 7-9 p.m.

Since his historic comeback in 1994, Derrane has released seven celebrated albums, received a National Heritage Fellowship (2004), and was the subject of "A Concert for the Ages" all-star tribute last November. This living legend of Irish music will be the special guest of distinguished *Wall Street Journal* and *Irish Echo* music writer Earle Hitchner and Berklee College of Music Professor of Strings John McGann, an award-winning guitarist and mandolinist and a frequent Derrane collaborator. This combined lecture/concert will feature presentations by Hitchner and McGann about Derrane's recent music and expanding influence, commentary from Derrane himself, a live performance of some Derrane tunes and others by McGann with Connolly, and never-



A tribute to legendary Boston accordionist Joe Derrane kicks off this fall's Gaelic Roots series at Boston College.

Sean Smith photo

before-seen film footage of "A Concert for the Ages."

#### •Monsignor Charlie Coen Thurs., Oct. 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The southeast Galway native – whose nickname derives, appropriately enough, from a classic Irish traditional reel – is an accomplished singer and performer on concertina, flute and whistle, as well as one of the most revered Irish music teachers and mentors. Monsignor Coen also has drawn acclaim as an organizer and leader of Irish music concerts, sessions and other events, whether in his former parish in Dutchess County, NY, or elsewhere. His honors include being selected as Traditional Musician of the Year for 2005 by the Irish Echo and as a member of the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Mid-Atlantic Region Hall of Fame.

#### •Gráinne Murphy and Kathleen Boyle

Tuesday, November 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

A native of Boston and a former student of Seamus Connolly, Murphy is known to many Irish music fans as the fiddler for the long-popular Irish-American band Cherish the Ladies. Her first solo album, "Short Sto-

ries," was released last year and garnered positive reviews. Born in Scotland, Boyle comes from a family steeped in the traditional music of Donegal – her grandmother, fiddler Néillidh Boyle, composed the "Moving Cloud" reel. A talented pianist and accordion player who has won All-Scotland and All-Britain titles on both instruments, she released her well-received first solo album, "An Cailin Rua," during the past year.

#### •Aine Minogue Thursday, December 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

A native of Tipperary, Minogue is widely recognized as a premier Irish harpist and singer who conveys the lyricism and richness of Irish music, mythology, and poetry. Minogue also is attuned to the traditions, rituals, and celebrations associated with the ancient Celtic world, and often presents special concerts that evoke a particular season or major theme. For her Gaelic Roots show, she will offer music of the winter solstice and Christmas, with tunes and carols that have roots in ancient traditions of the British Isles such as "The Horn Dance" and "Hunting the Wren," and a performance in



Aine Minogue will present music of the winter solstice and Christmas.

Gaelic of "Óiche Chuain," the Irish version of "Silent Night."

All concerts are free and open to the public. There is free parking available adjacent to 2101 Commonwealth Avenue, which is handicapped accessible. For more on the Gaelic Roots series, see [bc.edu/gaelicroots](http://bc.edu/gaelicroots).

### Keith Murphy strikes out on a new path

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

All good things must pass, but sometimes they leave other good things in their wake. So it is with the popular New England traditional band Nightingale, which last month rang down the curtain after nearly two decades. Nightingale singer/guitarist/mandolinist/pianist Keith Murphy, however, is already at work on a new solo project, of which he will offer a sneak preview later this month at Club Passim in Harvard Square.

Murphy – a collaborator with Matt and Shannon Heaton, Liz Carroll, Martin O'Connor, Winifred Horan, Hanneke Casse, Lissa Schneckenburger and Childsplay, among others – will appear as part of a double bill on Sept. 22 at Club Passim with flutist Shannon Heaton and harpist Maeve Gilchrist.

A native Newfoundlander who lives in Vermont, Murphy has been a major influence in the folk music community as a teacher as well as a performer for his percussively rhythmic guitar style and distinctive chordal mandolin playing, and is at home in many traditions, from Irish to French to Canadian to Scottish. He also is considered a resource for his views on interpreting and arranging traditional music, and produced the album by Boston area Scottish/Cape Breton band Tri.

Murphy, along with his wife, the fiddler Becky Tracy, and accordionist/pianist Jeremiah McLane, began playing together as Nightingale in 1993, and proved equally adept at filling concert halls as well as contra dance halls throughout New England. Listeners and dancers alike appreciated the trio's sterling music ability and their canny selection and arrangements of tunes or songs; Murphy's clear, unaffected singing voice and vast repertoire of songs – along with his use of foot percussion – heightened Nightingale's appeal. The band recorded four albums, the last of which (as it turns out), "Jolie," was released in 2009.

There was no acrimony involved in the decision to retire Nightingale, Murphy says.

(Continued on page 15)

SBLI has earned an A+ (Superior)\*  
rating year after year from A.M. Best

# We're Covered for Life

Life Insurance for Your Team at Home



Heidi and Tedy Bruschi

When I had a stroke at age 31—just days after winning my third championship—it was a reminder that no matter how perfect things may seem today, you never know what's coming tomorrow. That's why my wife Heidi and I called SBLI. Now our most important team—our team at home—is prepared for the unexpected.

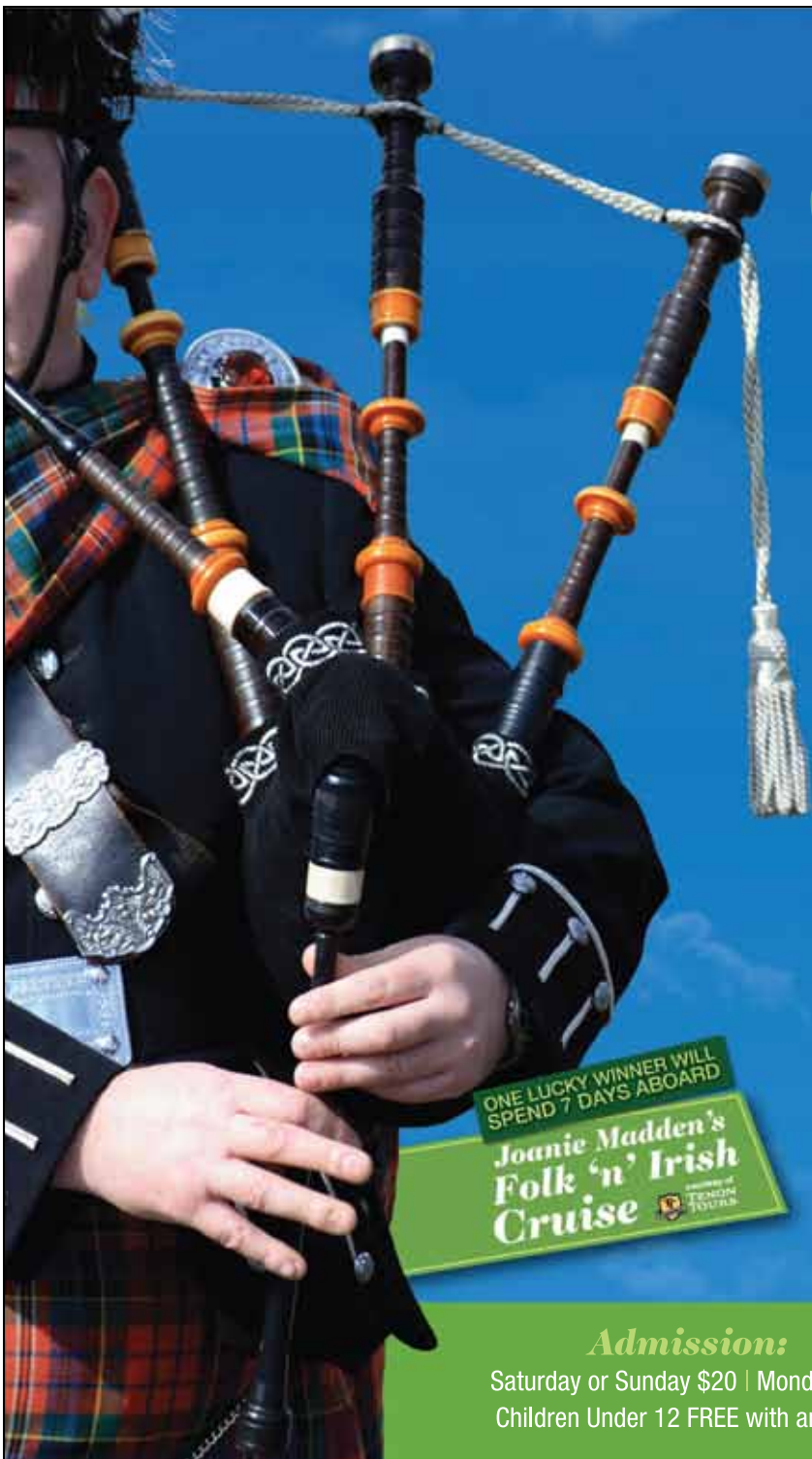
**SBLI**® THE NO NONSENSE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY®

1-888-GET-SBLI

[www.SBLI.com](http://www.SBLI.com)

\* Visit [www.ambest.com](http://www.ambest.com) to learn more.

SBLI and The No Nonsense Life Insurance Company are registered trademarks of The Savings Bank Life Insurance Company of Massachusetts.  
© 2010 The Savings Bank Life Insurance Company of Massachusetts, Woburn, MA. All rights reserved.



ONE LUCKY WINNER WILL SPEND 7 DAYS ABOARD  
**Joanie Madden's Folk 'n' Irish Cruise**  
UNIVERSITY OF TENDON TOURS

## Newport Waterfront **Irish** FESTIVAL

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

# September 3-5

SATURDAY 12-9 | SUNDAY 12-8 | MONDAY 12-5

**Featuring 5 Stages**  
OF ROLLICKING IRISH ENTERTAINMENT  
*with performances by:*

- EILEEN IVERS • CALLEY MCGRANE & THE EXILES
- THE TOWN PANTS • SCREAMING ORPHANS • POGY
- TARTAN TERRORS • THE MAKEM & SPAIN BROTHERS

**& many more!**

**Plus:** THE BEST OF IRISH FOOD & DRINK | CULTURAL EXHIBITS | TRADITIONAL IRISH STEP-DANCE PIPE & DRUM PERFORMANCES | KIDS' ACTIVITIES | IRISH MARKETPLACE FOR HANDCRAFTED GOODS

**Admission:**

Saturday or Sunday \$20 | Monday \$17  
Children Under 12 FREE with an Adult

AT THE NEWPORT YACHTING CENTER | DOWNTOWN NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

**Call or Click for Tickets \* 401.846.1600**  
**NEWPORTWATERFRONTEVENTS.COM**

# From Boston College, a Man For All Seasons

(Continued from page 10) Ireland one summer, he imagined, "Oh, it'll be like Dublin. It's nothing like Dublin," he deadpanned. "I needed to try something new. Looking back on it, it was [something] really important for me to do. It was about being a grown up and paying the rent and paying for food and checking out how to make your life work and all that." A solid career followed.

Thirteen years later, Boston would resurface in his life. Paul Daigneault, whom he'd known when they were both students at BC, had subsequently founded SpeakEasy Stage. In 1999, he invited Will to take a role in the William Finn musical "A New Brain." Daigneault would later ask him to direct Stephen Sondheim's

"Saturday Night" in 2001. He's been here ever since, building a loyal following whether he's center stage, behind the piano, or both, as he was when he won critical acclaim in "Souvenir" at Lyric Stage with Leigh Barrett.

Of the range of shows he's appeared in, he said, "There's some material that's more crowd pleasing than others. And there are shows that you hear people talking about years later. And you kind of go, 'Oh, you still remember that?'"

One show that really clicked with audiences and critics alike was "Five By Tenn," an evening of five intense one act plays by Tennessee Williams, which SpeakEasy presented in 2006. Another was last spring's "The

Drowsy Chaperone," also at SpeakEasy. Billed as a musical within a comedy, "Chaperone" is filled with sharp humor and lots of quirky show business references. Will played a musical theater-loving character called Man In Chair who serves as a sort of narrator for the show, speaking directly to the audience throughout.

Of the strong response, he said "I'm still getting it. People are stopping me on the street, on the sidewalk. And not just in the South End. Anywhere in Boston. And it's not just 'I saw you in 'Drowsy Chaperone' and it was good.' They make a big deal about it. It's interesting. Certainly 'Drowsy Chaperone' wants to be liked. Something like 'Five by Tenn' or 'Moon For The Misbegotten' is

not something that says 'Love Me.'"

While some actors tend to carve out a niche for themselves in one area -- comedy, drama, musicals -- Will's career has really been an interesting blend of everything. "I really do try and make an effort to keep swapping it up," he said. "Some of that you can't really control, but I do try . . . I always say, I think I do several things really mediocre. And that's a talent," he said with a hearty laugh.

For someone who's spent his life in a business that, while rewarding, can be fraught with emotional highs and lows, McGarran is very focused and low key. When I told him he had a refreshingly pragmatic attitude toward his work, he gave a throaty laugh and af-

firmed, "Yes I do."

"I'm kind of practical," he said. "You learn after a while. You go to an audition. This is what I'm selling. This is who I am. These are my skills . . . If that's what you want, you will hire me. And if not, you won't. And that's okay . . . I certainly have had a nice variety of things to do in the theater, which I love."

R. J. Donovan is publisher of *OnStageBoston.com*.

\*\*\*

"Next Fall," from SpeakEasy Stage Company, Sept. 16-October 15 at The Calderwood Pavilion at The Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street. Tickets: 617-933-8600 or [bostontheatrescene.com](http://bostontheatrescene.com).



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

— SEAN SMITH

**Time for a ceilidh, BCMFest-style** – BCMFest's monthly series at Club Passim in Harvard Square will take on a different look for September 12. Instead of a concert, Celtic Music Monday will present a "BCMFest Ceilidh," an opportunity for friends and supporters of BCMFest – and anyone who would like to learn more about BCMFest – to gather together and enjoy the evening. Bring instruments, songs, stories and jokes to share.

"The night will kick off with a session and develop into a full-blown ceilidh," says BCMFest Board member Laura Cortese, who is co-organizing the event. "The idea is to relax and chat, and enjoy a night with old and new friends."

Members of the BCMFest Board will be on hand, along with others who have contributed their time and talents to BCMFest over the years, to chat informally about the festival and other BCMFest activities.

Admission is free to the "BCMFest Ceilidh." Beer, wine and food will be available for purchase.

**BCMFest 2012 update** – The BCMFest Board met last month to pore through performer applications for the 2012 festival, which takes place Jan. 6 and 7. Board members were once again impressed by the diversity of submissions, and the overall fine quality of the musicians and singers who sent in applications.

The 2012 festival line-up, and other details, will be announced in a few weeks. Be sure to check [bcmfest.com](http://bcmfest.com) for updates.

**Keep in touch** – News and updates on BCMFest events are available on [bcmfest.com](http://bcmfest.com), and you can also sign up for the BCMFest e-mail list. You can also follow BCMFest on Facebook and Twitter [[www.twitter.com/bcmfest](http://www.twitter.com/bcmfest)].

## World Famous Mr. Dooley's Now in Wrentham!

Real Irish Country Feel  
Traditional Irish Fare  
Live Music &  
Entertainment Nightly  
Irish Breakfast Daily  
Sunday Brunch  
Prime Rib Specials

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
MON-FRI 12PM-1AM : SAT-SUN 11AM-1AM  
SPACE FOR FUNCTIONS & PRIVATE PARTIES  
DINE IN OR TAKE OUT

303 SHEARS ST., WRENTHAM MA - TEL: 508.384.3457  
[WWW.MRDOOLEYSWRENTHAM.COM](http://WWW.MRDOOLEYSWRENTHAM.COM)

Erin's Own
Let Our Family  
Take Care of Yours

HOME HEALTH CARE INC.

Home Health Aides, Companions,  
Fully Screened, State Licensed

617-479-8984

Ann Holland Sheila O'Connell  
P.O. Box 690382 Quincy, MA 02269  
eMail: [erinsown@verizon.net](mailto:erinsown@verizon.net)  
[ErinsOwnHomeHealthCare.com](http://ErinsOwnHomeHealthCare.com)

# MILTON MONUMENT COMPANY INC.

BRONZE MARKERS • CEMETERY LETTERING

"Serving Greater Boston since 1971"

1060 N. MAIN ST., RANDOLPH, MA 02368  
phone: **781-963-3660**  
fax: **781-986-8004**  
[www.miltonmonuments.com](http://www.miltonmonuments.com)  
email: [memilton@aol.com](mailto:memilton@aol.com)



# Simon of Cyrene Breakfast

*"Every time I think of you I thank God... God is the one who began this good work in you..."*  
- St. Paul. Letter to the Phillipians

The annual Simon of Cyrene Breakfast will be dedicated in memory of Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell, co-founder with Sister Peggy Youngclaus. Father Tom passed away on June 14, 2009.

**The Breakfast will be served  
Sunday Sept 11, 2011  
Anthony's Pier 4  
9 a.m- 12 noon**



The committee will continue the mission that Fr. Tom initiated, "Making the Goodness of God alive by sharing, instructing, advising, consoling, feeling and praying with the community of people who are disabled and their families."

The Society continues the monthly Days of Prayer in Somerville at the Little Sisters of the Poor, and the Family Masses in South Boston. This summer, some 125 persons from 25 families were able to enjoy the Cape Cod vacation houses in Brewster.

We do realize that there are many demands on your goodness and generosity in this difficult year, and we appreciate the faithful support in the past and hope that it can continue. Please join us at Pier 4 on September 11.

Breakfast tickets are \$40.00. Donations may be made to the Simon of Cyrene Society, P.O. Box 54, South Boston, MA 02127.

**SIMON OF CYRENE SOCIETY**



## Irish sessions

Join us at **Gerard's Restaurant**  
for food, drink, and fun.  
Wednesday nights from 6-9



### GERARD'S ADAMS CORNER

772 - 776 Adams Street  
Dorchester, MA 02124  
617-282-6370



WHERE IN THE WORLD  
CAN YOU FIND  
NEWS ABOUT OURSELVES  
& OUR TOWN

[WWW.BOSTONIRISH.COM](http://WWW.BOSTONIRISH.COM)



"Mrs. O'Brien"

Vincent CroTTY



Mrs. O'Brien Oil 8" x 10" 2005

Mrs. O'Brien, Oil 8" x 10, 2005

## Aisling Gallery & Framing

229 Lincoln Street (Rt. 3A) Hingham, Massachusetts, 02043  
800-752-9389

Hours: Tues. - Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Sunday noon - 5:00 pm  
email: [aisling@tiac.net](mailto:aisling@tiac.net) • [www.aisling-gallery.com](http://www.aisling-gallery.com)

## Geraghty ASSOCIATES PROPERTY MANAGERS

Studio and 1-Bedroom Apartments Available in the desirable Cedar Grove section of Dorchester.

Studios reasonably priced at \$750;

1-bedroom units at \$925; heat and hot water included.

Short walk to the Red Line.

Free off-street Parking.

Washing Machines and Dryers in building.

Call Michael at 617-364-4000

**GERAGHTY ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
Property Managers

P.O. Box 52, Readville, MA 02137-0052  
Tel: 617-364-4000 Fax: 617-364-3157



## Traveling People

## Cobh Heritage Centre exudes pride of Irish heritage

By JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The Irish are understandably proud of their heritage with all its heroes and events and characters. And probably nowhere is that pride more evident than at the Cobh Heritage Centre in Co. Cork, located in an old Victorian railroad station on the harbor there. Cobh, as many know, started out as a town called Cove, thanks to its location in the cove of Cork, on a hill on the southern shore of Great Island in the townland of Ballyvaloon.

Cove gained prominence as a naval and military base during the American War of Independence and the Napoleonic Wars and was the departure point for more than 1.5 million Irish who left their homes between 1845 and 1851.

On Aug. 3, 1849, Queen Victoria stepped onto Irish soil for the very first time and the town was renamed Queenstown in her honor. After Irish independence from Britain in 1920, the town was renamed Cobh (the Irish for Cove) and pronounced the same.

The Heritage Centre offers fascinating exhibits about the town, the history of the famine and emigration aboard the so-called coffin ships, and the convict ships that between 1791 and 1853 carried some 30,000 men and 9,000 women from Cobh to Australia, and also has fascinating exhibits on the Titanic and Lusitania. The Centre has also produced a booklet to help trace Irish ancestry that can be purchased by contacting [info@cobhheritage.com](mailto:info@cobhheritage.com) or by visiting the website, [cobhheritage.com](http://cobhheritage.com).

So, that's a brief history of this interesting harborside town and a little rundown on all you can see at the Heritage Centre, a local attraction that is well worth a visit as is that entire area of Co. Cork. There are so many wonderful attractions there, including Fota Wildlife Park, Jameson distillery in Middleton, the towns of Youghal, Kinsale, Clonakilty, Bandon and much more. There is great food to be found in that area too, especially in Kinsale, known as the Gourmet



A sobering sign at the Cobh Heritage Museum noting the departure of more than three million Irish through Queenstown (now Cobh) between 1815 and 1970. (Judy Enright photos)

Capital of Ireland. The 35th Kinsale Gourmet Festival – sponsored this year and last by Bollinger Champagne – is planned for Oct. 7-9 and is a great take if you're in the area.

The Heritage Centre is a fascinating place to visit and offers an excellent restaurant as well as clothing and gift shops and more. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. from May 1 to Nov. 1 (Monday to Saturday) and Sundays and bank holidays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Last admission is at 5 p.m. New this summer are walking tours of Spike Island that leave from Kennedy Pier at noon on weekends. Tickets are available at the Heritage Centre.

#### IRISH FOOD

We often rave about the outstanding meals we've had in Ireland and, if you plan a visit, please note that the non-profit agency, Good Food Ireland, recently published a "digitally enhanced" touring guide. The guide, they say, is unique because the printed edition can connect to a digital version via a mobile phone app and smartphone users will be guided to the nearest quality restaurants in their area.

Restaurants, pubs, cafes, hotels, and cooking schools are listed and all are committed to locally sourced ingredients so the food is not only fresh and delicious but their commitment also supports local farmers, food producers, and fishermen.

Two of my personal favorites in Co. Mayo are on the Good Food list – Café Rua in Castlebar where they serve consistently delicious luncheons (take home some Spotted Dog Bread and Lemon Cake if you go) and Kelly's Butch-

ers in Newport, which wins worldwide competitions regularly with their homemade sausages that come in assorted flavors, including leek and tomato and garlic and more. They are consistently excellent.

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

#### EDEN AWARD

We attended the 2010 opening of the Great Western Greenway in Co. Mayo – that stretched from Newport to Mullranny at the time – and were delighted to hear that the Greenway now extends from Westport to Achill Island and that it recently won the 2011 EDEN (European Destinations of Excellence) prize for excellence.

The website ([mulranny.ie/what-is-eden/](http://mulranny.ie/what-is-eden/)) says, "Ireland has always been known throughout the world as an excellent tourism destination. Now it's home to five official European Destinations of Excellence too – and all are perfect for a short break." In addition to the Greenway, other projects that have won EDEN awards since 2006 are: Clonakilty District, Co. Cork; Carlingford and the Cooley peninsula, Co. Louth; Sheep's Head Way, West Cork, and Loop Head Peninsula, Co. Clare.

Each year, there is an EDEN competition and winners are chosen for their natural beauty, cultural life, and commitment to sustainable tourism.

The Greenway, along an old railway bed, is a 42-km off-road walking, running and cycling track. Its construction required the cooperation of every landowner along the way. Great credit goes to all those who appreciated the concept and agreed to let the Greenway cross through their fields and



A statue outside the Cobh, Co. Cork, Heritage Centre depicts Annie Moore and her two brothers, the first emigrants to be processed at Ellis Island when it officially opened in 1892. A similar statue can be found outside the NY processing center and symbolizes the many Irish who made the same long journey in steege to escape the Famine and the hardships of Irish life.

forests.

#### KILLARNEY HOUSE AND GROUNDS

We read in an Irish Times' story by Anne Lucey recently that "Some 5.2-million euro from the Tourism capital fund, administered by Fáilte Ireland, has been announced for the restoration of Killarney House and pleasure grounds. The 18th-century town house, and its 19th-century pleasure gardens overlooking the lakes of Killarney were originally part of a chateau-style building that was donated to the state by the McShain family, American philanthropists who bought it from the Kenmare family, local Earls and landlords. It is at the gateway to the Killarney National Park."

But, Killarney House had fallen on hard times in recent years. A story in *The Irish Examiner* added, "Its continuing state of disrepair was a near embarrassment for the Government." After being given to the state, the house had been left to deteriorate and had

become a den for squatters and drinking parties.

The property, a short walk from Killarney's town center, was given to the state in 1998 by Philadelphians John and Mary McShain, who lived at Killarney House for many years after they bought the house and 25,000 acres in 1952. John retired in 1978 and died at Killarney House in 1989. Mary died there in 1998. Their only child, Pauline, is a Roman Catholic nun.

The newspaper stories said that new funding will allow for development of an exhibition and cultural center and that rooms will be restored with original furnishings. The massive project is being undertaken by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS.)

The adjoining pleasure gardens will also be restored and an interpretive center for Killarney National Park will be developed there. The 5.2-million euro is the largest single investment for a tourism project in 2011. Several tourism and heri-

tage spokesmen said they hoped the project would create jobs, stimulate the local economy, and boost tourism in the area.

#### ACTIVITIES

- The Galway International Oyster Festival will be held from Sept. 22-25. See the website [galway-oysterfest.com](http://galway-oysterfest.com), for details.

- Also in Co. Galway on the same dates is the Portumna Shorelines Arts Festival from Sept. 22-25. See [shorelinesartsfestival.com](http://shorelinesartsfestival.com) for more.

- In Longford Town, Co. Longford, from Sept. 22-25, stop by the Johnny Keenan Banjo Festival, named for legendary Irish musician Johnny Keenan, and listen to some tunes. The festival celebrates culture and friendship through the medium of music, in particular the relationship of Irish music to American bluegrass music. Visit [johnnykeenan.com](http://johnnykeenan.com) for more information.

#### VISITING

Whenever you choose to travel to Ireland, you'll find so much to do and so many interesting places to visit. There are, sadly, fewer and fewer direct flights from Boston to Shannon on Aer Lingus – especially during the fall and winter months.

Be sure to hop online and visit the airline websites, car rental websites, and the Tourism Ireland website ([discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com)) to learn more about a wonderful place for a holiday at any time of year.



795 Adams St. • Dorchester

**"President's Choice"**

**Serving Lunch & Dinner  
Every day,  
7 days a week**

AUTO BODY REPAIRS

(617) 825-1760

(617) 825-2594

FAX (617) 825-7937

**Fitzpatrick Brothers**  
CORPORATION

Free Pick-Up & Delivery Service

150 Centre Street  
Dorchester, MA 02124



# CD ROUNDUP

By SEAN SMITH

**Cherish the Ladies, "Country Crossroads: The Nashville Sessions"** – The ties between Irish and American country music have been the subject of numerous recording projects in the past couple of decades, some more successful than others. (Disclaimer: The term "country," like most labels used to categorize music, is often irritatingly vague; for our purposes, think beyond the pop-and-commercial country, or singer-songwriter country, to more traditionally rooted forms like bluegrass, Appalachian, and old-timey.) But when a distinguished Irish-American music group like Cherish the Ladies decides to have a go, you can reasonably assume it will turn out pretty well. And that's exactly the case with "Country Crossroads," the release of which appropriately enough coincides with the band's 25th anniversary year.



Recorded in Nashville, the album features guest appearances and contributions by Maura O'Connell, Vince Gill, Nanci Griffith, Alison Brown, and other country music stalwarts, as well as past Cherish the Ladies members/collaborators Eileen Ivers, Liz Carroll, Deirdre Connolly, and Liz Knowles. Joanie Madden, the band's indefatigable flute and whistle player, produced the album and, one imagines, provided a lot of organizational enthusiasm.

The song selections, and the arrangements for each, are judicious and well-crafted to suit the assembled talent. O'Connell (who could sing the Nashville phone book and make it sound appealing) brings her characteristic

full-hearted style to "We Dreamed Our Dreams" – written by Richard Farrelly, composer of "The Isle of Innisfree," the theme for John Ford's legendary Irish-American movie "The Quiet Man" – and the traditional Ulster song "Verdant Braes of Screen." Gill more than does justice to Andy M. Stewart and Kathy Stewart's "Donegal Rain," while Griffith – though singing in a somewhat subdued lower register – brings a flinty charm to the ever-popular Ewan MacColl standard "Dirty Old Town." Mention must also be made of Connolly, not only for a thoroughly lovely treatment of "For Ireland I Won't Tell Her Name" but also for the harmony vocals she and Madden contribute to the other songs, notably "Verdant Braes of Screen," which – eased along by Kathleen Boyle's piano – takes on the air of an Appalachian hymn.



Madden, fiddler Grainne Murphy, and accordionist Mirella Murray spark the instrumental sets, with the able assistance of Carroll ("Woods of Old Limerick"), Ivers ("Southfork Posse") and Knowles ("Waltzing Down the Aisle"). The revelation, though, is the five-string banjo-and-dobro tandem of Brown and Rob Ickes, who niftily underscore the primary rhythm section of Boyle and guitarist-mandolinist Mary Coogan, and play a big role in giving the album its distinctive Irish-Nashville stamp.

On the long road Cherish the Ladies have traveled this past quarter-century, "Country Crossroads" is a smoothly flowing intersection.

**Ivonne Hernandez & Jeremy Walsh, "Live Off the Floor"** – Hernandez, a British Columbia native and a multiple prize-winning fiddle champion, came to Boston during the past decade to attend Berklee

College of Music. She's a founding member of the Folk Arts Quartet – an exponent of ChamberGrass, which melds traditional/roots music (Celtic, Appalachian, Scandinavian, etc.) with chamber music – and more recently has played with The Outside Track, a well-received band of young musicians representing the Canadian, Irish and Scottish folk traditions. Her partnership with guitarist-vocalist and fellow Canadian Walsh stretches back 11 years, and this nine-track CD (their first) shows why: The duo has a winning chemistry and enthusiasm that even a studio recording can convey. The tracks are a representation of their live material, which includes Irish, Scottish, and French Canadian traditional fare, as well as contemporary/original tunes and songs.

The Celtic-oriented repertoire includes a comely but not overly sentimental "Sweet Forget Me Not" and "The Rocky Road to Dublin," the latter of which is done by Walsh a cappella, which serves to highlight just how frenetic, and challenging, the song is both rhythmically and lyrically. Hernandez joins Walsh on vocals for "Sweet Forget Me Not," as well as Kieran Kane's waiting-for-my-luck-to-change lament "Dirty Little Town" and "\$400 Later," a cajun-tinged Walsh composition about poor judgment and wild nights.

Hernandez's stellar fiddling is the duo's most obvious asset, and she is in splendid form on the CD's four tune sets, and her own "Mom's Lullaby." She and Walsh glide through that venerable standard "Whiskey Before Breakfast," which the two adorn with a vocalization of the melody, and thence into Walsh's "La Visite," where he does a more elaborate vocal turn. Her virtuosic ease with different fiddle traditions is apparent in the "Swedish Jig/Fil et Bobine/Les Poules Huppées" medley, and a set of reels, "Red Haired Girl From Tulloch/Seamus O'Connell's Fancy/Leviathan."

The musical ground Hernandez and Walsh cover may strike some as so vast as to be unfocused and muddled. But their interplay and rapport with one another makes whatever it is they're playing – a French Canadian reel, an Irish standard, a foot-stomping pub song – seem perfectly suited to their talents. If a studio recording makes you want to see what the artist sounds like in concert, than "Live Off the Floor" assuredly does the job.

## Sept. 23 at Unity Somerville: Aoife Clancy and Kyle Carey

Beloved Irish singer Aoife Clancy and New Hampshire singer-songwriter Kyle Carey – whose compositions draw on the language and textures of Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton and Appalachian traditions – will appear in concert on Sept. 23 in Unity Somerville near Davis Square. The event, which begins at 8 p.m., is sponsored by Notlob Folk Concerts.

Raised in a famous Irish musical family – her father was Bobby Clancy

of the renowned Clancy Brothers – Aoife has established herself as one of the foremost "divas" of Irish and contemporary folk music, touring throughout the US and Europe as a soloist and in occasional collaborations with Robbie O'Connell and other performers. A former member of the groundbreaking all-female Irish band Cherish the Ladies, Clancy has recorded two solo CDs and appeared on numerous other recordings.

Carey's interest in folk and traditional music has taken her to such places as Cape Breton, where she studied fiddle styles and struck up a friendship with Cape Breton's fiddling legend Jerry Holland, and the Isle of Skye in Scotland, where she became immersed in Gaelic song and language. These experiences, along with other various literary influences, have served as the inspiration for her songs, such as "The Star Above Rankin's Point,"

which is based on a short story by Cape Breton author Alistair MacLeod. Her debut CD, "Monongah," was produced by former Lunasa guitarist Donogh Hennessy and

includes contributions by Aoife Clancy, Pauline Scanlon, Trevor Hutchinson and John Kirk, among others.

Unity Somerville is located on 6 Williams Street

in Somerville. Suggested donations for the concert are \$20, \$15 (advance) and \$5 student rush. For information, see [google.com/site/notlobmusic](http://google.com/site/notlobmusic).

## Keith Murphy strikes out on a new path

(Continued from page 10)

"We'd been playing less and less these last few years, really pulling back from the dance scene, because we were all so busy with other projects. Nightingale is not a casual band that can get together on a whim to do the occasional gig; it requires a level of maintenance that, increasingly, was hard to keep up.

"Given all the time and energy we'd put into the band, ending it was not a decision taken lightly. But hard as it was to let go, we realized the time had come to move on."

Even before Nightingale's finale, at the Peacham Acoustic Music Festival in Vermont, Murphy had already struck out on a new path. During the past year, he began working on a new repertoire, mainly traditional folk ballads collected in Vermont as well as songs from Newfoundland. Along the way, he began reinventing his musical approach.

"As I started looking at these new songs, I started working in a new guitar style. Before, I'd used the 'DADGAD' tuning and style almost



**Keith Murphy is taking a "road test" this month.**

exclusively, but now I was experimenting with different tunings, and it was a whole new process. I also started playing with a fingerpicking style I'd never used before. This was all very exciting, and I even found myself revisiting some older parts of my repertoire."

Murphy had done a solo project before, his "Bound for Canaan" CD that was released in 2005. But this go-round is different in many ways, he says.


"Although 'Canaan' was technically a 'solo album,' it was really an ensemble effort," says Murphy of the CD, which included appearances by Tracy, Mark Simos, Mark Roberts, and Rani Arbo. "I spent years trying to map out

the instruments and the arrangements I wanted. This is a 'real' solo project, and it's been taking place in a more concentrated period of time, so there is a certain unity to it."

While Murphy says he doesn't have any concrete recording plans yet, the series of gigs he is embarking on – including the September 22 concert – will help to "road test" the new material.

"Part of what I find exciting in my new solo material is how singing without other instrumentalists intensifies the energy of the song for me," says Murphy. "I loved the work that I did with ensembles and the effect of layered counterpoints over the singing. But it is refreshing to play and sing in a more musically stripped down way and I am reminded that many of my favorite singers did some of their best work that way: Nic Jones, Paul Brady, Dick Gaughan."

For ticket prices and other information concerning the September 22 concert with Keith Murphy, and Shannon Heaton and Maeve Gilchrist, go to [passim.org](http://passim.org).





is pleased to sponsor the


# 8th Annual BRIAN HONAN 5K

## Run/Walk 2011


### Sunday, September 25, 2011 at Noon


**Hosting & registration:**  
**TAVERN IN THE SQUARE**  
 161 Brighton Ave, Allston, MA



**For more information or to register, visit:**  
[www.BrianHonan.org](http://www.BrianHonan.org)

**PRESENTED BY:**  
 new balance 

**SPONSORED BY:**



The Brian J. Honan Charitable Fund was established to carry on Brian's commitment to the causes that he championed throughout the course of his life. With funds raised from the Brian J. Honan 5K the Charitable Fund has been able to support and foster local and national programs that support education, recreation, housing and healthcare.

# The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Last month at the end of the column we introduced the **Habitual Past Tense**.  
 The **Habitual Past** is the equivalent of “used to” as in “She used to eat eggs” and implies “but I don’t know if she eats them any more” or “She doesn’t eat them now”. Of course, you don’t have to say, “used to” in Irish and it is optional in English.  
 This **verb tense** is used to describe on-going actions or conditions in the past. Often it is used in contrast with the **Definite Past** in such sentences as, “She used to swim until the shark attacked her” or “He played the pipes for years before he lost his fingers in a traffic accident.” In the first of these sentences “used to swim” is in the **Habitual Past** and “attacked” is a **Definite Past**; in the second, “He played” will be in the **Habitual Past** but “lost” will be a **Definite Past** – each **Definite Past** will have happened once while “used to swim” and “played” went on over a longer period of time.  
 Those of you who may have studied Spanish or Portuguese will immediately see the **Past Habitual** similarity to the **Imperfect** tense of this group of languages while the **Definite Past** equates with the **Preterit**.  
 The **Definite** and **Habitual Past** always **lenite** (“aspurate”) the initial consonant. You already know that **verbs** which begin with a **vowel** or **F-** “artificially **lenite**” by prefixing **D’**. The **D’** is pronounced /d/ before a “broad” vowel or /j/ before a slender one. The same holds true for the **Habitual Past**.  
 In addition to **leniting** the initial **consonant** or **vowel** as if to make the **Definite Past**, the **Habitual Past** uses a series of **suffixes**:

- “When I./you/he/etc. was /were at university...”  
 “I used to clean my room.”  
**Ghlanainn mo sheomra.**  
 “You used to clean your room.”  
**Ghlantá do sheomra.**  
 “He used to clean his room.”  
**Ghlanadh a sheomra.**  
 “She used to clean her room.”  
**Ghlanadh a seomra.**  
 “We used to clean our room.”  
**Ghlanaimis ar seomra.**  
 “You-all used to clean your room.”  
**Ghlanadh ‘ur seomra.**  
 “They used to clean their room.”  
**Ghlanaidis a seomra.**

Remember that there are two types of **verbs** in Irish. The endings above are for “**Type 1**” **verbs** – monosyllables. “**Type 2**”, **verbs** of two syllables, use slightly different endings. Here are illustrations of “**Type 1**” **verbs** – those of one syllable.

- Glan !** “Clean !”  
**Ghlanainn mé** /GLAHN-uhn/  
**Ghlantá tú** /GLAHN-tuh/  
**Ghlanadh sé** /GLAHN-uhk/  
**Ghlanadh sí** /GLAHN-uhk/  
**Ghlanaimis muid** /GLAHN-uh-meesh/  
**Ghlanadh sibh** /GLAHN-uhk/  
**Ghlanaidis siad** /GLAHN-uh-jeesh/  
**Cuir !** “Put !”  
**Chuirainn mé** /HOOR-uhn/  
**Chuiritea tú** /HOOR-chuh/  
**Chuiradh sé** /HOOR-uhk/  
**Chuiradh sí** /HOOR-uhk/  
**Chuiraimis muid** /HOOR-uh-meesh/  
**Chuiradh sibh** /HOOR-uhk/  
**Chuiraidis siad** /HOOR-uh-jeesh/

As you can see, there will be only a difference in pronunciation for **tú** “you-singular” between those **verbs** that end in “broad” vowels (**a, o, u**) and “slender” vowels (**e, i**).  
 Two syllable **verbs** – and most two syllable **verbs** end in **-igh** - simply lose the second syllable when attaching the endings. However the endings are slightly different. In the ending for “I”, **mé**, the last vowel is accented, meaning that it is now pronounced like /een/. For “he, she” and “you-plural” the **a** is replaced by **o** with the result that **-dh**, a /k/ sound is more guttural and before “slender” vowels (**e, i**) will sound like **t**. An example is **ceannaigh** /KEYN-ee/, “buy.”

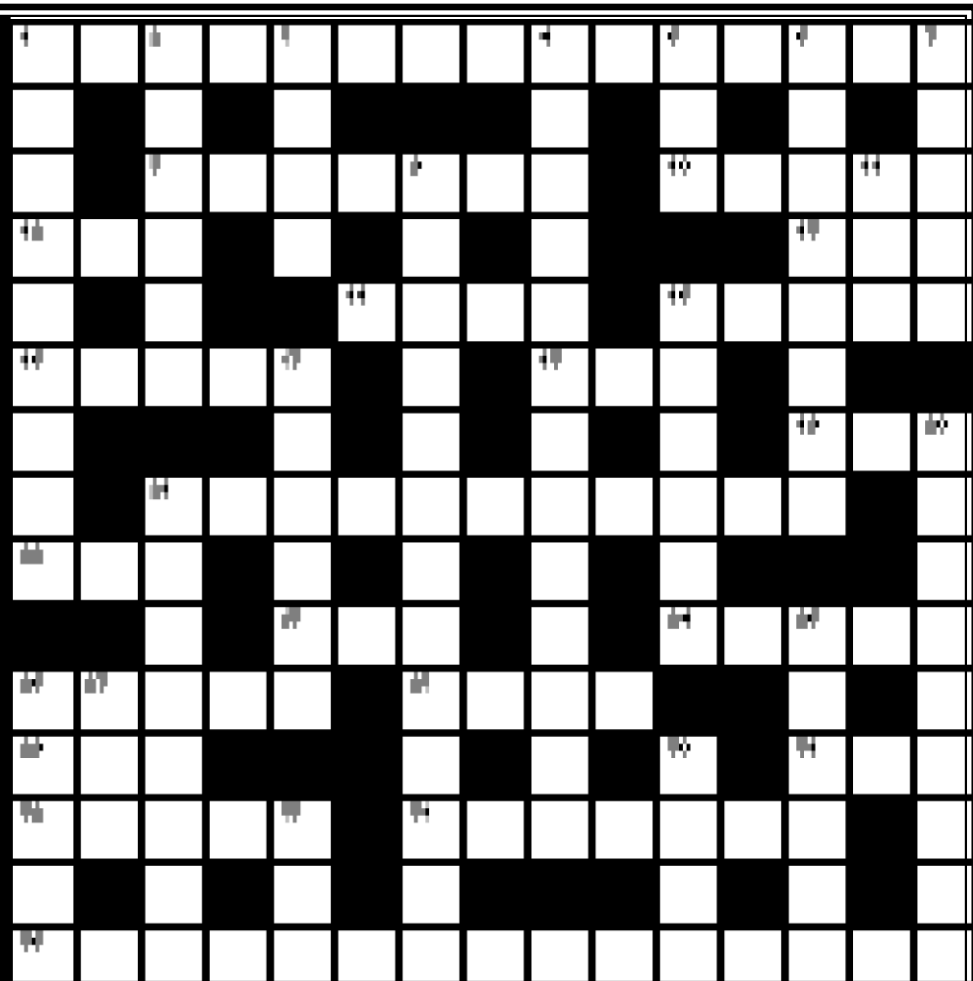
- Cheannainn mé** /HEYN-ee/ “I used to buy.”  
**Cheannaitea tú** /HEYN-ee-chah/ “You used to buy.”  
**Cheannaíodh sé** /HEYN-eet/ “He used to buy.”  
**Cheannaíodh sí** /HEYN-eet/ “She used to buy.”  
**Cheannaimis muid** /HEYN-ee-meesh/ “We used to buy.”  
**Cheannaíodh sibh** /HEYN-eet/ “You used to buy.”  
**Cheannaidis siad** /HEYN-ee-eeesh/ “They used to buy.”

We will have more to say about two-syllable verbs and the ending **-igh** in next month’s column.

- tig** “understand”  
**tóraigh** “Look for”  
**smaoinigh** “think about”  
**dúin** “Close”  
**éirigh** “get up, rise”  
**fás** “grow”  
**lean** “follow”  
**ith** “eat”  
**diol** “sell”  
**cóirigh** “arrange”

## CELTIC CROSS WORDS

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



### ACROSS

- Pounce, pray try it. (anag.) Largest inland of the thirty two, with the Golden Vale through its middle. (6,9)
- Kitchen sideboard will clothe you. (7)
- Bring car around, Al, to go to Offaly town, near Boher, where the Shrine of St. Manchan is preserved. (5)
- Public relations officer is not amateur, in short. (3)
- “You have --- too long here. Depart and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go!” Cromwell. (3)
- Pitch article on Meath’s royal hill. (4)
- ‘Tis P.C. to shake up the ancient north Britons. (5)
- “No glass of ours was ever raised to toast the ----” - Seamus Heaney. (5)
- “Great steamers white and gold, Go rolling down to ---” Rudyard Kipling. (3)
- Northern Irish part-time military that was referred in bureau draft. (1.1.1.)
- Flag, I’m alone. (anag.) Natural amphitheatre 5 miles by 3 miles in County Wicklow, where the Slaney winds through. (4,2,5)
- This time coming back through Lixnaw on Friday. (3)
- Fling high by leaving lobby. (3)
- “Praise to the Holiest in the height, and in the ---- be praise.” Cardinal Newman. (5)
- Scandinavian root? (5)
- Ancient Irish ring fort seen in Beltra Thursday. (4)
- Load of money to stuff with? (3)
- Deer eggs? (3)
- Wear in hero design. (5)
- Under mud out east and stirred for pretty Tipperary village near Killenure Castle. (7)
- Baby teeth eat her. (anag.) Dublin playhouse opened in 1904 made famous by the dramas of Synge, O’Casey, and Yeats. (3,5,7)

### DOWN

- No cap quip. (anag.) Quiet Waterford village near Mount Melleray Abbey under the Knockmealdowns. (9)
- “A crowd flowed over London Bridge, so many, I had not thought death had ---- so many.” T.S. Eliot (6)
- Return to make contact with swarm. (4)
- Ring patrol not confused with busy Laois town with the first turf-fired power station in Ireland. (13)
- And so on in Clontibret castle. (3)

- A Saul can wander through Kerry village on coast road from Inch, where Thomas Crean, of South Pole fame, lived . ( 8)
- Stay around the east to find this Irish poet with strong Sligo connections. (5)
- No sharing beds. (anag.) Single street Offaly village north of Banagher. (13)
- “Not die here in a rage like a poisoned --- in a hole.” Swift. (3)
- Do plan up to find where the zloty circulates. (6)
- Require the French to irritate. (6)
- Kale heart dismantled in Limerick market town on the River Deel, famous for brown trout. (9)
- Wore edge of Donegal resort near Dunlewy. (8)
- Licence for pet seen around broken rim. (6)
- “Though honey is ---- do not lick it off a briar.” Irish Proverb. (5)
- “Your friend the British soldier can stand up to anything, except the British --- Office.” G.B. Shaw (3)
- “Englishmen never will be slaves; they are ---- to do whatever the Government and public opinion allows them to.” G.B. Shaw (4)
- Be return, second class to go back out, in the main. (3)

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 17

## Irish Sayings ...

A narrow neck keeps the bottle from being emptied in one swig.  
 Show the fatted calf but not the thing that fattened him.  
 Marry a woman from the mountain, and you’ll marry the mountain.  
 It’s better to solve the problem than to improve the law.  
 The thing that is closest to the heart, is closest to the mouth.  
 Don’t bring your troubles to the person who hasn’t got sympathy for your case.  
 A scholar’s ink lasts longer than a martyr’s blood.  
 Take gifts with a sigh, most men give to be paid.  
 A country without a language is a country without a soul.  
 The person that isn’t strong, has to be clever.  
 Youth sheds many a skin. The steed (horse) does not retain its speed forever.

### ADVERTISEMENT

# Photography by Image Photo Service



- Weddings • Anniversaries
- Banquets • Portraits
- Reunions
- Groups • Families
- Special Occasions

(617) 291-6609

The official photographers of the Boston Irish Reporter



# Celebrating friendship, and exploration

(Continued from page 1) that timeless ballad of love ruined by toxic jealousy -- although there have been countless recordings of it throughout folkdom, the band was inspired by Johnny Cash's version.

That the band exists at all is a testament to the penchant and eagerness for exploration on the part of its members, who are already part of some very rewarding musical partnerships. Simmons is a co-founder of the alt-trad band Annalivia, and performs occasionally with guitarist and vocalist Hannah Sanders; Heaton is half of a highly popular Irish/Irish-American music duo with husband Matt; Friedman had previously played as part of a trio with American Scottish fiddler Hanneke Cassel, and has recorded two CDs with her sister Mia -- she and Heaton also perform with the ensemble Childsplay; and Blair is a member of The Sevens and a regular on the contra dance circuit (Klein played for several years with Gaelic Storm, although she had left that band by the time she joined LTC).

"Ellery and I had done some brainstorming, and played a few times; same thing with Liz and me," recalls Heaton. "It was just a natural grouping, and we felt very excited about doing something together as musicians and as friends. I thought there was really something compelling about an all-female project, after having played primarily with men.

"That's not to say that I mind playing with men; at the end of the day, I really don't care if I'm playing with men or women, as long as they are good musicians. But there is a different chemistry to playing with women, and I loved the idea of a band of all women, who could sing as well as play instruments together, and with interesting, fun arrangements. The key for me in being in Long Time Courting, though, is that they're great musicians."

The trio felt they needed a fourth instrument, says Simmons, and a cello "seemed like a perfect fit" -- and Friedman, they believed, was the right person to play it. In some ways, it was an unlikely choice, given that the classically trained Friedman (who studied cello performance from Northwestern) had only been playing folk and traditional music for a few years, in contrast to the far lengthier experience of Heaton, Simmons, and Klein. But Friedman's skills as a musician and singer were without question, says Simmons.

"What I also appreciated was that Ariel is interested in other kinds of music, namely Appalachian and old-timey, which I also like," she says. "So we were able to add that to the Irish/Celtic repertoire we had, which was very exciting. And Ariel is great at improvising, just as Shannon is wonderful at arranging -- you're always happy to find an additional element that helps your band have a distinctive sound."

"I don't know a lot about Irish traditional music," says Friedman, "but as we're exploring other genres now, including those which are more familiar to me, I can contribute my knowledge. We all share and learn from one another, and that's why I love playing with Long Time Courting."

The loss of a founding member can be a traumatizing experience for a close-knit band, but LTC was able to weather the departure of Klein -- who moved to Israel with her husband and children in 2010 -- with grace. "The transition was organic and positive, a real testament to the bond we have," says Heaton. "We talked through it, and while we were sad to lose a musician of Ellery's stature, we were very happy for her and her family to have such an incredible opportunity. We brainstormed as to who could be our new member, and Sarah was our first choice; it was Ellery's idea, too."

"They were all really good players, and a very congenial group of women," recalls Blair, who knew Klein and Simmons and was somewhat acquainted with Heaton. "I thought it would be a good experience to be in all-female band, especially one with such beautiful arrangements, particularly for their songs -- I hadn't had a lot of opportunities to play with singers. My only disappointment was that Ellery and I couldn't be in the band together."

As the other LTC members aver, Blair did more than step into the space formerly occupied by Klein; she transformed the band through the addition of her contra dance-influenced repertoire and ability, as well as overall approach to music. It's not that she made LTC "better," per se, but rather enhanced its existing qualities while enlarging the dimensions within which the band works -- one example of her impact is the "Polska efter Elias Tallari" track on the CD, which marries a strikingly beautiful Scandinavian tune to two Irish polkas.

LTC also provides a fascinating case study for what might be called the "my other band" effect. All four members were already accomplished musicians, who thoroughly enjoyed their respective ongoing bands and collaborations, when they came together in Long Time Courting. But over the past three years, with mutual encouragement and support, they've found new facets to their music.

"I think, at the beginning, to some degree we saw this band in terms of how it differed from our other bands, rather than appreciating it for its own sake," notes Simmons. "But that's changed. We're more selective now about what songs and tunes we decide to play, and how we arrange them."

Adds Heaton, "I love playing in a duo with my husband, of course, but I also have found it liberating and instructive to share tasks with three other people. I've learned to listen more, to be more

patient, and I have an incentive to work on stuff geared for a quartet instead of a duo, and all that has definitely helped me to grow musically. My solo project, 'The Blue Dress' [which she released on CD last year], was partly inspired by being in LTC."

Blair, for her part, hadn't had much opportunity, or much of a predilection, to consider her vocal talents. "I have the No. 4 voice," she laughs, "but it's great to learn how to sing with other people, and to hear how we harmonize."

Friedman feels she has strengthened her grasp of traditional music through her LTC association, yet she also has been able to contribute her own expertise. The arrangement for "Barbara Allen" is one example of her influence, as is the "Alternate Routes" set -- when the band transitions from the set's opening tune, "The Morning Dew," to "Alternate Routes" (a Heaton original), Friedman and Blair combine cello and fiddle to produce an exquisitely harmonized, slowly shifting counterpoint to the agile melody of Heaton's flute.

"With 'Alternate Routes' and 'Barbara Allen,' we went for a 'stringier' kind of sound than what we had done in the past," says Friedman. "As you continue to settle into a band, you start seeing more and more different possibilities, and with this band there is a lot of freedom to explore those possibilities."

The "Alternate Routes" set stands out for another reason, as Heaton reveals. "We don't always have a lot of time for rehearsal, so we've used the sound checks at our gigs to arrange some of our material. We worked out the set when we were preparing for a concert in Binghamton, and although we were tired and hungry we were able to do it all, and it came out beautifully. It's a case of making the best possible use of your time, whether you're with family, or with friends, or working on a project -- you seize the moment."

Another, even more recent measure of Long Time Courting's evolution is an as-yet-unrecorded song the four collaborated on. "It was such a refreshing experience," says Heaton. "We all had ideas for it, but there was not one dominant person who took command; it was literally a group effort."

Musical rapport is one thing, and perhaps ultimately the key thing, for

a band, but interpersonal dynamics go a long way to making it seem more like a gathering of friends than a labor of love. Long Time Courting excels in this respect, too, say the four members. Friedman may not match the demographic profile of the other three, who are married with children, but she doesn't feel the odd one out in the group: "They live vicariously through me because I'm younger and single," she quips.

"We do live vicariously through Ariel," laughs Simmons. "We talk about kids and marriage, but we also talk with Ariel about her life, and we offer our insights. And we end up giggling our heads off and staying up way too late."

Heaton notes, "A band is approximately 25 percent rehearsing and performing, 75 percent scheduling, driving around, and hanging out, so it really does help if you get along. I think we're fortunate in that we have a diversity of stories to tell, and we enjoy listening to one another."

## PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 16



## CARROLL

Advertising Company, Inc.

Large Format Printing

Billboards • Banners

1022 Morrissey Boulevard, Dorchester

617-282-2100

[carrolladvertising.com](http://carrolladvertising.com)

## PHILLIPS CANDY HOUSE

— Celebrating 85 Years —

Order Online at

[phillipschocolate.com](http://phillipschocolate.com)

or call 800.722.0905

• Delicious Handmade Chocolates

• Custom Corporate Gifts

• Handmade Phillips Cookies

• Favors for All Occasions

• Gift Baskets & Towers

818 Morrissey Boulevard • Boston | South Shore Plaza • Braintree

## ANIMALS IN IRELAND NEED YOUR HELP

Ireland is in midst of a country-wide economic crisis and animals are suffering because of it. We are appealing for international support.

Please help Irish animals by making a donation online today.

[www.dspca.ie](http://www.dspca.ie)



Dublin SPCA

## SAVE \$\$\$ ON YOUR HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE!

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR UP TO A 33% DISCOUNT



JUDITH M. FLYNN  
Insurance Agency, Inc.

Call me for a quote today!

Judie Flynn • 617-296-0350

1152 Washington Street, Dorchester Lower Mills

# Thirty-Two Counties

**Antrim:** Star polo players from Argentina and France joined players from Britain and Ireland at Polo in the City at the end of August in the Prince Regent Park in Castlereagh. The event was held to raise funds for Mencap and, according to Laura McManus, all the funds will go directly to the charity, which helps those with learning difficulties. In addition to the tournament there was to be a barbeque and a post-polo party in the park as well as a soiree at Cafe Vaudeville in the city centre.

**Armagh:** Recordings made in the 1950s by renowned folk singer Sarah Makem, the mother of Tommy and Jack Makem, are to be released on CD this year. The recordings were made by a number of people, including Armagh man Sean O'Boyle, in the Makem home in Victoria Street in Keady and Mrs. Makem's recording of 'As I Roved Out' was chosen by the BBC as the signature tune for folk music programmes in the 1950s and 1960s. The CD collection will be launched in October at the Tommy Makem Festival in Armagh.

**Carlow:** Yvette Byrne from Ardattin, who graduated in fashion from Griffith College in Dublin in May, stole the show at Ladies' Day at last month's Dublin Horse Show when she walked away with the prize. Some 400 ladies entered for the contest but it was Yvette, in a dress made from curtain material purchased in Hickey's, who was picked as the winner. She did, however, buy the lace for the top of the dress in Paris. Yvette's prize is a 10,000-euro holiday in the wine country of California.

**Cavan:** A new exhibition space and art gallery has been established at the former Centra premises on Main Street in Ballinagh, donated by Eamonn Gavin, and it will be the venue for an unofficial Fleadh event. The gallery was officially opened last month by Judge Seán McBride and the exhibition, entitled 'A Public Hanging,' features the work of Neil Spears, Kenneth Webb, and sculptor Sandra Bell, among others. The gallery was the initiative of artist Pamela Mussen, who was disappointed that little was happening in the town during last year's All-Ireland Fleadh in Cavan.

**Clare:** The cottage owned by nineteenth century herbalist Bidy Early, the Wise Woman of Clare, at Dromore Hill near Feakle has been put on the market by its present owner, Billy Loughnane. However he is anxious that whoever buys it will respect the heritage aspect of the property, which is now derelict. The hope is that it will be restored as a tourist attraction as it already has a steady stream of visitors every year. The asking price for the cottage is 75,000 euro and Mayor of Clare Pat Hayes has also expressed the hope that it will become a greater draw for tourists.

**Cork:** The report after the initial visit of European Entente Florale judges gave hope to the residents of Coolagown near Fermoy that their village has a good chance of being successful in the competition. Heading the group of visitors was chairperson Clive Addison who raised the European Entente Florale flag before leading the group on a tour of the village and commenting on the work carried out by the Coolagown Development Group over the past twenty years. The village is representing Ireland in the small villages section, with the winners due to be announced

next month.

**Derry:** Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness performed the official opening of a garden of remembrance at the House in the Wells hostel in Derry last month. The hostel opened in 1972 and since that time has helped hundreds of homeless men, many of them coping with addictions. It was the idea of residents of the hostel to build the garden in the courtyard to remember their friends who were victims of addiction, and the men themselves carried out the work. Initially funded directly from the community, the centre now receives support from the Housing Executive under the Supporting People programme.

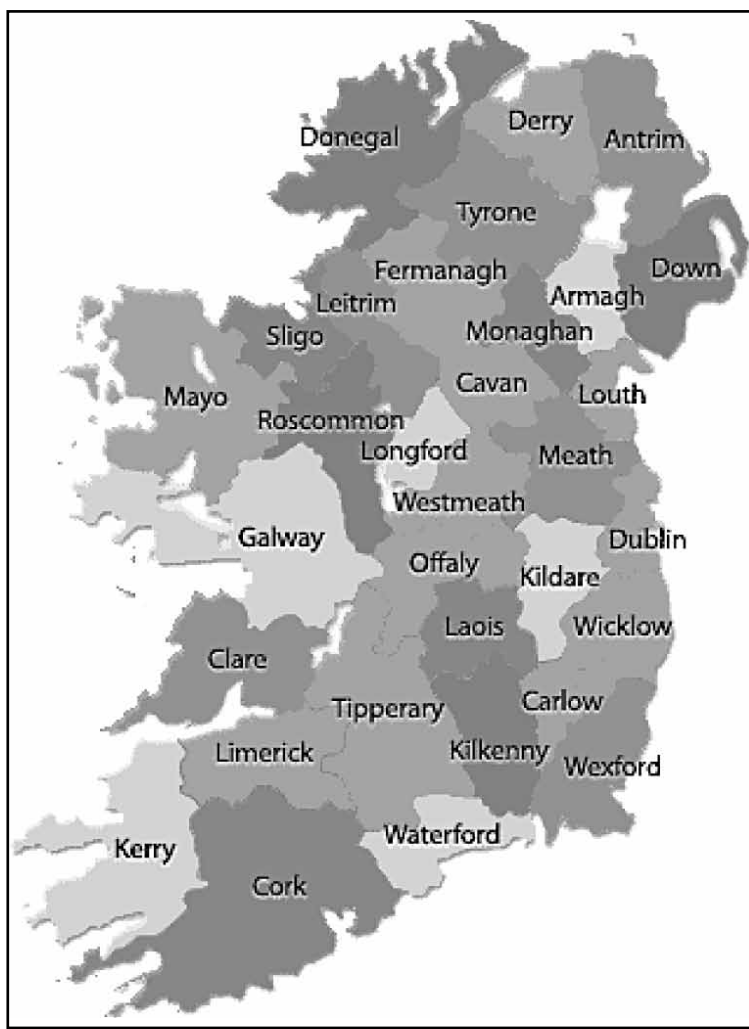
**Donegal:** For only the fourth time in the history of the festival a local woman has been named as this year's Mary from Dungle. Debbie Rodgers is from Burtonport and she received her crown from last year's winner, Jemma Ferry from Edinburgh. Joining Debbie on stage for her party piece was her father Joe, who accompanied her rendition of 'The Water is Wide' on guitar, and the two were joined by her mother Mary when Debbie was announced as the winner. The twenty-one-year-old has just graduated in English and Music and hopes to teach children with autism.

**Down:** A pensioner from Bangor who was helped by her very own Good Samaritan has thanked the unnamed man through the pages of a local paper. Isabel Caughey had returned on the train from Belfast after visiting her daughter but missed the last bus to her home in Kilmaine. It was while she was examining bus timetables with a security guard that the Good Samaritan told her he would see she got home safely. Picking up her shopping bag he carried it to a taxi and insisted on paying the fare for the 70-year-old.

**Dublin:** A series of ten life-sized statues, which have previously been on show in Denmark, Hungary, Norway and Wales, made their appearance on the streets of Dublin last month. The initiative of the Danish organization UDENFOR, the bronze sculptures are part of an Ending Homelessness Exhibition organized by Focus Ireland. Entitled "Out here I survive. In a home I could live," the series promoted awareness of the problem of homelessness in Ireland; at present more than five thousand people in Ireland are without a home.

**Fermanagh:** When Annie Hassard celebrated her 100th birthday in Cleenish Parish Hall in Bellanaleck last month, she was joined not only by family but also by friends old and new. Annie was particularly pleased to see old friends from the Cornerk, Derrygonnelly and Drumrainey, Culkey, areas where she and her late husband Eddie had farmed. At the celebration, refreshments were prepared by members of Cleenish and Mullaghduin Mothers' Union, while charitable donations received in lieu of presents, at Annie's request, totalled 920 pounds.

**Galway:** Last month some 300 members of the McNamara clan converged on Loughrea for a gathering organized by Tom McNamara, originally from Craughwell but now living in New Zealand. Overseeing the festivities was Bridie Uniacke, who moved from the family base in Ganty to Dunsandle when she married. She has thirteen children, thirty-six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. The man who made the most arduous journey was undoubtedly Marco Grandi, who drove



from Budapest with his two children, Elena and Senan; his grandmother was Phil McNamara. All members of the clan have a connection with Michael McNamara, who was born in Ganty in 1934.

**Kerry:** The Dingle Creamery opened in 1889 and produced milk until the 1970s, but now it is producing another kind of liquid. The plant has been taken over by the Dingle Brewing Company and its first product, Crean's, was introduced at the Beerfest in Annascaul, the home of Arctic explorer Tom Crean. The lager was the work of consultant brewer Tim O'Rourke and is already available in five pubs in the town, according to Jerry O'Sullivan, who is originally from Kildare. By this month he expects the brew to be sold in twenty pubs, including some in Kildare and Ranelagh in Dublin.

**Kildare:** Declan Breen from Newbridge, a member of the Defence Forces who now uses a wheelchair following an accident, undertook the crossing between Ireland and Scotland in a kayak last month. Declan was joined by two other kayakers, also affected by spinal injuries, and they left from Groomstown in Co. Down for the forty-kilometre journey to Portpatrick in Scotland. The trio was raising funds for the support services provided by Spinal Injuries Ireland.

**Kilkenny:** Local photographer Amanda Burke was in the right place at the right time last month to capture an image of a rare visitor to the city. Amanda was crossing John's Bridge in Kilkenny city where a crowd of people had gathered to watch an otter playing in the River Nore. Amanda was lucky to have her camera with her and she jumped over the wall and ran down to the railings along the bank. There she focused on bubbles in the water until the otter resurfaced, when she was able to get a perfect picture.

**Laois:** For the first time in Ireland a horse therapy camp for children with autism took place last month in Stradbally. Founder of the venture Maggie Whelan discovered the therapeutic benefits of working with horses while dealing with her own autistic son, Merck. The three-day camp was held on property owned by David Pen-

nefeather and received help from a number of volunteers and local businesses. The next Horse Camp is to take place this month and Maggie expects other such facilities to be set up across the country.

**Leitrim:** A new Community School for Ballinamore appears to have taken one step closer following the announcement from the Department of Education that the school is among a number which are being put out to tender. The present system is unique in that it requires students to move between different campuses for different lessons, and Ballinamore Parents' Association chairperson Maureen Martin has welcomed the announcement. The new school will be located opposite the Seán O'Heslin football field on the Enniskillen road and will have capacity for four hundred students.

**Limerick:** Five cruise liners are scheduled to call into Foynes this summer and they are already boosting the local economy. To date three have made their visits and Margaret O'Shaughnessy of the Foynes Flying Boat Museum reported that up to 400 hundred visitors from the Adonia visited the museum last month. In addition to the cruise passengers, visitors also arrive in Foynes to view the liners, leading to extra business locally. The suitability of Foynes as a destination for cruise ships has been extensively promoted by Shannon Development in conjunction with the Shannon Foynes Port Company.

**Longford:** When the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic is marked next year, the parish of Killoe will be holding its own ceremony. For one of those who lost their lives on the vessel was James Farrell, who ensured that Katie Gilnagh and Katie Mullan from Rhyne escaped in a lifeboat, though Farrell himself lost his life in the tragedy. His actions, however, have been immortalized in films about the Titanic. The memorial plan has been initiated by local man John Devaney, who has carried out research into the life of the Clonee native.

**Louth:** One Saturday last month, a human wall encircled the town of Drogheda, following the line of the original walls of the town which enclosed forty-six hectares of land and stood

six metres high. One of those behind the 'I Am Wall' project is Margaret Bannon, director of Droichead Arts Centre and she was hoping that up to two and a half thousand would turn up for the event and hold hands for the space of one hour. There were plans for the human wall to be filmed from the air so it will be recorded for posterity.

**Mayo:** One school that hasn't been worried by the recent announcement of an increase in the pupil-teacher ratio is the national school on Inishturk Island. In fact, according to island development officer Mary Catherine Heanue, the school would welcome such a move. At present St. Columba's has only three pupils, the lowest number ever, and there are fears that it will have to close. To guard against this, the community has launched a campaign to attract new people to the island, especially families with young children who could help increase the pupil-teacher ratio.

**Meath:** Two bridges in the county came in for a bit of a bashing recently, though fortunately there were no serious injuries. A bus carrying children who were taking part in the Meath Travellers Workshop Summer Project crashed into a railway bridge at Laytown on their way home to Navan. Meanwhile a truck transporting a digger hit the railway bridge near Castletown on the Kells to Ardee road, with the bridge collapsing onto the truck. The driver was helped from the truck and he, too, escaped serious injury.

**Monaghan:** The All-Ireland Fleadh in Cavan on August 21 featured an extended family who originally come from Lough Egish. The Senior Band competition in the Ulster Fleadh, held in Dungiven, Co. Derry in July, was won by Banna Ceoil Gaolta, who chose the name since Gaolta translates as 'relations.' The members all belong to the Geoghegan family and head of the family is Granny Mollie, now ninety-four years of age. The musicians include Lisa, Aileen, Breege and Aoife Geoghegan from Cavan, Sarah and Louise O'Kane from Ballybay, Barry Geoghegan from Lough Egish, Peter and Kate Marquis from Carrickmacross and Michael Lavin from Derry.

**Offaly:** Members of the O'Molloy Clan met last month in Tullamore and one of the highlights of the weekend was to be the handing over of the Chieftainship by Frances Mollie Berry to a new Chieftain in Charleville Castle. This is the third O'Molloy Clan gathering following the establishment of the O'Molloy Clan Association seven years ago with the aim of promoting the name and the territory of Fíreall; the territory extends from Durrow to Eglish on the edge of Birr. Lectures and a guided tour form part of the events, while a Mediaeval Feast was to take place in Charleville Castle.

**Roscommon:** Work on the reconstruction of the north wall of Boyle Abbey by the Office of Public Works is progressing well and in the coming weeks new glass and a timber aisle are to be added. The north arcade and nave wall of the twelfth century Cistercian monastery were found to be unstable and a unique numbering system was devised to ensure that, after the edifice was dismantled and placed in storage, it could be reconstructed exactly in accordance with its original specification.

**Sligo:** At the Twinfest in Keash, Ballymote on August 20 special guests of honor were

(Continued on page 19)

# NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

**FROM THE IRISH EMIGRANT**  
**Prisoners to be offered early release to free up space**—The Irish Times reports that Minister for Justice Alan Shatter is considering an early release scheme for long-term prisoners in an effort to ease the overcrowding problem in our prisons. Currently between 720 and 750 of the prison population of 4,500 is on early release, mainly as a result of the shortage of spaces. The number of prisoners serving sentences of five years to life has reached 1,480, a 51 percent increase on the figure in 2005 and it is the group that is being considered for early release.

**Arson attack on car of Quinn CEO**—A BMW SUV, parked in the driveway of a house in Ratoath, Co. Meath, was badly damaged in an arson attack early last month. The house and the one next door were also damaged. No one was in the house at the time of the incident which happened shortly before 11 p.m. This story took on a new significance when it was learned that the house and vehicle belonged to Paul O'Brien, the man appointed by Anglo Irish Bank as chief executive officer of the Quinn Group. This is just the latest in a number of incidents being blamed on people who object to Anglo's takeover of the group's assets and who want to see Seán Quinn restored as head of the group.

Following the incident O'Brien called on Quinn to disown those involved in the various attacks on Quinn Group property. An angry Quinn felt that O'Brien was implying that he believed him to be involved in the attacks. He rejected this unequivocally. Quinn had, in fact, previously issued a statement making it clear that those who were carrying out such acts were not acting in his name and he requested them to cease.

**Portable toilets to address public urination problem**—The problem of public urination in Dublin, particularly at the weekend, is being addressed by Dublin City Council with the installation of portable toilets for men at two locations, Camden Street and Westmorland Street. All permanent public toilets in the city have been closed on health and safety grounds, since they were used extensively by drug addicts and resulted in needles being discarded. One

## Ireland Today:

### Defendant cites Constitution and law dictionary to judge, then bills him

Appearing before Judge David Anderson at Wexford District Court one day last month, Bobby Sludds, 29, of Enniscorthy demanded to see the judge's oath of office, backing up his demand by quoting from the Constitution. Sludds then questioned the summons issued by the court and read the relevant passage from Black's Law Dictionary before claiming that he was not the Bobby Oliver Sludds named in the summons.

Judge Anderson remanded Sludds in custody in order to clear up the confusion about his name, at which point the defendant told the judge he could expect a bill. The case later came before the High Court and Sludds was released after the State decided not to seek to justify his continued detention.

— LIAM FERRIE

six-man toilet is installed on Camden Street and two on Westmorland Street on Friday and Saturday nights, though no provision is made for women since they have not presented a problem with public urination. Independent councillor Manix Flynn has expressed his opposition to the solution, saying the toilets are "unsavoury, unsightly, and out of place in a cosmopolitan city".

**New technology leading to marital problems**—The annual report from Accord, the Catholic marriage advisory service, has cited the Internet and mobile phones as factors in an increase in the number of couples seeking help with their relationships. There is a 20 percent increase since last year in couples citing the source of problems as spending too much time on the Internet and using mobile phones, while the increase since these issues first appeared in the statistics in 2007 is 125 percent. A 9 percent increase was also recorded in couples citing financial problems as a source of conflict.

**Minister arrives late for soccer match**—As predicted, Minister for Sport Caral Ní Chuilín arrived late for the North's soccer international against the Faroe Islands at Windsor Park last month in order to avoid having to stand for the British National Anthem. This is the first time that a Sinn Féin minister has visited the grounds for an international match and mirrors her predecessor Edwin Poots' visit to a GAA match in Pairc Esler in Newry, when he avoided being present for

'Amhran na bhFiann. The home side enjoyed a 4-0 victory in what was a European Championship qualifier. The Minister only saw one of the goals as she left at the interval when the score stood at 1-0.

**Army shot innocent man, says Historic Enquiries Team**—The North's Historic Enquiries Team has completed its investigations into the shooting dead of Billy McKavanagh in Belfast in 1971. In its report, published on the 40th anniversary of his death, the team concluded that when he was shot in the back by a soldier the 22-year-old was "unarmed and posed no threat whatsoever." At the time the British Army press office gave the impression that he was an IRA sniper. Relatives of Mr. McKavanagh say that an apology from the British Government would help to bring closure for them.

**Nationalist youths cause trouble at end of Apprentice Boys parade**—The annual Apprentice Boys Parade took place in Derry last month and it might have passed off peacefully but for a number of nationalist youths preparing to attack PSNI officers as proceedings came to an end. A stock pile of petrol bombs had been prepared and these were thrown at police Land Rovers. The reinforced vehicles were, however, able to withstand all that was thrown at them. In what were particularly nasty scenes, three vehicles were hijacked and set alight; in one incident a mother and daughter were forcibly removed from their car. Three men aged, 18, 19 and 24, were later arrested and

have been charged with offences relating to the violence. Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness said that the behavior of all those involved was "completely unacceptable".

**Travel company closes with the loss of 14 jobs in Cork**—The closure last month of MyGuide Ireland resulted in the loss of 14 jobs in Skibbereen and Cork city. It is reported that the company had a total of 50 employees so presumably the remaining 36 staff had been employed in its Boston office. MyGuide, founded as 1 2 Travel in 1998, specialized in bringing visitors to Ireland from the US, Canada, Japan, France, Germany, and England. While customers may be inconvenienced with the closure, it is not thought that any will suffer a financial loss.

**Paypal to create a further 200 jobs; jobs boost for Galway**—Online payments company PayPal is to recruit 200 additional staff at its European Centre of Excellence in Blanchardstown, Dublin. The US multinational opened its first office in Ireland in 2003 and currently employs some 1,350 staff here. The new recruits are required to fill a variety of positions, including sales, customer service, risk operations, financial operations and account management.

I should have mentioned last week that Delcath, a speciality pharmaceutical and medical device company, is establishing its European Headquarters in Galway. The new operation will support the company's commercial launch of its Hepatic CHEMOSAT Delivery System in Europe which, it is anticipated, will ultimately fulfill an annual unmet clinical need for as many as 100,000 patients with cancers in the liver across 30 countries. An unspecified number of jobs will be created in the areas of marketing, sales and logistic support.

Early this week Boston Scientific announced that it is investing some 26-million euro in an R&D unit at its Clonmel plant. There will be no immediate increase in the number of people employed at the facility.

— LIAM FERRIE

**24 start-ups to create 445 jobs**—Minister for Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation Richard Bruton last month announced details of 24 companies that it

is hoped will create 45 jobs over the next three years. Described as "high-potential start-ups," the companies operate in a range of sectors including IT, medical devices, electronics and health care. The 24 companies all received backing from Enterprise Ireland in the first half of the year.

**Politics & Politicians**  
**Minister Noonan was advised against pension levy**—Minister for Finance Michael Noonan ignored the advice of his senior officials when he introduced a 0.6 percent levy on pension funds in May. Documents made available under the Freedom of Information Act show that Department of Finance experts had major reservations about the levy.

The Minister was told that most pension funds did not have the reserves to meet existing and projected obligations; that neither employers nor employees had the resources to make up the shortfall; and that between 75 percent and 80 percent of defined benefits schemes are technically insolvent and the aggregate deficit of Irish pension funds was somewhere between 10-billion and 15-billion euro. He was also told that the imposition of a levy would increase criticism of inequitable treatment of public and private sector pensions as the public service pension scheme would not be affected. There was also a fear that multinationals would transfer pension fund assets to overseas administrators or trustees and so avoid the tax.

**Politicians collect 7.5m euro in expenses**—Members of the Oireachtas received expenses of 7.5m pounds for the final ten months of 2010. New rules relating to expenses came into effect last March. These replaced the traditional mileage allowance with a fixed rate travel allowance based on how far the TD or Senator lives from Leinster House. Deductions are made from those who fail to attend the Dáil or Seanad on a sufficient number of days. TDs can also claim an unvouched public representation allowance of 15,000 euro or, if they produce receipts, this can rise to 27,500; for Senators the figures are 9,250 and 15,000. The new rules actually resulted in savings on the previous year of 13 percent on that claimed by TDs, while Senators' claims were down by 30 percent.

## THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

(Continued from page 16)

former conjoined twins Hassan and Hussein Benhaffaf from Cork. This is the second year of the Twinfest, which encourages twins, triplets, and quads to come together for fun and a few competitions such as the youngest twins, the oldest twins, and a twin three-legged race. The event is organized by Patrick Ward and the main recipient of funds raised on the day is The Meningitis Trust. Patrick lost his five-month-old niece, Katie Garvey, to the illness.

**Tipperary:** Ten walking trails, known as The Tipperary Ten, have been developed to take advantage of the increasing interest in walking which is attracting visitors from overseas as well as Ireland. A booklet featuring the walks was launched in Grange village last month and at the launch Con Ryan, one of twelve rural recreation officers, noted that farmers will receive annual payments for maintaining the trails. Among the walks are the Grange Crag Loop near Urlingford and the East Munster Way, from Carrick-on-Suir to Kilsheelan.

**Tyrone:** A farewell dinner in

Corick House in Clogher marked the retirement of Michael Murphy after thirty-eight years teaching at Omagh Academy; for the past twenty-six years he was head of English at the school. In addition to his work in the school, Mr. Murphy was director of the Academy Players and was responsible for more than thirty productions over the years. He was also a founder-member of the Omagh Inter-Schools English Group and organized overseas visits to Stratford-upon-Avon, Canterbury, and London. At the dinner in Corick House, he was accompanied by his wife and was presented with a painting of the school by Roy Wilkinson, a former head of art at the Academy.

**Waterford:** One man in Dungarvan is very grateful that his wife doesn't regularly clear out her handbag, as she recently found a two-month old lottery ticket which she had forgotten about. When she checked the numbers she found that they had won 350,000 euro in the National Lottery and soon they were sipping champagne in the Lottery offices in Dublin as they collected their cheque.

The couple, who have a young family, have decided to remain anonymous but it has been revealed that they bought their Quickpick ticket at the Post Office in Dungarvan.

**Westmeath:** Mullingar businessman John MacEivilly has come up with an idea to give a boost to the Irish economy, which has now received the backing of the Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce. Financial adviser John is looking for every Irish person, at home and abroad, to spend 100 euro on a non-essential product or service made in Ireland. He has chosen Sept. 24 as Shop for Ireland day and Chamber president Pat Whelan is calling on businesses in the town to put together special offers for the day to increase trade locally.

**Wexford:** Father John Jordan, who has been suffering from cancer, has decided it is time to retire as parish priest of Oulart, but he has also decided that it is in the village that he would like to spend his final years. Last month he celebrated his last Mass as parish priest before handing over to Father Paddy Browne from Enniscor-

thy. He is also moving from the main parish residence to his new house a short distance away, and will still be available to help out on productions by the local pantomime society.

**Wicklow:** The 40th anniversary of the Thin Lizzy tour, which included a live show at the former Centre Ballroom in Arklow, has been marked by the unveiling of a commemorative plaque. The plaque at Coral

Leisure, which now stands on the site, was unveiled by Phil Lynott's mother Philomena last month. The event was organized by local man and Thin Lizzy fan Colm Weadick and the plaque itself was engraved by Gorey Stone Art. A commemorative booklet in aid of Arklow Drugs Awareness Week was also launched in Christy's Lounge followed by live music from tribute band Skid Lizzy.



## IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2011

It was a week typical of this year's excuse for a summer. We saw the sun from time to time but temperatures never got above 18C and were as low as 13C at various times during the week. Showers, some of them very heavy, were always a threat.

The coming week looks more promising with very little rain expected before Friday and we hope to enjoy long sunny spells. Temperatures will, however, remain modest.

**Latest Temperatures:**  
**Day 15C (59F).....Night 8C (46F)**

# Save the Date

## October 20, 2011

### Boston Irish Honors 2011

Luncheon at the Seaport Hotel, Main Ballroom  
Sponsored by the Boston Irish Reporter



**Matt Power, Event Chair • Dick Flavin, Emcee**

**2011  
Boston  
Irish  
Honorees**

#### Individuals

Former Boston Police Commissioner  
Kathleen O'Toole  
Public Service: State Senator Tom Kennedy

#### Families

The Corcoran Family  
James and Jean Hunt Family  
The Mulvoy Family

The Boston Irish Reporter, the region's leading chronicler of all things Irish-American, will host "Boston Irish Honors," its 2nd annual celebratory luncheon on Thursday, October 20, 2011, in the main ballroom of Boston's Seaport Hotel. In keeping with our own heritage, the newspaper publicly recognizes three exemplary local Irish families whose ancestors emigrated from Ireland to give better lives to their children and grandchildren. We also will give special recognition to two Boston Irish individuals for their special achievements in government and in business.

# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

**Boston Irish Honors 2011 Committee members:** Matt Power, Event Chair; Michael Lonergan, Consul General of Ireland; Bob Sheridan, founding event chair; Jim Brett, Bill Bulger, Jim Carmody, John T. Carroll, Della Costello, John Cullinane, Dan Driscoll, Dick Flavin, John Philip Foley, Maureen Forry, Bill Forry, Ann Geraghty, Dave Greaney, Steve Greeley, Barry T. Hynes, Kieran Jordan, Jim Keefe, Edris Kelley, Bill Kennedy, Rev. Tom Kennedy, Paul LaCamera, Mimi LaCamera, Barbie Langis, Joe Leary, Mary Joyce Morris, Sean Moynihan, Jim O'Brien, Bill O'Donnell, Bill Reilly, Jack Shaughnessy, Gil Sullivan, Bobby White, Paul White.

The event affords *excellent sponsorship opportunities*.  
For more information, please contact Ed Forry,  
President & Publisher, Boston Irish Reporter, 617-436-1222.  
E-mail: [honors2011@bostonirish.com](mailto:honors2011@bostonirish.com)