

Grace Cotter Regan to lead BC High

By REPORTER STAFF

Grace Cotter Regan will be the next president of Boston College High School, the school's board of trustees announced on Aug. 24. The new head of the 154-year-old Jesuit institution has most recently served as head of school at St. Mary's in Lynn and was previously the executive director of advancement for the New England Province of Jesuits and the Boston College Alumni Association.

She succeeds longtime President William Kemeza, who retired after a 30-year-career at the school earlier this year.

In a statement issued to the BC High community announcing the news, Fr. Brian Conley SJ, chairman of BC High's

board of trustees, said that Regan was "unanimously supported" by the board, adding, "She brings a wealth of educational experience grounded in the Jesuit and Catholic tradition."

Cotter Regan has deep connections to the campus on Morrissey Boulevard. Her son Bartley was a student-athlete at the high school and is a graduate of the class of 2012. Her late father— Jim Cotter, a native of Dorchester's Savin Hill section— was the longtime head football coach and athletic director at BC High.

In an interview with WBUR last week, Cotter acknowledged that she was surprised to be offered the top post at the Dorchester school. "I never thought it

would be a possibility to be the president of BC High. I never thought honestly that they would consider a woman," she told the radio station. She added: "I'm the product of single sex education, and my boys are as well — both of my sons, my husband. I really like single-sex education."

Cotter Regan is an alumna of Boston College and as director of the alumni association she managed an elected board of directors and 22 staff members. She has also served as vice president of the Boston Public Library Association, where she was charged with raising funds for the restoration of the historic
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Old pals: Boston's Cardinal O'Malley and Grace Cotter Regan.

A Makem and a Clancy ...

... honor music past while they frame music present

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Yes, they're called "Makem and Clancy," but they're not *that* Makem and Clancy. Not exactly, anyway. Rory Makem and Donal Clancy — the sons of, respectively, Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy — are justifiably proud of their families' storied place in Irish music, and both had the opportunity to perform with their famous fathers over the years. They've also forged their own musical paths:

Makem played in a band with brothers Shane and Conor that — with the

addition of Mickey and Liam Spain — became the Makem and Spain Brothers, and is now the trio Makem and Spain. Clancy was a founding member of the band Danú, has played with The Chieftains and fiddler Eileen Ivers, collaborated with numerous other musicians and singers, and released three solo albums.

But throughout their individual pursuits, the latter-day Makem and Clancy have always sung the praises — literally — of their forebears, and last year finally joined forces as a duo to carry on the



Rory Makem (right) and Donal Clancy performing at the Burren Backroom series last month.
Sean Smith photo

legacies of The Clancy Brothers and the original Makem and Clancy. Last month, they came to Somerville to perform at The Burren's Backroom series, where they belted

out classics like "Brennan on the Moor," "Whistling Gypsy Rover," "Wild Mountain Thyme" and many more, and shared plenty of stories and reminiscences with an

appreciative, enthusiastic audience that happily sang along on practically every song.
Prior to the show, the two talked about life as
(Continued on page 13)

ICC to host 'DNA Day' on Sept. 9

Coming this month, the Irish Cultural Centre of New England, in partnership with the Maine Gaeltacht DNA Project, will host a 'DNA Day' on its Canton site on Sept. 9, beginning at 1 p.m., and everyone, of Irish descent or not, is welcome.

Staff and historians from the Maine Project will be on hand to talk about Autosomal testing and about what we can learn about our history from having our DNA analyzed.

The ICCNE will present two registrants with an Autosomal Test Kit as a gift.

Registration is \$30 a person, with space limited to 75 guests. An applicant can register by emailing library@irishculture.org.

From two Neponset boys, a vote for ROTC and the value of a military life

By ROWAN WALRATH
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Michael and Patrick Murray are cut from the same cloth: The brothers live in Neponset, they play hockey, they are Harvard men, and they both joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) on the campus in Cambridge.

With full-tuition ROTC scholarships for Ivy League educations, and an upcoming four-year-minimum service commitment, both young men, the latest in a long line of military Murrays, are ea-

ger to carry on the family tradition.

"I've wanted to do it pretty much as long as I can remember," Michael said. "I have a lot of family members who served in the Marine Corps in particular, but some Army as well. My dad was a Marine. He was active duty before I was born, but I just always had that influence around."

Tim Murray, Michael and Patrick's father, was a Marine corporal, then a sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserves until 1994.

After working with the Massachusetts State Police, he now is employed by the Department of Homeland Security.

The elder Murray said his sons are just two Neponset residents who share close military ties. All individuals interviewed for this article by the *Reporter* spoke for themselves and not the US Armed Forces.

"I was enlisted in the Marine Corps, [and] my father was in the Marine Corps," Tim said. "One
(Continued on page 8)



Patrick Murray, right, offered his brother Michael Murray his first salute at his Commissioning Ceremony this May. It is a tradition for commissioning officers to receive their first salute from someone important to them. Tim Burke photo



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

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To make a reservation, please call 617-514-1643 or register online at www.jfklibrary.org/forums

JOHN HUME in AMERICA

In The Name of Peace

A Film by Maurice Fitzpatrick

Original Music by Bill Whelan

Narrated by Liam Neeson



"I became convinced that the United States should speak out for change on this issue"

President Jimmy Carter

"The Irish conflict's Martin Luther King"

President Bill Clinton

"A Visionary Peacemaker"

Bono



Creaney Films in association with the IFB, BAI, RTE and the DFAT proudly presents *In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America* Presidents Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, Prime Ministers John Major and Tony Blair, Irish Taoisigh Bertie Ahern and Enda Kenny.
Narrated by Liam Neeson, Original Music by Bill Whelan, DoP Basil Al-Rawi, Editor David Fox
Written, Directed & Produced by Maurice Fitzpatrick



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Martin's Park, due to open next fall, called place of 'light, hope, positivity'

BY JONATHAN INNOCENT
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

The family of eight-year-old Martin Richard, the youngest Boston Marathon bombing victim, offered heartfelt remarks alongside Mayor Martin Walsh and Gov. Charlie Baker at a groundbreaking ceremony for Martin's Park on the South Boston waterfront last Wednesday afternoon (Aug. 17). The park is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2018.

Jane Richard, who lost her left leg in the explosion that claimed her brother's life, said, "This park is going to include everything that I wished for."

"When we were young-

er, all my brothers and I wanted to do was go to the park," she told the crowd of officials, park sponsors, and hard-hatted children grasping shovels. "We loved it so much, we would go in the rain, snow, and probably even hail. But when I got hurt, it was hard for me because I wasn't used to my new leg. I couldn't even climb a simple thing like a tree. It was hard watching other kids while I was stuck sitting on the sidelines."

The \$10 million park is named in the honor of the young Martin. His family, with the support and organization of the Martin Richard Foundation, has celebrated Martin as a young advocate

for peace and unity. An enduring image of Martin shows him holding a poster bearing the message "No more hurting people - peace."

Bill Richard, Martin and Jane's father, said the park will be "a place where all kids will have the opportunity to learn and play together without prejudice."

Martin's Park will be converted from green space previously owned by the MBTA, along with a parking lot space owned by the Boston Children's Museum to create the freshly designed play area at the Smith Family Waterfront. This transition has been overseen by the City of Boston's Parks



Children joined in the groundbreaking for Martin's Park last Thursday afternoon on Congress Street near the Boston Children's Museum. Also on hand were members of the Richard family, Gov. Charlie Baker and Mayor Martin Walsh. Jonathan Innocent photo



The Ireland Funds hosted its 28th annual Nantucket Celebration on July 29 at the home of Bob & Laura Reynolds, and honored Dr. Margot Hartmann, President and CEO of Nantucket Cottage Hospital, pictured are (l-r): Event Chairs Laura Reynolds, Bob Reynolds, Linda Holliday, Jim Geraghty, Susan Geraghty, and New England Director of Ireland Funds America, Steve Greeley Photo credit: Cary Tozer Photography

Maine Irish Heritage Center gives US Sen. Collins its Claddagh Award

The Maine Irish Heritage Center (MIHC) has named US Sen. Susan Collins as its 2017 Claddagh Award recipient. "I am fortunate to have grown up amid the hard work, determination, innovation, and common sense that defines this great [potato] industry," Collins said in response to the news. "To me, nothing says 'home' like the sight of potato blossoms stretching as far as the eye can see and the heritage



Sen. Susan Collins they demonstrate." To MIHC, the Claddagh

symbolizes the ideals of friendship, love and loyalty to a person of Irish descent who has dedicated his or her life to service within the Maine community. Collins is the 10th annual Claddagh recipient and joins ranks that include former US Sen. George Mitchell and former Gov. Joseph Brennan.

The award will be presented on Fri., Nov. 10, at a venue to be announced later.

"John Hume in America" premiere set for JFK Library on Tues., Oct. 10

A 90-minute documentary that chronicles the pioneering Irish peacemaker John Hume will be screened and discussed at a special public forum at Dorchester's John F. Kennedy Library and Museum on Tues., Oct. 10.

The 6 p.m. event will include a screening of the film "In the Name of Peace: John Hume in

America" and a discussion with the director, Maurice Fitzpatrick.

Narrated by Liam Neeson, with an original musical score by Bill Whelan, the 90-minute film includes dramatic footage from the conflict in Northern Ireland, as well as interviews with Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, US con-

gressmen and senators, British PMs Tony Blair and Sir John Major, and personal accounts from Bono, Bertie Ahern and Enda Kenny, depicting the former SDLP leader and Nobel Laureate's role as one of the architects of the historic peace process.

Register online for the free event at jfklibrary.org.

and Recreation Department.

Designed by renowned landscaper Michael Van Valkenburgh, also the visionary behind Brooklyn Bridge Park and downtown Chicago's Maggie Daley Park, Martin's Park will have a number of features that are meant to be inclusive

and accessible to all.

"This park and all it stands for and represents, and the Martin Richard Foundation and the Richard family, are about taking perhaps the darkest and most terrible and horrific experience anybody could possibly imagine and finding light, and hope,

and positivity and future on which you can build something beautiful out of it," Gov. Baker said. "And if there were ever a time in recent history when we would have a chance to stand here today, this week, and celebrate that... it is right now."

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Brian W. O'Sullivan
CFP®, ChFC, CLU
Partner

234 Copeland Street, Suite 225
Quincy, MA 02169

Tel. 617-479-0075 Ext. 331
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bosullivan@financialguide.com
www.commonwealthfinancialgroup.com



Auld lang syne for 'Old Harbor'

By ED FORRY

A group of current and former South Boston folks who grew up in Old Harbor Village are planning a reunion at Florian Hall in Dorchester on Sun., Sept. 24, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. They will gather that afternoon, even as plans advance for a massive demolition and reconstruction of the historic complex.



Now called the Mary Ellen McCormack development, it sits on 31 acres on the northern edge of Southie between Old Colony Avenue and Dorchester Avenue. It was the first public housing development built in New England, and remains to this day among the largest ever built.

Old Harbor was a federal Public Works Administration (PWA) project that was begun in 1936, as the country was beginning to emerge from the Great Depression. It opened in May, 1938, and consists of more than 1,000 apartments, with 27 three-story apartment buildings and 152 two-story row houses. The project was championed by South Boston's then-Congressman, John W. McCormack, and was later named to honor his mother.

"Let's raise the roof before they raze the Old Harbor," headlines a flyer promoting the reunion prepared by the ad hoc committee. A handful of them met at the firefighters hall in Dorchester one afternoon last month to make plans for the get together. "We were one of the first families to move in," one woman told me. "We moved in May 1938, and I was one year old. We lived at 65 Logan Way, in one of the row houses - three bedrooms, one bath, six kids, mother and father, eight people. Everybody was like that," she said.

When I joked that I heard that Logan Way was the best street in the project, everyone chuckled: "McDonough Way," one person said. "Well, I did better; there were eight of us," one man said. "Five girls, three boys, one bathroom." "We survived, though," someone said, and they all agreed.

The meeting was teeming with a warm sense of nostalgia, as one person's memories brought forth a torrent of recollections. "I remember that my father was in the service, and there were so many kids around. If you had children, you couldn't be drafted, but you could volunteer," another said. "And many guys did, because it was a job. So there were a lot of single parent families... There was a woman right next door to me, her husband was in the Navy, and my mother and she used to go to the movies together; that was how they spent their time. There was no TV, of course, and they were encouraged to go to the movies, because they could collect dishes and place settings to outfit the kitchen."

"Mothers were the mainstays of the project - you knew everybody's mother," someone said. "I remember Mrs. Flannery. She was a baker, pies and brownies and everything... you always went to see her!"

One of them recalled, "My mother made a cake; she called it poor man's fruit cake." Another said, "Of course Saturday night was beans and franks, and remember the cans of brown bread?"

The project, now 80 years old, will soon undergo a total reconstruction that could take as long as ten years. The WinnCompanies was awarded a \$1.6 billion contract to transform the current 1,016 subsidized apartment units into a mixed income community, demolishing all 27 three-story buildings, replacing them with 3,000 new units in a mix of "workforce housing, market rate and homeowner condominiums."

"All units will be identical in quality and integrated evenly among the newly constructed buildings, no matter what the income level," the company said in a press release about the plans, which includes creation of other amenities, and possibly some retail uses.

"The team we have assembled on behalf of the BHA and Mary Ellen McCormack residents brings with it two centuries of combined experience on large-scale, phased mixed finance redevelopments," said WinnCompanies CEO Gilbert Winn. "Our collective goal is to create a 21st century neighborhood where the residents are the highest priority, not just through new homes and new community amenities, but through social and job programs designed to create a better quality of life and the chance to pursue brighter futures for themselves and their families."

Said Southie's Brian Wallace in an email: "Just as the wrecking ball is about to change the Mary Ellen McCormack Development we knew into something completely different, a bunch of former Old Harbor residents decided to have one last hurrah to celebrate the unique place we knew as Old Harbor. Old Harbor was the first of its kind back when it was built. No other development had single apartments, grass, trees, markets, drug stores, basketball courts, and incredible camaraderie. It was also unique in the lifelong friendships it engendered."

Event organizers may be reached at oldharborreunion@gmail.com.

Don't place your bet on a smooth Brexit process

By JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The vote of the British people to leave the European Union, commonly referred to as Brexit, has caused resentment, anger, and regret in many quarters. Its implementation will be very complicated.

The two sides, European Union countries and the United Kingdom, have entered complex negotiations to accomplish the break-up. The Union's chief negotiator is Michel Barnier of France; the British Secretary for leaving Europe is David Davis. Departments involving hundreds of men and women have been set up. It has been estimated that Brexit will take two or more years to finalize. We will all be sick of it by then. Many are already.

Britain leaving the European Union is serious stuff. All countries involved could be hurt to one degree or another. Ireland and Northern Ireland may suffer the most. New rules must be put in place for their common border, the only land border between the UK and the Common market countries. Normally this would require a system of customs and passport facilities for the collection of duties and to prevent free unrecorded movement of travelers. Hard and fast border controls will be detrimental to the North and South; on the other hand, they could be the biggest winners if Brexit turns out to be a small step toward a much desired United Ireland.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Ireland's Foreign Affairs Department are trying their best to prevent damage to Ireland's economy and changes to border programs that were set by the Good Friday agreement 20 years ago. Television and newspapers headlines proclaim new solutions nearly every day but most of the chatter is posturing by one side or the other and speculation by the media. Very little has been decided. The sides are simply setting their own priorities.

There is evidence that most of the British people did not fully appreciate what they were voting for. The results were not the same throughout the UK. Northern Ireland, Scotland, the city of London, and young people voted to remain. It was the older, more conservative voters who wanted to leave.

The Conservative British Government refuses to consider a second vote in spite of the difficulty now ap-

parent in a divorce from Europe. The British people voted 51.9 percent to leave Europe and 48.1 percent to remain; at this point there is no way to tell how they might vote a second time.

According to its website, the European Union was formed "to end the frequent and bloody wars between neighbors which culminated in the Second World War. As of 1950 the European Coal and Steel Community began to unite European countries economically and politically in order to secure a lasting peace."

The six founding countries were Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. Over the next 20 years, with the help of the United States, the European economy grew substantially. So much so that the United Kingdom made application twice to join the Common Market. Charles de Gaulle, then president of France, vetoed the application twice. He did not trust them.

However, in 1973, after de Gaulle left office, Ireland, Denmark, and the UK joined the Union. Today there are 28 Union members with a huge infrastructure and its own Parliament. It is the infrastructure that British nationalists have difficulty with. "Give us our country back," exclaim those in favor of leaving.

The EU structure that exists today permits free movement of its people across state borders, no customs duties on goods traded, a sharing of economic data, and a spirit of trust and togetherness against common enemies. That will all change once a major partner like the United Kingdom leaves. Prices will go up to pay for the extra customs duties, long lines at airports and border crossings will become normal, and former friends will be distrustful once again. The German, French, and United Kingdom rivalry will become much more present.

There will be other organizations like NATO that will help protect both sides militarily but overall Brexit will be another step alienating Europe from the United Kingdom. People will start to remember what it was like in 1945.

What was once considered a very good thing may be destroyed?



Joe Leary

Off the Bench

Reflections on an afterlife; two views

By JAMES W. DOLAN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

My brother and I have a friendly dispute on the existence of an afterlife. He poetically defines the soul as "a power borrowed from the wheel of fire that animates the cosmos." He compares it to an "ember of that cosmic fire" that one rides until death "when the ember is consumed again in the fire." He describes life as participation "in a sacred, cosmic, evolutionary process striving toward wholeness," which "may be called God."

He goes on to suggest two possible outcomes: Since the ember/soul is the "essence of me" it may go on to a "personal afterlife" where one is reunited with loved ones and "received into the bosom of a benevolent cosmos." A heaven where "there is nothing lacking...

no discord only sweet communion." The alternative is "that ember which has animated my life is stripped of all individual attributes and re-enters the wheel of fire purified." He concludes: "Either way, life goes on - with you if the idea suits you, or without you."

His inspiring description, although beautiful, is difficult to reconcile with my own experience. I can accept existence as the "upward striving" toward wholeness/God, but what does the striving consist of? What is expected of us? For me, God is more than an impersonal force. While manifest in the cosmos and evolution, his connection to humankind is more direct. He is revealed in what he demands of us as we aspire toward union. The way is laid out; we are not simply left to our own devices.

There are rules, standards, guidelines built around objective virtues such as truth, love, compassion, mercy, understanding, tolerance, and forgiveness. These are all framed within the context of free will against a backdrop of conscience and capacity. Free will provides a choice, a conscience, a guide, and capacity, a sliding scale to measure culpability. There are circumstances beyond our control that affect judgment and behavior, like intelligence, health, and upbringing. That disparity is best illustrated by the phrase: "There but for the grace of God, go I."

My disagreement with my brother's vision is the absence of any accountability for how we live, no balancing or reckoning. We all share the same fate no matter how we live. There is no right or wrong, no absolutes. Everything is negotiable. Hitler and Gandhi share the same destiny - oblivion. Virtues are how we choose to define them and what we choose to make of them. In today's culture, virtue is too often determined only by what is good for me.

Without an afterlife, there is no meaningful justice, no distinction between the righteous and corrupt. The present is all there is. Get it while you can. There is nothing beyond in which the suffering of the poor,

crippled, and displaced can be balanced against wealth, privilege, and greed. Morality is just another means for the powerful to control the weak.

Without a supreme being, all is arbitrary, social justice but a whimsical ideal. We are all accidents churning in an ocean of coincidence without a course or direction. That, I find hard to accept. As beautiful as my brother's vision of mankind's presence in an evolving cosmos is, it is somehow incomplete. The power, symmetry, immensity, and grandeur he associates with that incredible phenomenon fails to adequately account for creatures. Are those of us born in this tiny corner of the universe just the flotsam and jetsam of some impersonal creative process? Or do we have a central role in a drama far beyond our capacity to understand?

I believe that out of an act of pure love, an all-powerful and all-knowing God, who certainly didn't need us, chose to create humankind with a free will and then provide guidance for us to strive for "wholeness" (salvation) with him. It is in the striving we succeed. Aware of our weaknesses, a just and loving God provides many ways to reach him and bountiful mercy to "forgive us our trespasses" when we do.

When you come down to it, my brother and I are not that far apart. While he graphically portrays the cycle of life, I need a deeper meaning, a design or purpose, something that accounts not only for life's beauty and goodness but also for its evil and seemingly arbitrary unfairness. Without a reckoning, there is no compelling incentive to conform our behavior to objective virtues, the most important of which is love. It is that which draws us however imperfectly toward the "wholeness" my brother and I see as God.

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



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Mary C. Forry, President (1983-2004)

Edward W. Forry, Publisher

Thomas F. Mulvoy Jr., Managing Editor

William P. Forry, Editor

Peter F. Stevens, Contributing Editor

News Room: (617) 436-1222

Ads: (617) 436-1222

Fax: (617) 825-5516 news@bostonirish.com

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Boston rally fills the void left by 'alt-right' no-shows

By BILL FORRY
EDITOR

Organizers of Saturday's overblown "free speech rally" on Boston Common got far more than they bargained for when they showed up to find tens of thousands of fired-up but mostly peaceful Bostonians and visitors intent on making a statement of their own.

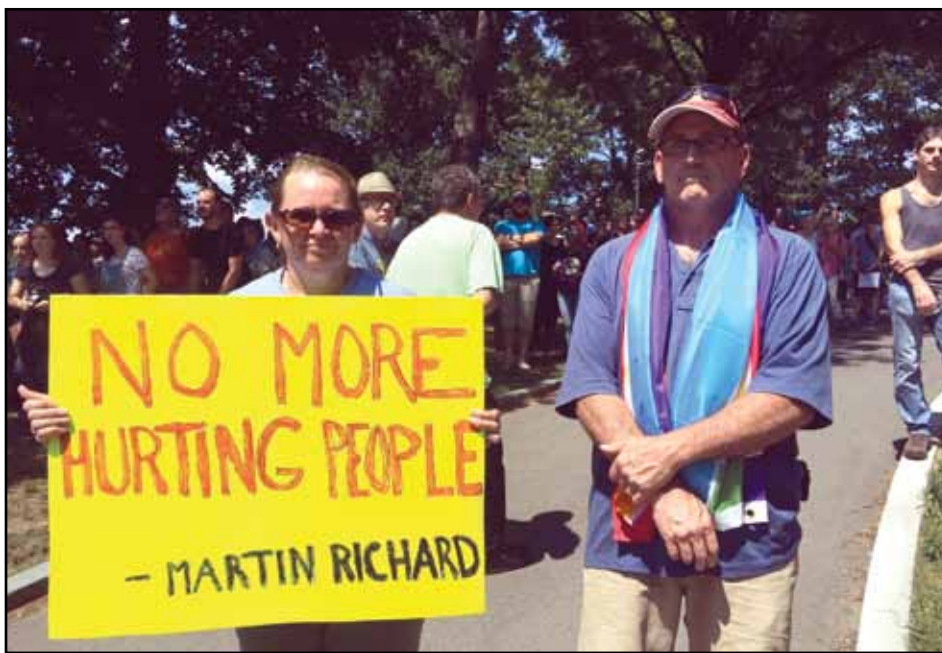
Or, rather, statements.

Commentary

There was a wide array of political speech in currency on the Common and surrounding streets on Saturday. Socialists, anarchists, trade unionists, peace activists, and militant leftists rubbed shoulders with aging anti-war demonstrators, veterans, and Black Lives Matter adherents. It was a big, chaotic tent — one that would surely have collapsed without the twin pillars that propped it up just long enough on Saturday: a seething disgust for the current president and the white supremacist, neo-fascist column that he has stroked into a renewed threat to Americans, and to people of color in particular.

The organizers of Saturday's rally — mainly faceless internet trolls and right-wing provocateurs — say they were denied a true platform for their Parkman Bandstand speeches. The permit issued last week by city leaders did limit the rally's potential size, penned off the bandstand, and — for good reason — limited the likelihood of hand-to-hand combat among the extremists on both sides. But that's what the rally instigators accepted in staging last weekend's event.

They could have sought relief in court to broaden their permit — but why do



A familiar message of peace inspired by Dorchester's own Martin Richard was carried by this couple, who watched the events on Boston Common on Saturday afternoon.
Bill Forry photo

that? The city-imposed restrictions gave them a convenient foil to explain away the fact that their pathetic sideshow failed to draw an actual audience.

No journalists were allowed through the barricades to record or stream-out the speeches, which is too bad. What has come out via recordings by participants in the days since indicates that actual white supremacist-types who were on the original bill bailed out. Still, it would have been better to have a more complete understanding from a reporter of exactly

who did show up to speak and what they had to say.

Some were disappointed that no actual "Nazis" — or at least, very few, were in evidence anywhere near the Common. "I feel like we were stood up," James Hilliard, a 22-year-old student from Allston told Zack Huffman, one of several reporters for DigBoston and the Boston Institute for Nonprofit Journalism (BINJ) who covered the day's events in great detail.

Huffman continued: "Back in the day,

you could spot the neo-Nazis at punk, metal, and hardcore shows by their shaved heads and the red laces on their combat boots. These days, it's wicked difficult to distinguish between the average cul-du-sac-bred boat-shoe dude and the tiki torch-wielding Bannon-esque preppy bro-bags seen in Charlottesville, the likes of whom feel threatened by the social advancements of women, LGBTQ people, and minority groups as their beloved American normalcy erodes."

Two BINJ correspondents witnessed the day's only on-scene gun arrest — that of a young man wearing a signature Trump "MAGA" hat who tried to evade Boston Police and was found to be carrying a concealed handgun. A correspondent for the *Reporter* saw none of the isolated violence or arrests, but watched as a phalanx of state troopers in full riot gear marched into positions around the State House. There were 33 arrests — mainly when counter-protestors tangled with Boston Police trying to extricate the "free speech" contingent from the Common in prisoner transport wagons.

It was an unfortunate twist to a day that was — on balance — a much-needed antidote to the images streamed out of Charlottesville the week before.

Whether on the march from Roxbury — or among those massed on the Common itself — there was a quiet jubilation to Saturday's gathering that mirrored that of the much larger Women's March that followed Inauguration Day last January. For so many who are struggling to come to terms with the daily indignities of the Trump debacle, Saturday offered hope, solidarity, and, however fleeting, a way forward.

MENDING WALLS AFTER 'THE TROUBLES'

By CHRISTOPHER J. MUSE

As the poet Robert Frost famously penned, "Something there is that does not love a wall." And, as experience teaches, walls can be made of stone, wire and, often, attitudes.

I was recently invited to join a "Trek" involving a dozen graduating students from the Johnson School of Management at Cornell University on a tour through Northern Ireland to learn about intractable conflicts and obstacles that hinder reconciliation almost 20 years after the Good Friday/Belfast Peace Agreement.



Christopher Muse

It was a week-long listening tour, filled with conversations for which the Irish are well known. In the end, we noted that walls continue to exist; some are made of stone and wire, but the more divisive ones have been shaped and built on attitudes, prejudices, and hate.

First, some background. The Trek was directed by Gen. George W. Casey, a visiting professor at Cornell and the retired

chief of staff of the US Army, whose career included the command of coalition forces in Iraq and negotiations for the peace-keeping mission in Kosovo. In other words, he was at the center of cauldrons of historic hate and violence in the Middle East and the Balkans, where conflicts are intractable with a capital "I."

The spiritual director of this Trek was Boston's Pdraig O'Malley. His insightful discussion of the centuries-old conflict of the indigenous Irish and their colonizers set the foundation for the journey. His position as distinguished professor of peace and reconciliation at the University of Massachusetts Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, his decades-long work for peace during "the Troubles" in Northern Ireland, and his Rolodex enabled our students to meet civic and political leaders from Derry to Belfast and the coastal communities in between.

Most of the graduate students came from careers before landing at Cornell. Half were service veterans who served in combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. The students left the US with the purpose of developing negotiation skills.

Each took away from the trip significant lessons in human rights and the promotion of just societies often ignored or forgotten by others engaged in business pursuits. They shared these "takeaways," which are consolidated below and which have relevance to the legal community as well.

And for this judge, who is sensitive to the impact of bias (real, implicit, and imaginary) and its companion, distrust, upon the fair administration of justice, the experience was an awakening.

To paraphrase Pdraig O'Malley's introductory remarks, the Tudor royalty, particularly Queen Eliza-

beth I, sliced up Ireland like sausage links, awarding the land to their relatives, the nobility, and favored Scottish Presbyterians and English Episcopalians, who promptly dispossessed the native Irish Catholics.

The long-serving queen noted: "I have sent wolves not shepherds to govern Ireland, for they have left me nothing but ashes and carcasses to reign over." Thus began 400 years of repression, violence, and starvation, inciting continuous rebellion and war in some measure.

When a truce was declared in 1921, and 6 counties in the north were separated from the 26 in the south, Elizabeth's royal descendant, George V, on a journey to Belfast appealed "to all Irishmen to pause, to stretch out the hand of forbearance and conciliation, to forgive and forget, and to join in making for the land they love a new era of peace, contentment and goodwill."

Neither side extended or received the other's hand. While the south struggled to create a country, the minority Catholics in the north were as divided as ever culturally, religiously, and economically from their Protestant neighbors, and were as resistant as ever to governance by the British Crown.

This was the backdrop for the civil rights struggle in the early '60s that spiraled into the assassinations and bombings that left more than 3,000 dead during a 30-year era known as the Troubles.

When the Good Friday Agreement was negotiated and signed in 1998, providing for power-sharing and strong anti-discrimination laws, everything was in place to break down historic divisions; to learn to trust; to collaborate for the common good; and, in short, to move forward. It happened. But it was not enough.

Good fences make good neighbors

The cities of Derry and Belfast, which anchor the counties in the north, are booming. Cranes dot the skylines, the downtowns are modern and vibrant, and the people wear an air of success. Tourists flock to their old towns, the stunning coastal villages, fabulous golf courses, and welcoming pubs.

During an all-day tour of the divided sections of Derry, and particularly at the location where, in January 1972, British paratroopers fired upon dozens of Irish Catholics peacefully protesting, killing 14 and wounding twice that number, Derry community organizer Michael Doherty eloquently described the tragic history of his city.

While all appears well, peaceful and progressive, he noted, the walls remain, and he and others do not take for granted the peace they earned with their families' blood. The River Foyle and the 15th century city walls provide the obvious separation, but the mistrust remains, and the willingness to find common ground is in short supply.

Doherty's days are spent bridging the divide, for public matters as mundane as parade permits; to the significant, such as preventing youth violence; and the beneficial, such as uniting the business communities for projects for which religious affiliation should not be factored.

Doherty's brother Des, a prominent civil rights lawyer who represented family survivors of the 1972 Bloody Sunday Massacre, confidently plugs away in the halls of justice. "Surprisingly, even after all the cover-ups and unfair treatment, we still look upon

the courts with respect and hope," he said.

The Doherty brothers, like all the civic leaders, politicians, and community organizers who shared their experiences, were personally victimized by the violence directed toward themselves or family. And by that I mean bombings of businesses, threats, maiming, and death.

Even with 19 years of peace, 90 percent of the population is segregated by religions that ironically are nearly identical in theology and dogma.

The power-sharing arrangement has produced gridlock. And as moving forward toward cultural tolerance becomes difficult, looking backward to the conflict becomes inevitable and easy, especially for the young men who glamorize their fathers and grandfathers.

Within a mile of Belfast's bustling downtown are the public housing "estates," where ugly war zone walls snake through neighborhoods with Catholic and Protestant separated on either side. Most of the residents, Catholic and Protestant, are poor, unemployed, and disenfranchised. Yet many of them prefer the security of the walls. Points of access are limited, and many of them are gated and locked in the evening.

As Frost wrote, "Good fences make good neighbors." In walled-off North Belfast, they make, at least, less dangerous ones.

Peace wall in North Belfast

Just outside one section of the wall, in a neutral area described as an Interface, a modern sports complex and community center have been built where a prison and British Army barracks once stood. Perhaps recalling Frost's rhetorical question, "What was I walling in or walling out," it is here that dedicated social workers bring a new generation of Protestant and Catholic youth together, addressing similar problems, including teen suicide and addiction, and promoting common goals with tutoring, coaching and counseling.

Our speakers argued that as long as there are divided communities, the fragile peace is threatened. That is why our host, Quinton Oliver, has dedicated his adult life to peacemaking in Belfast and beyond. "The divisions still exist. But at least they're fought with elections and not with bombs," he said.

It is why Belfast Deputy Mayor Mary Ellen Campbell, herself imprisoned as a member of the IRA, now concerned that the young have glamorized the "heroes" of the sectarian conflict, tells them: "I was in jail, and jail is horrible." It is why she serves food at all council meetings, forcing the political party members to mingle. It is why she, like George V, exclaimed: "You should always extend the hand of friendship. It is their decision to take it or not."

And it is why Gen. Casey, on the final evening of our Trek, encouraged a DUP Assembly member who resisted power-sharing with his Sinn Fein counterparts to "Keep at it. It takes time. But it is worth it."

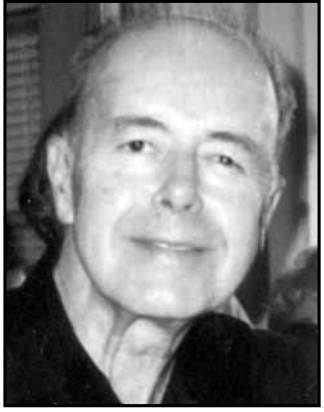
And, finally, as some propose new walls, and old barriers remain standing, it is why lawyers and judges from far away Massachusetts should take note that what citizens are feeling and how we treat each other, inside and outside of our courthouses, impact our roles and define our responsibilities and duties.

This article first appeared in the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*. Christopher J. Muse is a judge on the *Massachusetts Superior Court bench*.

Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

Armagh Family World's Oldest, Says Guinness – A family of siblings from the Armagh/Tyrone border in the North has been named the world's oldest by Guinness World Records. The **Donnellys** from Collegelands on the



Bill O'Donnell

border of Armagh and Tyrone have a combined age of 1,073 years. The siblings are the children of **Peter and Ellen Donnelly**. Peter was a successful farmer with a prosperous apple business, and his family today accounts for almost 200 grandchildren and great grandchildren. As to the reigning record holders, the 13 Donnelly brothers and sisters range in age from 93 down to 72 and were recently featured on a BBC NI documentary.

Donnelly family members, chatting casually, first brought up the possibility that the family siblings might actually be the "oldest family." Inquiries were made, and research by the Guinness company confirmed that the Donnellys belonged in the record book with the citation.

The original family members had a celebration in May after traveling from Coventry, and the rest of the family came later from Dublin, Belfast, and across Northern Ireland. The May gathering was solely for the original 13 siblings.

There doesn't appear to be any family in the wings to challenge the Donnelly's ascendancy to the ranks of Guinness World Records.

Race Is On To Attract EU Banks – As a result of the Brexit referendum there is a scramble among EU's remaining countries to reach out to entice banks and their revenue and jobs to relocate from their original venues. Many in London have voted to leave the Union, and move to a new site. The two top contenders to draw the highly paid jobs and the tax revenue from these banks are in Ireland and Frankfurt. Arrangements to bring the banks to EU sites have been hugely competitive but Ireland and Germany have a leg up in their campaigns.

The departure of British-based banks to EU sites must be accomplished prior to Britain's formal leaving in March 2019. The *Irish Times* reports that "while Paris and Amsterdam are set to lure one or two major lenders, Germany and Ireland have to date secured the bulk of commitments from large and prestigious banks." In recent weeks Bank of America, Citi, and Morgan Stanley, as well as several Japanese banks, have announced that their EU headquarters will be either in Dublin or Frankfurt. On the jobs front, the largest banks in London suggest that close to 10,000 positions could go to the continent or Ireland in the next two years.

Terror Alerts Curious Welcomes to a Cruise Ship – It's not every cruise ship bound for Euro and Irish ports that receives "safety letters," but tourism officials in Belfast are concerned that an abundance of caution has prompted the alerts being handed to Belfast-bound ship passengers. The notices refer to possible terror attacks with "the potential risk of isolated violence" in Belfast, where officials are calling the alerts "unnecessarily alarmist" and urging the cruise operator to "consider softening" its contents. This year it is projected that a record 93 ships will dock at Belfast ports, bringing 157,000 passengers to the North.

Since the cessation of broad-based organized violence in Belfast and in other Northern areas, locals there have essentially been peaceful, well apart from terrorist attacks on the continent. The cruise operators contend that places like France, Athens, and Istanbul are properly identified as possible terrorist targets, but not Belfast. "This has had no impact on the popularity of Belfast as a destination, with 100 percent growth in visitor numbers in the past five years." A Belfast Harbor spokesman added: "Cruise ships make available a daily fact sheet on local information to visitors. The P&O Cunard is the only line we know of which advises on passenger safety."

Do The Following Poll Number Surprise Anybody? – US Senate majority Leader **Mitch McConnell** (R-Kentucky) has an 18 percent job approval rating in Kentucky. One of the most regressive Senate leaders in contemporary times, McConnell is perhaps most famous for his quote in the first days of the Obama presidency: "My only interest is in making him a one-term president."

Other elements from the new poll of his own Kentucky constituents show that 74 percent of the voters disapprove of the job he is doing. Time to repeal and replace? As to the recent Senate vote on the failed Republican healthcare bill, only 27 percent of respondents favored the bill.

Adams To Lead S/F; Party OK's Junior Partner Role – It is unclear when the next Irish election will be held, but two facts are guaranteed, says Sinn Fein Leader **Gerry Adams**: He will lead the party into the election, and, in a position reversal, Sinn Fein has signalled its willingness to be a junior partner in any future Irish government

following the election. Adams quickly squelched any thought that despite Deputy SF Leader **Mary Lou McDonald** articulating Sinn Fein policy, that he was the party leader and would lead in the election.

UN Criticizes Ireland On Magdalene Failures – The United Nations has admonished Ireland on its handling of the Magdalene Laundries. The UN Committee against Torture found fault with the Irish government in two areas of its investigation of the administration of the laundries: The government has not implemented its recommendations to investigate allegations of ill treatment of the Magdalene laundries, and it has not prosecuted perpetrators and ensured that victims have an enforceable right to compensation. Also noted in the UN report is a need to improve staffing at prisons, to review the prison healthcare system, particularly the increase in overcrowding in several women's prisons.

It should be noted that the Committee praised Ireland for many achievements in the six years since the previous review.

Trump Sets a Record For Bogus 'Facts' – In a period from 6:30 p.m. on Mon., Aug 14, to 8:09 p.m. the following day – less than 26 hours – President Trump made two speeches, held a news conference and used his Twitter finger with abandon, leaving behind a litany of false and misleading "information," according to Fact Checker. The count in the 26 hours was 29 false or misleading claims on everything from black youth employment to job creation and energy exports. (And on the seventh month, he rested!)

As a candidate Trump claimed that 58 percent of African-American youth was unemployed. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics puts the number at about a third of that, at 19.2 percent. On energy exports, the accomplishment was **Barack Obama's**. During his tenure America became a net exporter of oil and left that good fortune to his successor, Trump, who now claims it as his own. What's new?

In claiming cuts in illegal immigration at our southern border, he transposed numbers and used cuts under Obama and claimed them as his own. In disputing the three million voter edge **Hillary Clinton** finished with in the election, he talked about his record-setting electoral college votes. In reality, every Republican president since **Rutherford B. Hayes** (1876), excepting **Richard Nixon** in 1968 and **George W. Bush** in 2000, won more electoral votes than Trump.

We could go on and pile up the Pinocchios, but this pathetic, pathological liar would only make up a few hundred more.

Finucane Case Finally Going To UK High Court – **Geraldine Finucane** and her family have won in their bid for a public inquiry to the British Supreme Court. The family of the slain 39-year-old human rights lawyer's has been trying for years (she was shot and killed in 1989) for an inquiry that was originally promised but later withdrawn. Over the years there have been numerous allegations made about collusion between loyalist paramilitaries and the British state, and that is a major reason the Finucanes have pushed for a transparent public inquiry. Almost five years ago then British Prime Minister **David Cameron** described as "shocking" the level of state collusion with paramilitaries in the murder of the young lawyer.

It is expected that the UK Supreme Court will hear the case next year.

Boston Crowd, Police Work Together To Keep the Peace – Congratulations to most everyone (total: 33 arrests), in particular the Boston Police, for avoiding a repeat of the Charlottesville horror show, and to Mayor **Marty Walsh** and his City Hall staff for keeping the rhetorical lid on during the tense hours. With all those people in downtown Boston and only a handful of minor-league arrests, it was thankfully more like a Wolfe Tones concert, or a St. Patrick Parade on good behavior.

Boston Strong can mean many things.

Rose of Tralee Pageant in Somber Hue For One Rose – For one of the Rose of Tralee contestants it was a night to remember for a number of reasons. For San Francisco's Rose, 19-year-old **Amanda Donohue**, it was fun and festive and part of the show in the Dome in the pageant's Co. Kerry venue, but it was also a night to recall personal loss, a gaping hole of two years standing. And the music and stage presentation did little to ease the pain for Amanda.

Back in June, 2015, Amanda's sister **Ashley** and cousin **Olivia Burke** were part of a H-1 contingent that had traveled from home in Ireland to Berkeley, California, for a combination visit to America and the opportunity to be with friends, learning new things, and a blessed stay on the sunny west coast of the United States. In what Amanda called "one of the darkest moments of her life," she lost her precious sister and her cousin when they died in the collapse of an apartment balcony in Berkeley. Also killed on that June day were students **Eimear Walsh, Lorcan Miller, Nicolai Schuster, and Eoghan Culligan**. Other students were badly injured by the collapse that came amidst a pleasant moment when their futures were bright and tomorrow would come shining through.

Amanda, said that taking part in the Rose of Tralee Festival in Kerry "had been monumental to the healing process," and she knew as she entered the Dome that her late sister and cousin "were in the Dome with her."

When the Festival concluded for the evening, with the finale the following night, Amanda kept her own counsel, remembering the two who were with her in spirit. Many of the Roses' families and the audience out front made a beeline for the Rose Hotel across the street. For Amanda, it was a bittersweet evening, filled with memories that she could not share with the others.

Jesuit Publication Angers Conservative Catholics in US – There is a simmering but low level argument going with some accusing right-wing Catholics and Christians of forging a pact with the president and thus deepening political polarization in the United States. The argument is as a recent article in the Jesuit publication *La Civiltà Cattolica* that some see as a call by **Pope Francis** for the Catholic church to disassociate itself from the Trump administration's right-wing policies on everything from climate change to migration. The pope has criticized Trump's demand for a wall along our Mexican border, saying such a move was not Christian. Francis to date has refrained from commenting on the article.

Some Catholic conservatives reacted strongly to parts of the article that claimed "the philosophy of the Christian right and violent Islamists are more similar than many care to think..." The article highlights **Steve Bannon**, a Catholic and until a few weeks ago the chief White House strategist. Noting that Bannon has promoted blocking action against climate change and exploited fears of migrants and Muslims with calls for "walls and purifying deportations," the article argues that right-wing American evangelicals and conservative Catholics risk corrupting the Catholic faith with an ideology intended to inject religious influence into the political sphere.

Many would argue that such injection has already taken place and the struggle for Catholic hearts and minds is well under way and a clear affront to the separation of church and state. And now that Mr. Bannon is back with Breitbart and its website newspaper and spreading his political fervor, it will be interesting to see how he operates *viz a viz* the man in the White House, and what role will the pontiff of the Catholic Church play (and how hard will he play it) in a war of words with people he views as unrelenting enemies of the Church he leads.

Trump's Support Is Eroding – The roughly 35 percent of American voters who, at least at one time, have been supportive of Trump, along with a handful or a few more Republican senators, and wealthy political contributors make up the bloc of the Faithful that support the embattled White House resident. In recent days, as the obsessive lies and misinformation echoed along the Twitter line and the tap-dancing president looked desperately for a way to keep intact his followers when he spoke of the blood of Charlottesville, Trump's legions have dwindled to their fewest publicly avowed followers since election day.

While the elite are being heard, for many the checks remain unseen. After Virginia there has arisen a spreading fear that the innate racism that permeates the shrunken corpus of the Trumpian Wonderland has gone to cover. GOP senators, once uncomfortable dising their own president, are moving away in droves, afraid of contagion and losing the elite's good view, and perks and chummy phone calls from Himself.

Not to be forgotten are the cancelled galas, boycotted ceremonies and proud corporate chieftains fleeing from advisory boards and the invitations from Himself. No Mas!

Make no mistake, Charlottesville was a turning point, a tipping point. The Trump "brand" has taken a hit, or in the bankers' jargon, a "bath." since he avowed that some "fine people" were protesting alongside the neo-Nazis and white supremacists. After more than seven months of incompetence, dysfunction, lies, me, me, me and the insults to what's left of our sanity and good will, the final thing we have to offer to this president is patience. And the well is empty.

Even the nonprofit organizations have their running shoes at the ready. Scared of losing their hefty contributors and equally concerned about becoming a pariah at Palm Beach or, God forbid, at Camp David, the big one, they are cancelling planned fundraising events at Trump's Mar-a-lago club in Florida.

And the White House announced recently that neither the president nor First Lady Melania will attend the annual Kennedy Center Honors that are more than three months away. Presidents and their spouses have, with rare exceptions, attended this event for more than 40 years. The beat goes on.

Whatever the outcome of this tipping point, it cannot come too soon. The question is: Will it take an impending indictment, or emails, or the pesky tax returns, or business records, or will he decide to take the Nixonian route: a long, comfortable life of leisure and the precious expense account – but no books from his pen. Has he ever read one cover to cover?

Whatever it takes, do it. Don't seek to jail him, nor anything too humiliating. Please, just send him away.

Whatever it takes, do it. Give us our country back, and our good thoughts about each other and another look at the Constitution. Will it be, sans Mr. Trump, again a treasure for the ages? Show Time is over. Ready to be America again. God bless us all.

Immigration Q&A

Immigration papers: Play things straight

Q. I'm applying for legal permanent residence in the US based on my marriage to a US citizen. I'm undocumented, and I've been working here for several years without authorization from the immigration authorities. I see that the forms involved in the process for getting a green card include questions about my employment history as far back as five years ago. I'm concerned that my application will be denied if I list my jobs in the US. What should I do?

A. Quite simply, you need to tell the truth in response to all the questions on the forms filed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). This means not just making true statements; it also means not omitting facts when asked for them. Some applicants are tempted to say that they have been unemployed for their entire time in the US or to simply leave blanks where job information is sought. Likewise, some applicants think that they can get away with denying past involvement with the criminal justice system in the US or abroad or with omitting reference to past entries into the US or past marriages, for example.

This belief often is based on rumors or hearsay about some acquaintance who allegedly got away with this in the past. Applicants need to realize that the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI run criminal background checks on applicants that reach records worldwide. Plus, US arrival and departure records are held in a computerized database and are easily retrievable by immigration officers. Finally, the interviews for adjustment of status applicants are conducted by experienced USCIS officers who are adept at detecting falsehoods in applications.

There are potentially two major consequences when certain false statements or omissions are detected: (1) The immigration benefit sought could be denied, and the applicant will risk deportation; and (2) making a false statement or omitting a material fact on an application form (as well as submitting any false documents to accompany an application) is equivalent to perjury, a federal felony that could result not just in deportation but prosecution and imprisonment in the US beforehand.

It is therefore crucial to understand the importance of submitting complete and accurate applications to USCIS. The good news for adjustment of status applicants who are immediate relatives of US citizens (spouses, parents, unmarried children under 21) is that unlawful presence in the US and unauthorized unemployment are not in themselves grounds for denying an application. Likewise, some minor criminal offenses, if openly disclosed, are not necessarily a bar to permanent residence. However, anyone who has a criminal record, no matter how minor and how long ago, and no matter what the outcome of the case was, needs advice from a lawyer competent to practice immigration law before proceeding with any application to US immigration authorities.

You can visit one of the IIIC's weekly legal clinics for a free, confidential consultation on this or any other immigration law issue.

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



Irish student enjoys 'sweet' internship through the IIIC

Deirbhile Teggart of Ulster University arrived in the United States in July for a "sweet" internship: designing and implementing marketing strategies for a world renowned cupcake company. Deirbhile will spend the year with the fantastic team at Wicked Good Cupcakes, a company founded by a mother and daughter team that ships delicious and unique cupcakes across the nation and world.

Students at Ulster University undertake an internship as part of their curriculum, and many will search for their placement in either Ireland or the United Kingdom. However, Deirbhile, a county Down native, had her sights set on something more adventurous: a year in the United States.

An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

One State Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02109

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

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

The IIIC hosts Irish students and recent graduates as they pursue internship experience in the US through the J-1 IWT visa. In 2017 the Center will host more than 500 young Irish men and women.

Deirbhile's position at Wicked Good Cupcakes enables her to apply the skills that she has developed as a communication, marketing, and advertising student. "It has been great putting what I've learned into a real working environment," she said. Deirbhile works closely with the CEO and president of the company, and is responsible for social media, public relations, and creating and implementing marketing strategies. She enjoys her daily tasks, which vary from writing blog posts to shooting promotional



A quartet of J-1 Visa students take a summertime break.

video footage in Faneuil Hall.

Deirbhile is living in Hanover, MA – a "charming and historic town," as she said, and just a five-minute walk from work. She has formed quick friendships with

many of the other Irish interns residing in Massachusetts. We hope that Deirbhile has a fantastic year, and know that this opportunity will prove invaluable to her as she returns to begin her career in Ireland!

Arbella CEO Donohue, former US Sen. Kerry, Sudanese immigrant, are '17 Solas honorees

Gala is Oct. 12

As the IIIC's signature annual fundraising event, the Solas Awards Gala honors the many ways immigrants contribute to our society, while supporting the immediate needs of those coming to our shores from across the globe. This year's event promises to be exceptional event, and we are honored to be recognizing three individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the IIIC's work and mission, are incredible community leaders and advocates, and have shown great courage in the face of adversity.

The IIIC is thrilled to present the Solas Leadership Award to John F. Donohue, chairman, president, and chief executive officer of the Arbella Insurance Group, and the Founding Chair of the IIIC's Advisory Board. Mr. Donohue fully embodies the vision, mission and values of the IIIC, and for over two decades, he has been our closest friend,

benefactor and ambassador.

We are honored to present the Solas Service Award to the Honorable John F. Kerry, former Secretary of State and US Senator. Secretary Kerry, a strong proponent of comprehensive immigration reform and a pathway to citizenship for immigrants, served as the 68th US secretary of state from 2013 to 2017 under President Barack Obama, and as Senator from Massachusetts from 1985 to 2013.

Finally, we are delighted to present the first ever Solas Courage Award to Noon Elhassan, a young woman from Sudan who has overcome great odds to build a life here in the US. The IIIC assisted Noon and her family in becoming permanent United States residents, and today she is studying at the University of

Massachusetts Boston, pursuing her dreams of becoming a doctor and a US citizen.

Our celebration will be held at the InterContinental Boston on Thurs., Oct. 12th, beginning with registration and reception

at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and program at 6:30.

If you would like to purchase tickets for the celebration, please visit acevents.com/events/DSolas2017 or contact Megan Miller at mmiller@iiicenter.org or 617-542-7654.

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER
IMMIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The Irish International Immigrant Center's immigration attorneys and social workers are available for all immigrants during this time of uncertainty and concern in our community. We are closely following the changes in immigration policies, and are available for confidential, legal consultations, and case representation. At weekly legal clinics, you can receive a free and confidential consultation with staff and volunteer attorneys. For information, or if you or anyone you know would like to speak to an immigration attorney, please call us at (617) 542-7654.

Upcoming Clinic Schedule
Clinics are in the evening – please do not arrive more than 30 minutes before the clinic begins.

Brighton
Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St, Brighton MA 02135
Monday, September 11th at 6:30pm

Downtown Boston
IIIC, One State Street, 8th Floor, Boston MA 02109
Tuesdays, September 5th and September 19th at 4pm

Dorchester
St. Mark's Parish School Hall, 1725 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester MA 02124
Wednesday, September 27th at 6:30pm

Citizenship Clinics
IIIC, One State Street, 8th Floor, Boston MA 02109
Every Wednesday from 10am-1pm
Walk-ins are welcome!

Our Downtown Boston location is fully accessible by public transportation.
Phone: 617.542.7654 | Fax: 617.542.7655 | www.iiicenter.org



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Insurance and Investments

A good financial strategy is not just about “making money;” it is also about protection.

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



Some people mistake investing for financial planning. Their “financial strategy” is an investing strategy, in which they chase the return and focus on the yield of their portfolio. As they do so, they miss the big picture. Investing represents but one facet of long-term financial planning. Trying to build wealth is one thing; trying to protect it is another. An effort must be made to manage risk.

Insurance can play a central role in wealth protection. That role is underappreciated - partly because some of the greatest risks to wealth go unnoticed in daily life. Five days a week, investors notice what happens on Wall Street; the market is constantly “top of mind.” What about those “back of mind” things investors may not readily acknowledge?

What if an individual suddenly cannot work? Without disability insurance, a seriously injured or ill person out of the workforce may have to dip into savings to replace income. As the Council for Disability Awareness notes, the average length of a long-term disability claim is nearly three years. Workers’ compensation insurance will only pay out if a disability directly relates to an incident that occurs at work, and most long-term disabilities are not workplace related.

What if an individual suddenly dies? If a household relies on that person’s income, how does it cope financially with that income abruptly disappearing? Does it spend down its savings or its invested assets? In such a crisis, life insurance can offer relief. The payout from a policy with a six-figure benefit can provide the equivalent of years of income.

Why do people underinsure themselves as they strive to build wealth? Partly, it is because death and disability are uncomfortable conversation topics. Many people neglect estate planning due to this same discomfort and because they lack knowledge of just how insurance can be used to promote wealth preservation.

The bottom line? Insurance is a vital, necessary aspect of a long-term financial plan. Insurance may not be as exciting to the average person as investments, but it can certainly help a household maintain some financial equilibrium in a crisis, and it also can become a crucial part of estate planning.

Brian W. O’Sullivan is a registered representative of and offers securities, investment advisory and financial planning services through MML Investors Services, LLC, Member SIPC (www.sipc.org). Supervisory Address: 101 Federal Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02110. He may be reached at 617-479-0075 x331 or bosullivan@financialguide.com.

Summertime tragedies: Drownings take two small boys from their families

By REPORTER STAFF

The summer months, usually a time of sunny beaches, picnics, and general merriment, turned tragic this year in two local communities and in Poulmagogue, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

On Wed., July 26, eight-year-old Harry O’Connor was traveling in a boat that capsized near the mouth of the Cape Cod Canal. He had been boating, with his lifejacket on, and a group of people when the boat capsized near Hog Island channel. News reports said the youngster, his lifejacket on, was trapped under the vessel for some 24 minutes before he was located by a professional diver who pulled him out of the water.

The boy was med-flighted to Boston Children’s



Harry O’Connor

Hospital where he died on Sat., July 29.

Harry was one of four children of Paudie O’Connor and Laura Lenehan, who now make their home in Sudbury, MA. The father is a vice president of Boston Scientific, and the family had moved to the US from Clonmel, according to published reports in Ireland.

The *Tipperary Star*



Brayden Kelly

reported the family returned home to lay Harry to rest, with a funeral service on Aug. 3 in the boy’s mother’s native Duleek, Co. Meath. A memorial service was held at Sudbury’s Our Lady of Fatima Parish on Aug. 7. In Dorchester and East Boston, two families mourned the death by drowning on Aug. 20 of six-year-old Brayden Kelly of Dorchester, who

was set to enter first grade at the Murphy School next month.

Brayden, who was visiting a friend on Trenton Street in East Boston, was pulled from a swimming pool in that neighborhood and rushed to Massachusetts General Hospital where he died on Aug. 20.

“We as a family want everyone to know that water safety is important because this was something that could have been avoided,” said his aunt, Jennifer Murphy in a message on a GoFundMe page set up this week. “We want not one single person to ever feel the devastating loss we are feeling.”

Bray’s mother, Jessica Kelly told Fox25: “We just want parents to know... just make sure in the summertime, you don’t let your eye off them.”

From two Neponset boys, a vote for ROTC and the value of a military life

(Continued from page 1) thing that has always, to this day, sort of surprised me, is the number of kids in Dorchester, and Neponset in particular, who go into the military. ... I think it’s sort of phenomenal.”

Michael, now 22, agreed that the neighborhood influence played an important role in his interest in service. “As I was growing up, a lot of people I looked up to, coaches in sports and whatnot, seemed to have a military background, so it was something I was interested in as well,” he said. He entered Harvard University and joined ROTC in 2013.

Patrick’s experience has mostly mirrored his older brother’s, but the 20 year old’s focus is on the Army rather than the Marines. “I guess for me, kind of growing up in Dorchester and within my family specifically, we have a proud military history, a military tradition within our family,” Patrick said. “From a young age, there was always that exposure to it.”

Patrick saw Michael as a bit of a pioneer. Although he had long been interested in entering the military, having his older brother in the ROTC program allowed him to “see the path that he went down,” he said.

Even before Michael, there were other trailblazers in the family for Patrick: two cousins who were officers in the Marine Corps. They pointed Michael toward ROTC. The program, Michael figured, would afford him a mix of “normal” civilian life and military training. From there, ROTC “seemed kind of like a no-brainer — as long as you could get the scholarship.” The scholarships meant full rides to Harvard for the brothers.

“My freshman year of high school, 14 or 15 — probably 15 — was when I started seriously considering the military,” said Michael. “I was looking at the ways to go about it. My parents obviously wanted me to go to school, so that was a must.”

Michael and Patrick credit their family with emphasizing the importance of attending college. For his part, their father, while conceding his significant role in military influence in his family, said he always wanted his sons to chart their own paths.

“It’s not something I actively, for lack of a better term, encourage, because it’s a big decision,” Tim said. “I think a decision of that nature, as an individual, you have to make because you’ve got to own the good and the bad that comes with it. And a lot of times, there’s a lot of bad that comes with it. A lot of discomfort, lot of sacrifice that comes with that decision.”

Harvard itself has a storied past with ROTC. The university can boast of veterans going all the way back to the Revolutionary War. It was one of the first schools in the US to host an ROTC program, and it has graduated more Medal of Honor recipients than any other university with the exception of the service academies.

In 1969, one manifestation of on-campus protest against the Vietnam War was a strong opposition to Harvard’s ROTC program. That spring, as hundreds of students occupied University Hall, and a later confrontation with police left some 75 injured, students successfully demanded that the university abolish the program on campus.

While an ROTC pro-

gram was available at nearby MIT, Harvard students could not enroll in courses there until 1976.

In the 1990s, Harvard students with the Anti-ROTC Action Committee were again protesting ROTC, this time in light of the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” program barring openly gay service members. Harvard cut its financial ties with ROTC in 1995 and organized the Friends of Harvard ROTC to cover the administrative costs of hosting ROTC at MIT, where it is still based. Today’s Harvard students enrolled in ROTC have office spaces on Harvard’s campus, but training takes place at MIT. Harvard has provided transportation for early-morning physical training since 2011.

Outgoing Harvard president Drew Faust has been largely credited with turning the tide for the university’s ROTC program. In winter of 2010, Navy ROTC was officially recognized on campus, followed by Army ROTC in spring 2012 and Air Force ROTC just over a year ago, in April 2016.

Captain Paul Mawn (ret.) is chairman of the Advocates for ROTC, a network of individuals that supports ROTC programs on college campuses. Himself a graduate of Harvard, and a Navy ROTC alumnus, he works with the Advocates to encourage diversity of opinion at Harvard along with support for the military.

“Harvard has, with some people I think, a misunderstood reputation as a left-wing, exclusively liberal, elite university, anti-military, etc., and it certainly is some of that — maybe even the majority — but not all,” Mawn said. “It’s not all that ex-

treme. Since 9/11, there’s been more apathy than antagonism toward the military, as was the case before that, particularly in the ‘90s and the ‘70s.”

Mawn’s organization focuses on awareness of the military as a public service and encourages participation in ROTC. Mawn said he hopes that Harvard will do more “proactive outreach” to increase the number of cadets on campus, which remains extremely small — less than one percent of the student body.

A year ago, Patrick Murray made Mawn’s point, but change seems to be in the air. “I believe [he] was the only Army incoming freshman for ROTC last year,” his father said. “For a student body that’s the size of Harvard’s, that’s shocking. But I also understand, and again, it’s infinitesimal, but I want to say this year the number jumped to like a dozen. So hopefully, that’s a sign of things to come.”

The day before Michael graduated in May with a bachelor of arts in government, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the US Marine Corps. Now stationed at Boston University, he will travel to Quantico, Virginia, for Officer Candidate School next month.

Patrick, a rising sophomore at Harvard pursuing a degree in economics, will be back on campus in a few weeks. “I’m excited to see that new crop of cadets, and with myself being a second-year, I’ll take on a little bit of leadership,” he said. “Showing the new incoming freshmen, showing them the ropes of it. Get back into the swing of things because it is a good routine to have. I’m just excited all around.”

Grace Cotter Regan to lead BC High

(Continued from page 1) McKim Building, library courtyard, and the 27 branches of the Boston Public Library.

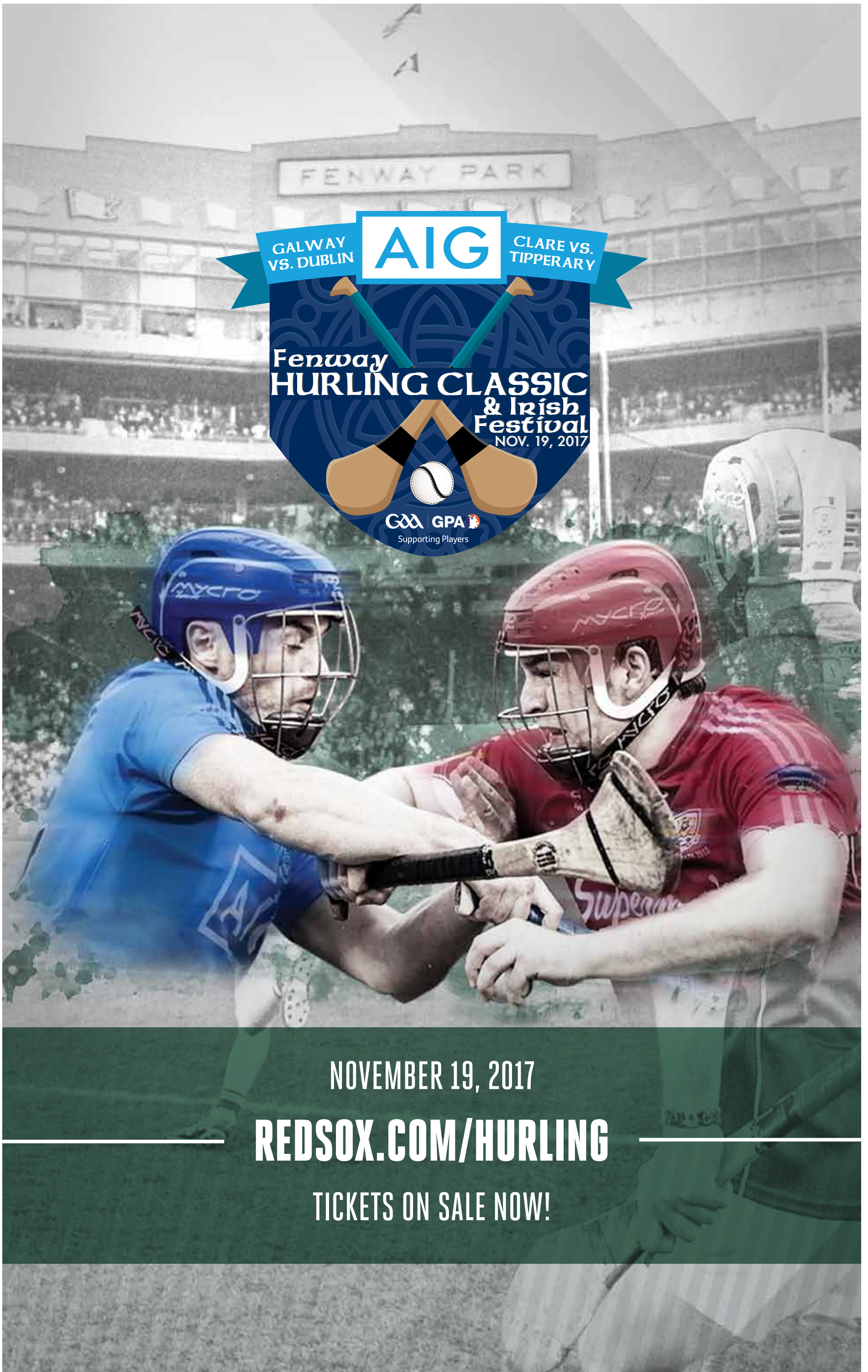
She earned a master’s of arts in pastoral ministry and spirituality from the

Boston College School of Ministry and Theology in 2008. She also holds a master’s in education degree in student affairs and higher education administration from the University of Ver-

mont (1987), and a bachelor of arts degree in theology and sociology from Boston College (1982). After graduating from BC, she volunteered with the Jesuit International Volunteer Corps in Belize,

Central America, an area where she has traveled extensively.

She and her husband Bernie live in West Roxbury.



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A gender-flipping ride on the rapids

BY R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Ten men, in four boats, coursing through The Grand Canyon. This is "Men On Boats," the fearless, comic adventures of an actual 1869 expedition by ten volunteer explorers who set out to chart The Colorado River.

SpeakEasy Stage Company is presenting the Boston-area premiere of "Men On Boats" from Sept. 8 to Oct. 7 at the Calderwood Pavilion. However, there's a swashbuckling shift awaiting audiences.

In the production notes, playwright Jaclyn Backhaus stipulates that while the characters in the play were historically cis-gender white males, the cast should be made up entirely of people who are not. "I am talking about racially diverse actors who are female-identifying, trans-identifying, gender-fluid, and/or non-gender-conforming," she states in the script.

Comedic but never camp, the cast of this rousing historical pageant includes Bridgette Hayes as explorer John Colton Sumner. The multi-talented Hayes works as an actress, costume designer, props artisan, dramaturge and teaching artist.

She's also artistic associate at Bridge Rep and has worked with the Bad Habit, Company One, Hub Theatre and Flat Earth Theater companies, among others.

Originally from Delaware, she has appeared with the Delaware Children's Theater and Wilmington Drama League in addition to performing off-Broadway. With a BFA from Boston University, she's currently pursuing a master's in dramatic arts at Harvard.

If that doesn't fill her schedule enough, her 9-to-5 job is as executive assistant to the president and executive director at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. She also plays four instruments.

We recently spoke about "Men On Boats" and her colorful Irish heritage. Here's a condensed look at our conversation.

Q. This production comes with an unusual bit of casting.

A. I think there are 7 women, two people who identify as non-binary, and we have one trans actor . . . Even though the actual characters in "Men On Boats" were historically white cis-gender males, (the playwright) really wanted the cast to be as diverse as possible in gender and in ethnicity. And I think SpeakEasy really has done a fantastic job of casting because we are seeing a lot of representation on stage.

Q. What peaked your interest to audition.

A. I think what really drew me to this play is how physical it's going to be . . . I love doing comedies and I'm definitely a character actor. And this is going to be a really great character.

Q. Have you taken on a male role before?

A. I played a man a few years ago in this production of (Flat Earth's) "Radium Girls." It was such an interesting experience stepping into a male experience. Meryl Streep has this great quote where she talks about how all the stories in the past were written for men or from a man's experience. She says she didn't want to play Becky in "Tom Sawyer." She wanted to play Tom Sawyer. Or Huck Finn. Their stories are more interesting. Those are the ones you relate to.

Q. I understand you've had a few Irish ancestors who had their own misadventures on boats.

A. My family hails from Galway and County Cork. They came over during the potato famine, through New Orleans. One of my great, great grandfathers was a riverboat gunrunner who lived in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and traveled up and down the Arkansas River, and then the Mississippi to New Orleans. One day, he kissed his wife goodbye, left with his load of guns, and was never heard from again.

Q. Anyone else afloat on the family tree?

A. My other ancestor was a riverboat



(Left to right) Veronika Duerr, Robin JaVonne Smith and Bridgette Hayes rehearse SpeakEasy Stage Company's "Men On Boats," playing the Calderwood Pavilion, Sept. 8 - Oct. 7.



Bridgette Hayes plays explorer John Colton Sumner in "Men In Boats," from SpeakEasy Stage Company, at the Calderwood Pavilion, Sept. 8 - Oct. 7.

pirate who "fell in love" with a prostitute - my great, great grandmother . . . Apparently, she would ride up and down the Mississippi with the men and was known for her story-telling, among other things . . . They found all of these old documents about her - her name was Bridgette, too . . . Maybe that's where I get the storytelling from!

Q. You know more about your heritage than most people.

A. We're definitely a meat and potatoes type of family. That's the type of Irish we were raised as. My sisters and I did Irish step dancing as kids and loved that. Part of my family history is that we really loved the folklore of Ireland . . . (and) I've been cast quite frequently as Irish in various plays.

Q. It must be interesting to be an artist and work at The Conservatory as it's merged with Berklee.

A. It's been challenging, but everyone is so excited about it. You've got all the classically trained musicians now mixing with the musicians that come from a jazz background at Berklee. The technology in the music industry right now, it's just really exciting to see what people are doing with it.

Q. Any other artists in your family?

A. Literally every other person in my family is in medicine, so I am definitely the black sheep of the family.

Q. Was there pressure to go the Med School route or were your folks encouraging?

A. My Mom is the one who got me into theater. She used to take me to the theater, ever since I was four years old. She brought me to my first audition. And she did props when I was on stage. So no, my

parents have always been supportive of my career in the arts.

Q. When did you know you wanted to make this your life's work?

A. Well, the first play, and the reason I actually first auditioned (came) when I was five. My Mom took me to see a production of "Charlotte's Web" at the Delaware Children's Theatre. I burst out crying when Charlotte dies. And my Mom had to carry me out into the hallway so that I wouldn't disturb the rest of the audience. The director came out and said, "You need to put this kid on stage. She's got emotions and we need to see them!"

R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of onstageboston.com.

"Men on Boats," SpeakEasy Stage, Sept. 8-Oct. 7, Calderwood Pavilion, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. Info: speakeasystage.com or 617-933-8600.

CIS sets tour of Boston's Irish monuments

The Charitable Irish Society plans a trolley tour of Irish monuments in Boston for current and prospective members on Thurs., Sept. 14, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The trolley will depart from the front of the State House. The tour will be followed by a reception at Carrie Nation Restaurant, 11 Beacon Street, Boston. Cost is \$55 per person for the ride, ap-

petizers, and an open bar. Space is very limited; you can register online at tinyurl.com/y94wfpn3, or contact Hilda Landry at 617-228-4445 or hilda.landry@smithduggan.com to register.

"We pass by these monuments almost on a daily basis, giving little thought to their history and why they were erected in our beloved city," says

CIS president Christopher Duggan. "This tour offers an opportunity to learn about the many monuments and statues in Downtown Boston and the Back Bay area which have Irish connections either because of the person depicted or the artists that sculpted them. In many instances, there are also associations to the Charitable Irish Society."

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A STORY THAT BEGGED TO BE TOLD

A grandmother's Canadian odyssey inspires her granddaughter's album

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

A family story can be a precious heirloom, passed among relatives and across generations. But sometimes, the story is so inspiring, so compelling, it has to be shared with the wider world.

Such is the case for Brighton resident Louise Bichan, a fiddler from Scotland's Orkney Islands studying at the Berklee College of Music who four years ago embarked on an effort to retrace the epic journey taken by her grandmother, Margaret S. Tait, across Canada more than six decades ago.

Now, Bichan's Margaret S. Tait Project has yielded the album "Out of My Own Light," a suite of instrumental pieces composed by Bichan, plus restored archival recordings of Tait's performance of Scottish songs on Canadian radio during her trip. Bichan draws on the Orkney fiddle tradition (she began playing at age 7) for her compositions while incorporating other influences and styles – chamber-folk, jazz, experimental – assisted by a quintet of musicians on fiddle, double bass, cello, piano, tenor guitar and percussion.

"Out of My Own Light" ranges from festive full-bodied ensemble pieces to brooding, meditative patchworks of riffs or soundscapes, evoking the people, places and events central to her grandmother's odyssey, which took her through Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, and parts of Saskatchewan to Victoria.

The project [louisebichan.co.uk/out-of-my-own-light] has been at times all-consuming, yet enormously satisfying for Bichan from both a personal and artistic standpoint, making use of her talents as a photographer and videographer as well as musician. It has given her a deeper insight into her family history while enabling her to make her own memorable journey – at the same age (25) Margaret began hers – which led her, indirectly, to Boston. In a city shaped to a great extent by Celtic heritage and legacy, Bichan and her family story nestles comfortably.

"Granny was always next door to me," she says of her grandmother, who died in 2008. "We'd spend lots of time together. I was really lucky to have her as part of my life. But I never thought of the history there before me. Although everyone knew she had gone on this journey years before, it was something that just wasn't talked about."

The discovery of her grandmother's journals, letters and other memorabilia after her death revealed much of those unspoken details, including the turmoil that prompted Tait to cross the ocean to a place she'd never been. She was being courted by two suitors, and the dilemma had colored just about every aspect of her life. As she wrote in May of 1950: "I'm so darned restless and unhappy these days just can't make a decision one way or another. If only I could get right away for a while I'm sure it would help. I'll never get out of my own light while I continue here."

The two men in Tait's life represented a significant contrast. Ian, whom she'd met in college, was an engineer whose path seemed destined to lead out of the Orkneys – before Margaret's departure he was preparing to take a job in Edinburgh. Sydney was a farmer who, though rooted to the land, wasn't confined to it; he frequently piloted his small plane around the islands, earn-

ing the nickname "The Flying Farmer."

There was another dimension to Sydney: He was Tait's widowed brother-in-law, whose wife Myrtle – Margaret's older sister – had died shortly after giving birth to their son. In the years following Myrtle's death, Margaret found herself growing closer to Sydney as she, along with her other sisters, helped him raise Sydney Jr. He was, Bichan says, the family's "approved choice."

As Bichan sees it, though, her grandmother wasn't so much fleeing a romantic quandry but rather trying to find herself as a young woman come of age in a world that had been drastically transformed in the quarter-century since her birth. While that exploration involved staying with relatives living in Canada (she also spent time briefly in Michigan), going out on her own was nonetheless a big undertaking, one still viewed in some quarters as unconventional for a single female in her 20s.

"Nobody thought she would come back," says Bichan.

In the end, however strong her feelings for Ian, Margaret felt an even stronger tie to her family, and the Orkneys, and that proved to be decisive in her decision to marry Sydney: "Flying farmer" weds, proclaims the headline of a newspaper story on the wedding, among the clippings in Tait's collection and featured among the photos Bichan took for her project.

"Ian could have gone anywhere," says Bichan, "but Margaret didn't want to be anywhere else."

The experience of sifting through her grandmother's possessions crystallized for Bichan the traits and interests she had in common with Margaret. "Granny couldn't go to a family event without a camera in hand, just like me. And I have boxes of newspaper and magazine clippings, just like her. So I really think that it's from her I got that need to document things, and it shaped me as an artist."

But a key portion of the journals was missing: the time Tait spent in Canada. "I felt I was lacking a big part of the story," says Bichan, who'd been to Canada as a teenager with her own family and had met some of her relatives. "So I decided I would go find the relatives she'd visited and see what memories and impressions of her they had. What was she thinking then? What was her mood? And what were the things they might have seen in her, as a young woman, that I saw years later when I knew her?"

Stopping in Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Victoria, Bichan caught up with surviving family members who helped fill in some of the blanks for her: "We'd sit for hours, and they remembered more than they thought. They had loads of amazing stories about when the family came to visit the Orkneys, as well as about Margaret." Bichan captured these encounters in photos as well as on video and audio and, while perhaps she didn't know it at the time, slowly gathered inspiration for the musical part of "Out of My Own Light."

Upon returning to Orkney, Bichan spent about a month holed up at home writing out her musical ideas, even though she had "little knowledge of harmony or chords – I just made some demo tracks and wrote the scores as best I could." She recruited a group of musicians – Jennifer Austin, Signy Jakobsdottir, Su-



Louise Bichan incorporates traditional Scottish fiddle and modern influences.

Photo courtesy Louise Bichan

Lee, Duncan Lyall and Mike Vass – whom she respected not only for their talents but also for their comfort level in working with multifaceted styles of music.

"Trying to direct everything was kind of terrifying," she laughs, "but everyone was so wonderful, and very excited about what we were doing."

"Out of My Own Light" follows a roughly chronological outline: The opening track, "Quoybur-ray," is named after Tait's childhood home; "Swanbister," the concluding piece, was the town where she and Sydney settled after their marriage. Other tracks center around events or places in this chapter of Margaret's life, or serve as introductions to major characters: "Ian," "Sydney the Pilot" and – one of the album's more intense, vivid compositions – "Myrtle," which begins with a slow, elegiac passage that transitions into a crazy-quilt of dissonant notes, until the stringed instruments coalesce around a heartbeat-steady percussive rhythm; a family member's poem composed for Myrtle's obituary, and set to music and sung by Bichan, appears at the beginning and end, with the memorable final line "Love and memory outlive all."

"Myrtle is a very important character in this story," says Bichan. "Margaret looked up to Myrtle – she never thought she was as good a singer as Myrtle. I think her devotion to Myrtle

played a big part in the feelings she developed for Sydney."

The excerpts from Tait's performance on CBC Winnipeg were taken from a vinyl record that had been produced for her, and had gotten lost among her possessions. The LP was in bad condition when it was found, but listening to her grandmother sing "My Love Is Like a Red, Red Rose," "Highland Laddie" and other staples of Scottish folk song in the parlor-formal style, with piano accompaniment, was a revelation for Bichan.

"I knew she sang, because she was in the choir, but I'd never heard her sound like that," says Bichan. "It was very special, a totally emotional experience."

Bichan salvaged as much of the recording as possible to piece together an eight-and-a-half-minute "bonus" track. Fragments appear at a few other junctures on the album, notably on "CBC Winnipeg," with Lee's cello gently churning underneath – a portal of sorts, connecting past to present.

Even as Bichan began putting "Out of My Own Light" together, she pursued other ventures, including one that was an unexpected dividend from her trip. In addition to visiting her relatives, Bichan made stops in, among other places, Nova Scotia and northern California, where she attended the Valley of the Moon Fiddle Camp, a popular destination for many Boston-area musicians. People

she met – such as Cape Breton fiddler Kimberley Fraser, who had lived in Boston for several years while studying at Berklee – encouraged her to apply to Berklee. Although dubious about her chances, Bichan decided to give it a try, and wound up earning a scholarship. She arrived in September of 2015.

"It's been absolutely fantastic," says Bichan, a performance major with a minor in American roots. "What's great is I'm not boxed into one genre: Middle Eastern, Brazilian, Ecuadoran, old-timey, jazz, bluegrass – I've been able to play around with all of them."

Add to that the opportunity to sit in at local sessions, and the various friends and acquaintances she's made, and Bichan feels she's gained enormously from her time in Boston.

Yet Bichan still finds herself tugged toward home, to continue exploring her grandmother's story. She's organized some live performances of "Out of My Own Light," and thinks of creating a film (a cousin has even suggested a ballet). Naturally, she wishes her Granny was still around, so she could ask her a multitude of questions about her adventures: What was it like? What were you feeling?

"I could spend ages going back through the diaries, because I always seem to find little nuggets and insights.

"I'm not done with this at all," she smiles.



South Shore Irish Festival

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www.SouthShoreIrishFestival.com

BIR CALENDAR: Irish/Celtic events this month

Highlighting this month's slate of Irish/Celtic events in Greater Boston and Eastern Massachusetts is the annual South Shore Irish Festival, which takes place at the Marshfield Fairgrounds in Marshfield on Sept. 9 and 10. Headliners for this year include **Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones**, **The American Rogues**, **Fr. Ray "The Singing Priest" Kelly** (who in addition to performing will also say Sunday Mass), **Deirdre Reilly**, and local U2 tribute band **The Joshua Tree**.

There also will be a number of Boston, Massachusetts, and New England acts, such as: The Lindsays, The Silver Spears, Jinty McGrath, The Fenian Sons, Devri, Pauline Wells, Curragh's Fancy, Colm O'Brien, The Gobshites, The Dooleys, Erin's Melody, Denis O'Gorman, Ciaran Nagle with Tara Novak, Boston Erin's Og, Rare Old Times, Keohane & Kenneally, and DJ Sean O'Toole.

Other attractions at the festival include an encampment of The Viking Irish, a corn hole tournament, and a tug-of-war. For more information, including ticket prices and the schedule of events, go to southshoreirish-festival.com.

In addition to their appearance at the South Shore Irish Festival, The Joshua Tree also will present a concert at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton on Sept. 16 at 8 p.m. The band has developed a national reputation in evoking the magic and majesty of U2, and prides itself on reproducing the legendary Irish rockers' distinct sound — covering the very early years up to the present — while maintaining artistic integrity.

For information, see irishculture.org.

A collection of Boston-area Celtic music performers will play a benefit to support humanitarian aid for Syria at the Westford Public Library on Sept. 9 at 7



Open the Door for Three visits the Burren Backroom series on October 1. *Alison Grasso photo*

p.m. The line-up is Scottish/Cape Breton-style fiddler **Katie McNally**; Irish music duo **Matt and Shannon Heaton**; **Emerald Rae**, who plays Irish, Scottish and Cape Breton fiddle, as well as the Welsh crwth, and sings traditional and original songs; **Marriel Vandersteel**, versed in Scandinavian and American fiddle styles; and **Louise Bichan**, a fiddler from Scotland's Orkney Islands living in Boston and attending the Berklee College of Music.

Proceeds will go to NuDay Syria, a non-profit that seeks to address housing and food needs for displaced families with single mothers or wounded family members. NuDay Syria also facilitates educational and micro-financial opportunities to help ensure financial independence and otherwise improve quality of life.

For tickets and other information, see mktix.com/pca, or call 978-692-6333.

Internationally renowned ballad group **The High Kings** come to the Somerville Theatre on Sept. 30, at 8 p.m. Vocalists and musicians **Finbarr Clancy**, **Brian Dunphy**, **Martin Furey** and **Darren Holden** joined

forces almost 10 years ago to form The High Kings, whose sound derives from the classic Irish ballad style that swept into popularity during the 1950s and 60s through such bands as the Clancy Brothers and The Dubliners. Since then, they've toured extensively throughout the US and Europe, recorded four studio albums and two live albums, and released two live DVDs, combining modern songs in the folk idiom — and even from other genres — with some of the classic ballad repertoire.

For details about the show, which is presented by World Music/CRASHarts, go to thehighkings.com/tour-dates.

The Burren Backroom series schedule for the coming weeks, as usual, features a variety of sounds and styles, beginning on Sept. 6 with Nova Scotian-based quartet **Còig** (Darren McMullen, guitar, mandolin, mandola, banjo, bouzouki, whistles, flute, vocals; Rachel Davis, fiddle, viola, vocals; Jason Roach, piano; Chrissy Crowley, fiddle, viola), all of whom have enjoyed successful solo careers. Originally formed to promote the 2014 Celtic Colours International Festival in Nova Scotia, the band proved to have staying power, thanks to their energetic renditions of traditional and folk music from the Canadian Maritimes. Còig's first album won the Canadian Folk Music Award for Traditional Album of the Year, among other honors; the band's second album, "Rove" — which includes a cover of the Peter Gabriel hit "Solsbury Hill" — was released earlier this summer.

Fiddler **Jeremy Kittel**, whose style encompasses Celtic, American, and jazz elements, returns to the Backroom on Sept. 13. Kittel has worked with a wide range of artists, including local American Scottish fiddler Hanneke Cassel, Boston native singer-songwriter Aoife O'Donovan, and celebrated cellist Yo Yo Ma; he also was a member of the Grammy-winning quartet Turtle Island.

Sept. 20 will see a visit from **The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc**, three musicians from some of the world's northern-most places: **Olav Luksengård Mjelva** (Norway), **Anders Hall** (Sweden) and **Kevin Henderson** (Shetland Islands). The trio, part of the 2015 "Christmas Celtic Sojourn," mines its respective fiddle traditions to create a fascinating synthesis of styles and sounds — sometimes haunting, sometimes vigorous, sometimes jovial — while upholding the distinctive flavor of each element.

Also appearing in the Sept. 20 show is the fiddle-guitar duo of **Qristina and Quinn Bachand**, siblings from British Columbia in Canada who in the past decade have moved from their Celtic beginnings to incorporate old-timey, roots, jazz and original material into their music, and introducing experimental and improvisational elements — as witnessed by their most recent album, "Little Hinges," which includes fiddle tune sets and edgy vocal numbers alike.

On Oct. 1, the trio **Open the Door for Three**, a trio of highly acclaimed musicians with strong roots in the Irish tradition, whose individual and collective resumes include "Riverdance," Cherish the Ladies, Mick Moloney and The Greenfields of America, Liz Carroll, John Doyle, Danú, Robbie O'Connell, The String Sisters, and John Whelan. **Liz Knowles** (fiddle) strikes that elusive balance of classical technique and tonality with the verve and drive of traditional music; **Kieran O'Hare** (uilleann pipes, flute, whistle) is in great demand as performer, session musician and teacher, and developed a keen sense of how to design music for the stage; **Pat Broaders** (bouzouki, vocals) gained a love of singing through his father and the vibrant music scene of his native Dublin, and has an equally good reputation as an accompanist.

For tickets and other information concerning the Backroom series, see burren.com/Backroom-Series.html.

Scottish-born **David Francey**, whose observational, slices-of-life songwriting style propelled him — at age 45 — into a musical career, will perform at Club Passim on Sept. 22 at 8 p.m. Francey moved with his family at age 12 from Scotland to Canada, and as an adult worked in rail yards, construction sites, and the Yukon wilderness — all the while composing poetry and setting it to music for his own enjoyment. Urged by family and friends to share his gift, Francey wound up becoming a three-time winner in Canada's prestigious Juno Awards, and earning first prize in the USA Songwriting Competition and John Lennon Songwriting Contest; a reviewer called him "the closest thing Canada has to Woody Guthrie." Last year, he released his 11th album, "Empty Train."

Go to passim.org for tickets and other information. Medford's Chevalier Theatre will host a performance on Sept. 23 by Irish country singer, guitarist, pianist and accordionist **Nathan Carter**, who will be on his debut North American tour. A former All-Ireland accordion and singing champion, the 26-year-old Carter has three number-one albums, two number-one singles and two number-one live performance DVDs, as well as a recently aired PBS special. Special guest star **Chloë Agnew**, formerly of Celtic Woman, will join Carter for renditions of old country favorites, Irish folk songs and adult contemporary classics.

For more details, see chevaliertheatre.com.

Master traditional singer — and weaver — Norman Kennedy will give a house concert on Sept. 23, sponsored through the Folk Song Society of Greater Boston. Born in Scotland and now living in Vermont, Kennedy has been active as a singer and weaver for decades, and in 2003 was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship — the highest honor in folk and traditional arts in the United States.

For reservations, send e-mail to houseconcerts@fssgb.org -- the address will be given on confirmation.

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Honoring music past while framing music present

(Continued from page 1) Makem and Clancy – past and present.

Q. So how did you guys finally get together? I understand it was a combination of planning and unforeseen circumstances.

Makem: In early 2016, we got a call from Joanie Madden [vocalist and flutist for Cherish the Ladies], who wanted both of us for her annual cruise in February of this year. We'd thought about playing together for years, because of our love of song, and our culture, the tradition in our families, and the history of our families together, so we agreed. And besides it's hard to say "no" to Joanie.

That summer, I was heading back to the Midwest from a festival, and Donal was at the Milwaukee Irish Fest and he said, "Why don't you come play with me?" So we got up and did "Whistling Gypsy Rover" and a couple of other songs that our fathers used to sing, and it felt really, really good.

I was in Ireland that fall, and Donal and I ran through a whole list of songs, and thought it would be fine. And then [Burren co-owner] Tommy McCarthy called us to do his annual benefit concert at the National Concert Hall in Dublin in January. So that was our first actual gig. By the time we went on Joanie's cruise we'd already done those two appearances.

Q. An obvious question: Were you childhood friends?

Clancy: Well, at first we were in different parts of the world – my dad had settled in Canada, which was where I was born, and Tommy and his family were living in New Hampshire.

Makem: And then Liam and Tommy started to play together, so I think to make things easier, Liam moved the family to Dover [NH], where we were living. I think the first time we met would've been 1978. We were visiting my Aunt Molly, my granny's sister, who also was living in Dover, and my mother called down to say "The Clancys are here."

Clancy: That's one of my earliest memories, actually, coming to Dover. I would've been three, I think. But we only stayed in Dover for five years before we moved to Waterford [Ireland].

Makem: Our older siblings were about the same age and went to school together. But the two of us didn't really pal around that much. You have to consider that we had about a five-year age gap. When you're 13, you don't hang out with an eight-year-old, you know. But then Donal and his family moved to Waterford, and after that we both wound up getting into the business. I think the next time we saw each other was at a festival in Chicago – you were playing with Robbie [O'Connell] and your father.

Clancy: I remember the Makems coming to my 21st birthday party. They bought me a bottle of Jack Daniels as a present.

Makem: Yes, your dad

had just finished his book ["The Mountain of the Women: Memoirs of an Irish Troubadour"], and I remember he recited it verbatim for us. [Laughs]

Q. Growing up with all that music happening around you, did it hit you that your fathers did something special?

Makem: My formative years, I guess you'd call them, were at the height of Makem and Clancy. We'd always go to their shows, and I just loved it. When I was eight or nine years old, I would go into my dad's record collection, and I'd listen to the Kingston Trio, and The Weavers and Woody Guthrie, and so on. That was the only music I listened to. My friends were into rock and roll, and I liked it myself, but I kept going back to the folk music.

And then my father and the three Clancys had a reunion. The first concert was at Lincoln Center, so we took a big family trip down to New York – I wore my brand new suit from Sears. We were right in the front row, and then the four of them came bounding out on stage, and I'd never seen anything like it – the audience was electric, they went crazy. That's when I realized, "Wow, this isn't what my friends' parents do for a living."

Clancy: Well, living in Waterford, it was all I knew – the sessions, the parties, people coming and going – and I enjoyed the fun and the energy. And I went to the Makem and Clancy shows and the reunion concerts, too, and I liked that. There was no particular time I thought we were any different than other families.

Q. What was it like for you to forge your own musical identities?

Makem: I tried not to do any Clancys/Makem songs for the longest time, because we were trying to separate ourselves. I started with a long-necked banjo – that's what my father always played – and I've had it for a long time now. And people would ask, "Is that your father's banjo?" So I tried not to be a jukebox for the Clancys and Makem, but you know, they are all such great songs! I went through every songbook, every record I have, looking for older songs.

Once, I was backing my father for a gig in New Orleans, and I thought I'd found a song he didn't know, "The Trip We Took Over the Mountain." He always would have me do a song during his concerts, so I sang it, and he applauded with everyone else.

Later, when we were back in the dressing room, Dad says, "That song you sang?" And I was thinking to myself, "Here it is, it's one he doesn't know." Then he says, "Your granny used to sing that song."

It's a tough business to be in. My parents didn't realize how tough it was to get work if your name wasn't Tommy Makem or Liam Clancy, or Makem and Clancy. My mom managed them for years, and she didn't have to make too many phone calls.

I tried to write my own



Rory Makem (left) tried not to be "a jukebox for the Clancys and Makem" when he started out as a performer, "but you know, they are all such great songs!" Donal Clancy says the impact of the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem on Ireland went far beyond music: "They were proud and happy to be Irish, and that had a big effect on everyone." Sean Smith photo



songs with Mickey and Liam [Spain] – Mickey's a great songwriter. It's hard to write a song in the vernacular, and have it sound old, like something from the folk music canon. I've written a lot of songs that ended up in the garbage can.

But I'd be doing it, playing the music, no matter what. And there's so much more I need to learn.

Clancy: There was no question of me playing music – my dad gave me my first guitar when I was eight, and I was doing gigs in my early teens. I went straight into the business after leaving school, and I started off doing something different, playing with a number of bands or whoever needed a guitar player.

It was only later on that I went back into the family's music. I played in a trio with Robbie O'Connell and my dad, and we'd do a lot of the old songs. But Robbie loves to take the old songs and give them new melodies and adapted lyrics, and of course he's a wonderful songwriter, so we'd do some of his songs. And I would do an instrumental on guitar.

Of course, I was with Danú at the beginning before the gig with my dad came up, which paid better, so I left. I came back to the band in 2003, but I did my last tour with them in March. It got to the stage, I think, where we are all settling down and it felt like whatever used to be there had kind of faded away – a lot of the guys who'd been there had left. The rest of them are really gung ho about it, so I felt it wasn't fair to them if I wasn't into it anymore.

My own music has changed. When I went solo, my interests started to shift.

The thing is with Makem and Clancy, they just sang the songs they liked; it didn't matter where they came from. It's much the same for me. I don't differentiate between the family repertoire and what I do myself. When I do a solo gig, I'll do some songs I wrote myself, and some instrumentals, and some other folk songs I've picked up along the way, and then I'll usually throw in some of the old favorites.

Q. Looking back, what

impresses you most about the Clancys and Makem and what they accomplished – going to America and creating something that seemed totally new?

Makem: I don't think it was new to them.

Clancy: Exactly. You had these four lads from small-town Ireland who did something that was new and exciting without realizing it. They were doing something they loved in the way they felt it should be done.

And it's amazing that our fathers, who were such kindred spirits, with the same interests, same ambitions, same backgrounds in many ways, happened to meet – really seems like it was just meant to be.

Makem: I've always thought they were the four right guys at the right time.

Clancy: Irish music was practically on the verge of extinction then. It was really looked down upon. You didn't hear older folks singing the old songs anymore, they were more interested in whatever music was popular. It was inconceivable that someone could be a professional Irish folk singer.

Makem: That's because

nobody would want to do it.

Clancy: But when the Clancys started up, and they became popular, they helped resurrect all the old songs. They inspired a lot of people and that's a big part of their legacy.

Makem: What's sometimes forgotten is that the Clancys – beginning with Paddy and Tom – went to New York as actors and worked on and off Broadway. The singing was a lark. They'd put on shows after the plays, and that's how they met the likes of Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Jean Ritchie.

Clancy: That theatrical background was very important. They knew how to construct a show, how to pace things. So that definitely helped them appeal to audiences.

Makem: They were on the periphery of the folk scene. They wouldn't have gone to Washington Square Park or hung out with the beatniks. They would've been hanging out with the newspaper guys, the writers. The people who went to New York for the folk music were academics, and they wanted to be what the Clancys and my father already were. And I al-

ways found it funny that my dad and the Clancys, although they were from rural Ireland, were more well-rounded and better read – they knew more than these people.

I hate to bring Bob Dylan into this again, since everyone always brings him up. But I saw an interview he did once in which he talked about the Clancys and my father, and he said, "There was always something in their eye, as if they knew something you didn't know." And it was absolutely true.

Clancy: They made a big impact on Irish music, one that was felt for years and years and widely appreciated. They got this big contract with Columbia Records, which was incredible for a bunch of guys from Ireland. It was Bono who said that the Clancys were the first Irish rock stars.

But they also had an impact on Ireland itself, at a time when the country wasn't in the best way. You'd see them wearing the sweaters, with big smiles, standing and walking tall. They were proud and happy to be Irish, and that had a big effect on everyone.



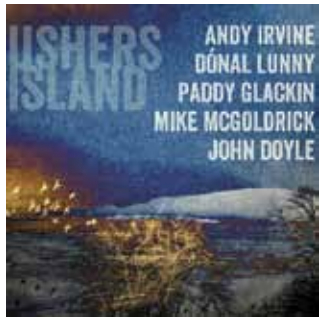
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CD Reviews

By SEAN SMITH

Usher's Island, "Usher's Island" • Sports analogies can be pernicious yet so tantalizing. So when you hear of a band with an "all-star line-up," it's tempting sometimes to think of a team loaded with Most Valuable Player candidates, seemingly destined for unparalleled success – only to fall short because of clashing egos and failure to unite skills and talents effectively, thus leading to humiliation and recrimination.



Well, you can forget about that particular analogy as far as this album is concerned.

Usher's Island is the quintet of Andy Irvine, Donal Lunny, Paddy Glackin, Mike McGoldrick and John Doyle, five of the most accomplished figures in the Irish music revival of the past half-century (give or take),

and what they've produced actually exceeds expectations. In fact, "Usher's Island" is much like a series of arboreal growth rings, hinting not only at the quintet's impact on Irish music but also at their individual progression as musicians – from interpreting the tradition to interpolating elements of it into their own creations.

Most importantly, though, it's simply a pleasure to hear the power, stateliness, and grace of Glackin's fiddle and McGoldrick's flute (as well as his uilleann pipes and whistle), such as on the jig medley – "The Half Century Set" – that opens the album, a set of reels that includes two from the repertoire of esteemed Donegal fiddler Johnny Doherty [see "The Tin Fiddle" review below], and "Sean Keane's," a pair of delightful hornpipes. Equally pleasing is the accompaniment, whether chordal, harmonic or contrapuntal, of Messrs. Irvine, Lunny and Doyle. They give plenty of room to the melody instruments and vocals but Irvine's mandola, Lunny's bouzouki and Doyle's guitar are ever-present in all their glory.

And then there are the songs. Irvine and Doyle, respectively, give new life to the traditional classics "Molly Ban" and "Wild Roving" (a quieter, more subdued variant of the old pub favorite), and two obscure, fascinating ballads: "Felix the Soldier," a New England song from the French and Indian War; and "Cairndaisy," about an Irish Catholic emigrant fighting for the US

in the 1898 Spanish-American War, but realizing that his true sympathies are with his opponents.

Doyle and Irvine, of course, have developed into consummate songwriters, too, and are in top form here. Doyle has shown a penchant for historical writing, and his "Heart in Hand" is an autobiographical, emotionally vivid recounting of the life of Richard Joyce, the 17th-century Galway native who, while enslaved abroad, became a goldsmith and reputedly created the Claddagh ring. Irvine is likewise an impressive historian in his songwriting, but of late also has become more personal, more nostalgic, and quite the wit. In "As Good As It Gets" he revisits his formational 1960s sojourn in The Balkans, a subject he's covered previously via contemplative pieces like "Autumn Gold," "Time Will Cure Me" and "B'neas's Green Glade" – but here it's with fond affection and memories of romantic assignations (failed and successful), and downright funny wordplay.

And mention must be made of Lunny's return engagement with "Bean Pháidín," which he recorded with Planxty on "The Well Below the Valley" – voiced rather more quietly and deliberately this time around.

On their respective websites, Irvine and Vertical Records both refer to this as the "first" Usher's Island album – one shouldn't automatically assume that to mean there'll be a second (a third?), but a little optimism these days is a lovely thing. [verticalrecords.co.uk]

Damien McGeehan, "The Tin Fiddle" • Donegal's distinctive fiddle tradition goes beyond the music. For generations, fiddlers in that part of Ireland struck their bows on instruments fashioned wholly or partly out of tin that could be made and repaired more quickly than timber ones (although their durability was far shorter, usually 40-50 years). It would seem a rather esoteric concept on which to base a whole album, but McGeehan's exploration of the tin fiddle is far more than some exercise in obscure folklore.

McGeehan, part of the pioneering Donegal fiddle trio Fidil, uses the tin fiddle to generate a host of multi-tracked sounds – bowing, scraping, strumming, plucking, tapping (on strings and the body) – that cover the melodic, harmonic and rhythmic components of traditional Donegal tunes as well as his own compositions. He stitches and layers these together with results that make for an astonishing variety, from hypnotically



spare and delicate to sinuous and powerful.

One of the most notable Donegal fiddlers, John Doherty, came from a family renowned for making and playing tin fiddles, and McGeehan pays him tribute with a sequence of three tunes from the Doherty repertoire: "The Four Posts of the Bed" – which features the motif of a tapping bow, on each corner of the fiddle, to represent the four titular posts – the haunting "Paddy's Rambles Through the Park" and a waltz that sounds like it originated many, many miles east of Donegal.

McGeehan's strengths as an arranger are evident throughout "The Tin Fiddle," but particularly so on "Hettie McKenzie": It starts with an accented percussive beat and some bluesy picked notes before laying out into a stirring 2/4 march with a mesmerizing drone underneath, and then breaks off into a warp-drive reel with multiple leads.

In some cases, McGeehan patiently develops a motif or theme in one track that blends into – or dramatically changes on – the subsequent track. "O'Rourke's Highland" (a McGeehan original) builds off a plucked four-note pattern into the melody, gradually segues into a richly textured improvisational passage, then heads back the way it came, until suddenly McGeehan bursts into the well-known traditional reel "Gravel Walks to Granny," mimicking via overdubs the octave duet style of fiddling common to Donegal (and Kerry).

"The Anvil" is a collection of percussive rhythms on the fiddle body that serves as a prelude to "The Tinsmith," with a jagged-edged bow-chopping undercurrent on which McGeehan unfurls a series of semi-distorted jazzy runs inspired by Duke Ellington's "Caravan" and Stephane Grappelli's "Minor Swing."

The outlier is "Peadar O'Haione's," a jig much favored by McGeehan's great grandfather, a fiddler himself. McGeehan plays it straight, with no overdubs or special effects, and thus gives us a sense of what it must've been like to listen to a Donegal tin fiddle back in his ancestor's day: somewhat muted but resonant in its own way, and thoroughly captivating. [damienmcgeehan.com]

Cantrip, "The Crossing" • Cantrip emerged from the lively Edinburgh session scene two decades ago as a quartet, but over time has now become a transatlantic trio: Scots native Jon Bews (fiddle, vocals), a former member of Malinky; Dan Houghton (bagpipes, flute, whistle, guitar, bouzouki, vocals), Ghanaian-born but reared in Scotland, and now based in New England; and Boston-area native Eric McDonald (guitar, mandolin, vocals), who has an extensive list of bands and collaborations to his credit.

Cantrip's changes involve more than numbers and personalities. Their sound is leaner, the energy more focused and a little more disciplined. Houghton's pipes and Bews's fiddle make for a powerful combination on the instrumental sets, like "Rector at the Feis," "The Musical Beast" and "Ian Green of Greenstax"; in addition to playing excellent rhythm guitar, McDonald takes up the melody in the opening jig (his own composition) on "The Crossing" and provides a dexterous mandolin solo during the "Ian Green" medley. They also venture beyond Scottish tradition into other domains, like that Irish session chestnut "The Musical Priest" and a couple of Swedish tunes, expertly rendered by Bews, at the end of the "Hot and Cold" set.

The album's four songs represent an even wider diversity, in both form and content. The Scottish Gaelic lament "A' Mhic Iain 'ic Sheumais (Oh Son of John)" is given appropriately solemn treatment by Houghton's low-toned, pensive voice, while McDonald imbues "Sae Will We Yet" with the warmth an 18th-century song of fellowship (and drink) deserves. Bews does a quite riveting take on Northern English singer-songwriter Jez Lowe's "Tom Tom" – a paean to ancient arts in the age of all-pervasive technology – and a restrained yet cheeky one on the hilarious "Old Waily, Windy Knight" (by eminent folk parodists The Kipper Family), which could be described as a night-visiting song as choreographed by Benny Hill.

Cantrip did a brief New England tour back in the summer, and "The Crossing" provides ample reason to look forward to a return visit, hopefully in the not-too-distant future. [cantrip-music.com]



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Irish scholar-musician will kick off BC's Gaelic Roots series

Boston College's Gaelic Roots series – which explores Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton and related folk music traditions through concerts, talks and other events – kicks off its fall schedule on Sept. 13 with a lecture and concert by Irish musician and scholar Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin.

Supported through the BC Center for Irish Pro-

grams in collaboration with the Alumni Association, all Gaelic Roots events are free and open to the public and begin at 6:30 p.m.

Ó hAllmhuráin, the bilingual Johnson Chair in Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University in Montreal, will present his new book, "Flowing Tides: History and Memory in an Irish

Soundscape," which focuses on one of Ireland's most storied musical regions, Clare. Combining historical research with contemporary voices of oral music historians, and based on 30 years of fieldwork in Ireland and among Irish communities in the US and Britain, Ó hAllmhuráin describes how Clare – often portrayed as remote

and isolated – has long been influenced by global cultural flows, and how these changes have been expressed in the area's traditional music.

Following his talk, Ó hAllmhuráin will perform a concert; he is an All-Ireland champion on concertina and uilleann pipes and member of Ireland's distinguished Kílfenora Céilí Band, with a discography that includes "Traditional Music from Clare and Beyond" and "Tracin'." He has performed, broadcast, adjudicated and lectured on Irish music throughout Europe and North America.

The event will take place at Connolly House,

300 Hammond Street.

On Oct. 3, Kieran Jordan, who teaches Irish dance at BC, will lead a traditional Irish céilí dance in Gasson 100. The evening will consist of easy-to-learn social dances taught by Jordan, and are open to anyone regardless of experience. Live music will be provided by fiddler Sheila Falls Keohane, interim director of Gaelic Roots, along with BC Irish Studies students and friends.

Concluding the semester on Dec. 7 in the Cadiagan Alumni Center will be "A Celtic Christmas," with singer and musician Nórín Ní Riain and her sons Owen and Micheál

Moley Ó Súilleabháin. Ní Riain is an authority on Celtic music as well as sacred and spiritual songs from across the ages. One of her most famous collaborations was a trio of recordings with the Benedictine monks of Glenstal Abbey, and she's also performed with artists such as Sinéad O'Connor, John Cage and Paul Winter. "A Celtic Christmas" will feature song and story, celebrating the wisdom, charm and wit of the Celtic tradition.

Registration is requested for the Sept. 13 and Dec. 7 events. Go to bc.edu/gaelicroots for registration links and more information.



New England Council CEO Jim Brett was recently honored by the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry at its annual conference in Houston TX. Pictured are (l-r): Jim Brett, Mary Davis, President/CEO of Special Olympics; and Dr. Steve Perlman, Global Clinical Director and Founder, Special Olympics Special Smiles.

GAA to honor a legend, Bernie O'Reilly, for his 60 years of full service

Cavan-born GAA legend Bernie O'Reilly, at right, will be honored next year in New York for his 60 years of service to the GAA games both in Canton and, previously, at Dilboy Field in Somerville. Bernie has been a presence in North American Gaelic football since he arrived in Boston in 1958.

"When people think of the Boston GAA, whether it be here or at home in Ireland, Bernie O'Reilly is the name that first comes to mind for young and old" said John Cunningham, chairman of the Northeast Division. "This award recognizes

all the years of service that Bernie has given, and continues to give, to the GAA. On behalf of the Boston Northeast Division I would like to congratulate Bernie and the O'Reilly family."



Harry Brett photo
O'Reilly is the owner of O'Reilly & Son Autobody in Watertown.



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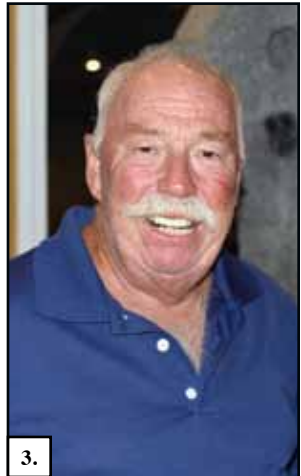
BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

As the summer season draws to a close, the streets of Boston are busy again with the return of college students from around the country and the visiting vacationers who spend their days in the warmth of the season's sunshine. In mid-August, BIR photographer Harry Brett took a ride down Route 3 to South Yarmouth to check on the weekend events at the Cape Cod Irish Village.

1. Tom MacCormaic, owner manager of Cape Cod Irish Village; 2.) Emer Mezzelle, Newton; Mary Ann and Tim O'Sullivan, Hyde Park; 3.) Steve Kearns Rockaway Beach, N.Y. retired F.D.N.Y.; 4.) Terry Bolt, Deamond Keogh, Barnstable; Jean Kenneally, Yarmouth; 5.) Will Hurley and Joanne Smith, Rockaway Beach N.Y.; 6.) Virginia and Ray Gorski, Farmington Ct.; 7.) Katheryn and Bobby Ellis, Milton; 8.) Chris and Trish Mooney, Rochester, N.Y.; 9.) Newlyweds Danny Carr and Lisa Crotty, Milton; 10.) Ryan Collette and mom Patricia Collette, California; 11.) Paul McGeady and daughter Devlynn, Dorchester; 12.) Fred and Kathy Carew, North Haven, Ct; Mary Katherine Christoforo, North Haven, Ct; Sheila and Mike DeChello, So. Yarmouth; Ann Cullagh, North Haven. Ct; Mike Cullagh Norfolk



Traveling People

History is on the menu at Beech Hill Country House Hotel

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Ireland is a virtual goldmine for history buffs. There are museums aplenty, multiple monuments, lovely historic homes, and hotels that welcome guests.

MANOR HOUSE HOTELS

This spring, a friend and I headed north and spent two nights at Beech Hill Country House Hotel, one of 29 luxury boutique hotels and castles that are included in the Manor House Hotel group in the Republic and in Northern Ireland.

Beech Hill, outside Londonderry, has a long and fascinating history stretching back to Capt. Thomas Skipton, who built the current mansion in 1739, and called it Beechhill because there were so many trees around the house.

When the last Skipton died, the estate went to his cousin, George Crookshank Kennedy, who continued making improvements, planted even more trees, and added a large porch to the front of the house with a room above now known as the library.

In 1872, when the property was sold to the Nicholsons of Newbuildings, N. Ireland, the estate included 1,169 acres. The hotel now sits on 32 acres.

US NAVY BASE

While the history of Beech Hill ownership and subsequent changes is interesting, it's the story of the US Navy's establishment of a World War II camp on the grounds there that is riveting. US Marines billeted in Quonset huts at Beech Hill from 1942 to 1944 to guard the Navy's Operating Base Londonderry, which was the its main center of operations in Europe until after the Normandy landings.

Londonderry - the UK's most westerly port - made the city an obvious choice for a strategic base. From there, the Navy could help protect convoys from U-boat attacks during the Battle of the Atlantic. The base also fueled escort vessels, serviced ships from many nations and, at its height, had more than 5,000 American personnel.

Today, when you walk through the manicured grounds, ornamental gardens, and series of trails through at Beech Hill, it's hard to imagine that more than 400 Quonset huts and 30 shelters were once there, serving as accommodation huts and mess tents, small workshops, and even active theatres.

The history of Beech Hill's military past is commemorated at the hotel in an on-site museum and trails dedicated to Marine Lt. Gen. Martin R. Berndt (1948-2011) and his wife, Diana, who championed the creation of this museum.

The Londonderry base was decommissioned in July 1944, but Beech Hill still has special meaning for the Marines and their families who continue to visit. They stay in the hotel on grounds that



George Skipton & Family

George Skipton inherited Beech Hill in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, from his cousin Thomas Skipton in the 1800s, planted new trees and improved the layout and appearance of the grounds. This image of him and his family is part of an historical display at Beech Hill Country House Hotel in Londonderry.



Marines who visit Beech Hill House Hotel in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, today continue a tradition started more than 70 years ago when many of their wartime predecessors carved their names, dates and initials on a large tree in the woods now known as the Marines' Tree.

once sheltered their comrades, carve their initials and dates into the huge, ancient Marines' Tree on the grounds, visit the museum, and stop by the monument erected on the hotel grounds in 1997 by the Beech Hill US Navy/Marine Corps Association.

THE MANOR HOUSE HOTEL

Current owners Patricia (Patsy) O'Kane and her brother, Seamus Donnelly, bought the property in 1989, spent the next two years making renovations, and opened up in 1991.

"It's been a labor of love," Patsy said, "and I can't call it anything else. It's been almost 30 years and we're still working on it. It's a way of life. I've enjoyed it and learned so much."

Patsy is omnipresent. She's chatting with guests or staff, checking dining room service, and making small changes and improvements here and there. She is a totally hands-on owner, assisted by her nephew, Conor Donnelly, and other family members.

By the end of the summer, Beech Hill hopes to offer self-catering in five two-bedroom cottages on the grounds, Patsy said. "We plow money back in," she said, "doing things that are sustainable."

In addition to conferences and events, the hotel also focuses on weddings and can provide all wedding accoutrements



A US Marine Corps' Memorial was erected in 1997 at Beech Hill Country House Hotel in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Marines were billeted at Base One Europe, Beech Hill Camp, during the Second World War to guard the US Naval operating base in Londonderry. That base was decommissioned in 1944 but the hotel still recognizes the history and observes US Navy and Marine month in August.

Judy Enright photos

in-house, including beautician, hairdresser, florists, and more. "We bring all the professionals here for the bride," Patsy said. **A TWO-NIGHT STAY**
My large bedroom in the older section of the hotel was spotlessly clean and nicely decorated with antiques as was my friend's room next door. There are 30 bedrooms and suites at Beech Hill, almost all with garden views.

Much work has been done there since Patsy and Seamus bought the property and it shows. In 2011, restoration work, which included new sash windows, extensive re-roofing, and external and interior redecoration, was completed.

The day after we arrived, we drove up to The Giant's Causeway and then had an outstanding lunch at Bushmills Inn in the town that's home to the world's oldest whiskey distillery near the Causeway. There are many other activities in the area, too.

The hotel staff offered suggestions and provided helpful brochures for activities like Causeway

Express taxi tours to attractions along the North Antrim coast and also to Donegal. When you're in that area, be sure to visit historic Londonderry city to walk the 17th Century city walls built to protect early English and Scottish settlers. Derry is the only remaining completely walled city in Ireland.

There's so much to do in the area and a visit is highly recommended. See visitderry.com for more information.

REVIEWS

We sometimes check Trip Advisor to see how other Americans liked their Irish experiences.

A California resident who visited Beech Hill last month wrote: "The room was lovely and the service was great. However I am extremely disappointed by the quality of the food served. We ordered room service for a light dinner, and for the price of the meals were expecting either a substantial quan-

tity of food or a memorable meal. The salad was overdressed, poorly executed, and uninviting. The cheese plate was an improvement, but nothing to write home about. I would love to return to this hotel, but next time will be making the trip into town for all meals."

Another Trip Advisor review, this time by a couple from Florida that visited last May, read: "Wonderful old-timey hotel with tons of history. The whole place is essentially a museum. Nonetheless, the rooms are large, clean, and modern. The lounge is friendly and the restaurant has a medium size menu with excellent dishes from steak and Guinness pie to fine dining."

My friend and I had two dinners in the Beech Hill dining room and were surprised that there were no fish dishes on the limited menu since we were quite close to the sea. We visited in the early spring, so vegetables served with the meal were seasonal winter root vegetables and not especially appetizing. Our breakfast was good, though - we both ordered cooked-to-order omelets.

The bottom line is that each person's experience is distinctly his or her own. We'd definitely return and give the dining room another chance to delight us.

SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS

There are many things to do in Ireland in the fall, including several events along the Gourmet Greenway in Co. Mayo.

On Sept. 15, visit Murrevagh Honey and meet James McDermott, see his apiary, and watch him harvest Golden Murrevagh Honey.

From Sept. 11 to 17, make a reservation at the award-winning An Port Mor Restaurant in Westport, Co. Mayo, to sample creative dishes made from Clare Island salmon.

From Sept. 22-24, Galway City celebrates the Galway International Oyster & Seafood Festival. More than 500,000 visitors have consumed more than 3 million oysters since the festival's inception in 1954. See galwayoysterfestival.com for more.

Westport's art festival is Sept. 27 to Oct. 1 and the Keel Sheep Show is Sat., Sept. 30, at the Achill Head Hotel, Co. Mayo.

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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Now that we have studied the Irish verbs, let us see how they are actually used.

As an example, we will use the verb caoin /KEEN/, "cry". This verb should be familiar to any student of Irish folklore as "the keen of the banshee" Actually, you should also know "banshee", bean (woman) and sí (fairy) as well as "fairy mound". This sí is a word from "Old Irish", and should not be confused with sí, "she" or "it" with which it is a homonym. The modern Irish word for "fairy" is sióg /shock/.

"The baby cries." **Caoin an leanbh.**
 "The baby cried." (when you dropped it) **Chaoin an leanbh.**
 "The baby used to cry." (a lot) **Chaoiniadh an leanbh.**
 "The baby will cry."(when it gets hungry) **Caoinfidh an leanbh.**

"The baby is crying." (now)
Tá an leanbh ag caoineadh.
 "The baby was crying." (until you fed it)
Bhí an leanbh ag caoineadh.
 "The baby will be crying" (unless you feed it)
Beidh an leabh ag caoineadh.

Also are the **Interrogative, Negative, and Interrogative+Negative** forms of **Bí**.

An bhfuil an leanbh ag caoineadh? "Is the baby crying?"
Níl an leanbh ag caoineadh. "The baby is not crying."
Nach bhfuil an leanbh ag caoineadh? "Isn't the baby crying"

An raibh an fear ag iasgach? "Was the man fishing."
Ní raibh an fear ag siúl. "The man was not walking."
Nach raibh an duine ag ól. "Wasn't the man drinking?"

An mbeidh an cailín ag ithe? "Will the girl be eating?"
Ní bheidh sí ag obair. "She will not be working."
Nach mbeidh an bean ag iarnáil? "Won't the woman be ironing?"

Now let's get practical and use some nouns to practice some of these.

Vocabulary, some old some new:

"dog"	madra	"cat"	cat
"boy"	buachaill	woman"	bean
"to help"	cuidigh le	"policemen"	gardaí
"shirt"	leine	"trousers"	briste
"man"	fear	"men"	fir

Now see if you can translate these sentences into Irish: 1.) "The boy had a dog." 2.) "Won't the girl be ironing now?" 3.) "Did Johnny have a cat?" 4.) " Mommy! Nora will not help me." 5.) "The men are working now." 6.) "The dog will not be very cold." 7.) "The woman cried." 8.) "The teacher had a red shirt on." 9.) "Bill used to work here." 10.) "Whose trousers are these?" 11.) "Wasn't Brian's cat very pretty." 12.) "The policemen helped the child."

Answers: 1.) **Bhí madra air an mbuachaill.** 2.) **Nach mbeidh an cailín ag iarnáil anois?** 3.) **An raibh cat ag Sheonnaidh?** 4.) **A mhamí! Ní chuidigh Nóra liom.** 5.) **Tá na fir ag obair anois.** 6.) **Nach mbeidh an madra go-fhuar.** 7.) **Chaoinigh an mbean.** 8.) **Bhí an muinteoir leine dearg air.** 9.) **D'obairinn Liam anseo.** 10.) **Cé leis an briste seo?** 11.) **Nach raibh an gcat ag Brtan go-hálainn?** 12.) **Chuidigh na gardaí leis an leanbh.**



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