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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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It was the round trip to Ireland made by the USS Jamestown, pictured in the accompanying sketch sailing into Cobh, Co. Cork on April 12, 1847, that highlighted Irish famine relief efforts out of Boston. Laden with 800 tons of provisions and supplies worth \$35,000, the Jamestown landed to jubilant greetings.

Portrait of the USS Jamestown by E.D. Walker, Marine Artist

## 'With Good Will Doing Service' defines The Charitable Irish Society of Boston

The Charitable Irish Society of Boston (CIS) is the oldest Irish organization in the Americas and will celebrate its 275th anniversary on March 17 of this year with a gala dinner at the Copley Fairmont Hotel in Boston. Following is the first of three articles highlighting various aspects of the society's history.

BY CATHERINE B. SHANNON

### The Early Years 1737 to 1837

The Charitable Irish was founded in 1737 by twenty-six men of Ulster birth and ancestry for the purpose of providing for "relief of poor, aged and infirm persons, such as have been reduced by sickness, shipwreck and other accidental misfortunes." A secondary purpose of the society was to cultivate a spirit of unity and harmony among all resident

Irishmen and their descendants in the Massachusetts colony and "to advance socially and morally the interests of the Irish people." The motto attached to the founding articles was "With Good Will Doing Service", and for the past 274 years, the society has remained true to this motto of doing service to fellow Irish men and women, its ancestral land as well as to its American homeland.

The founders, who were predominantly Presbyterians, represented a variety of occupations, including merchants, lawyers, teachers, a sea captain, a joiner, a constable and the proverbial "retailer of strong drink." The original initiation fee was ten shillings, or the



equivalent of \$500 today, and dues were 8 shillings annually, the equivalent of \$400 today. Annual meetings were held in April and a dress code prohibited members from wearing 'cap or apron' at this event, and meetings were to be concluded by 2 a.m. By 1800 the annual meetings were held on March 17 and clearly identified with Ireland's national patron, St. Patrick. The Keeper of the Silver Key oversaw recruitment and membership. The Keeper's authority was symbolized by his possession of the

Silver Key, which was crafted from an ordinary contemporary key and a 1738 King George II Irish coin. The coin bears the crowned harp on one side and the head of George II on the other. Jacob Hurd, one of the most accomplished silversmiths in colonial Boston designed

(Continued on page 9)

## Judge to BC: Give up IRA tapes

BY BILL FORRY  
MANAGING EDITOR

A federal judge in Boston has told Boston College that it must turn over recordings and other documents that are part of an oral history collection kept at the university's Burns Library. The ruling is a major setback for BC and its allies who had sought to quash a subpoena triggered by a British request to view the documents as part of a criminal investigation into sectarian murders during the Troubles.

The subpoena in question, issued last May and June, sought the records related to two individuals, Brendan Hughes and Dolours Price, both of whom were alleged to be former IRA members. BC has already handed over documents involving Hughes, who died three years ago.

Court documents indicate that the current investigation focuses on the killing of Jean McConville, a Belfast mother who was abducted from her home in Dec. 1972. Her body was discovered on a beach in County Louth in 2003. She had been shot in the head, allegedly because the IRA believed that she was acting as a spy for British forces, although an independent investigation in 2006 found no evidence of that charge.

In a Dec. 16 ruling, Young denied a motion by BC attorneys to quash the subpoena, but agreed to an in camera review of the materials in his courtroom. That review was initially to be held on Dec. 21, allowing the university to seek a stay.

On Dec. 27, according to a *Boston Globe* report, Young issued a new ruling ordering the university to hand over

(Continued on page 9)

## INSIDE

### Solas Awards celebrated

The Irish International Immigration Center toasted three honorees at its annual Solas awards dinner last month: Ralph De La Torre, MD, the CEO of Steward Healthcare System; Eva A. Millona, Esq., Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA); and Father Dan Finn, Pastor of St. Mark and St. Ambrose parishes in Dorchester and co-founder of the Irish Pastoral Centre, who are pictured at right with IIC Executive Director Sister Lena Deevy, far right, and deputy director Ronnie Millar at left. Sister Deevy used the occasion to review 2011, which she described as a "terrific year for the IIC."

### Painful year

### looms for Irish

Joe Leary writes, Page 4

### Suzin Bartley,

### relentless missionary

Page 6





# Paintings of Ireland

by

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## Boys & Girls Club offered a special Christmas treat

The spirit of Christmas was in the air last month at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester (BGCD, formerly the Marr Club) as popular magician Joe Howard, (aka. "Yo Joe What A Guy") visited to give a one-hour performance in the club's gymnasium. One of the truly wonderful sounds at Christmas time is the sound of children laughing, and the laughter, cheers, and smiles of delight of these neighborhood kids, ranging in age from seventeen months to eight years old filled the hall and brought a sense of joy to the "grown-ups" who were fortunate to witness the event.

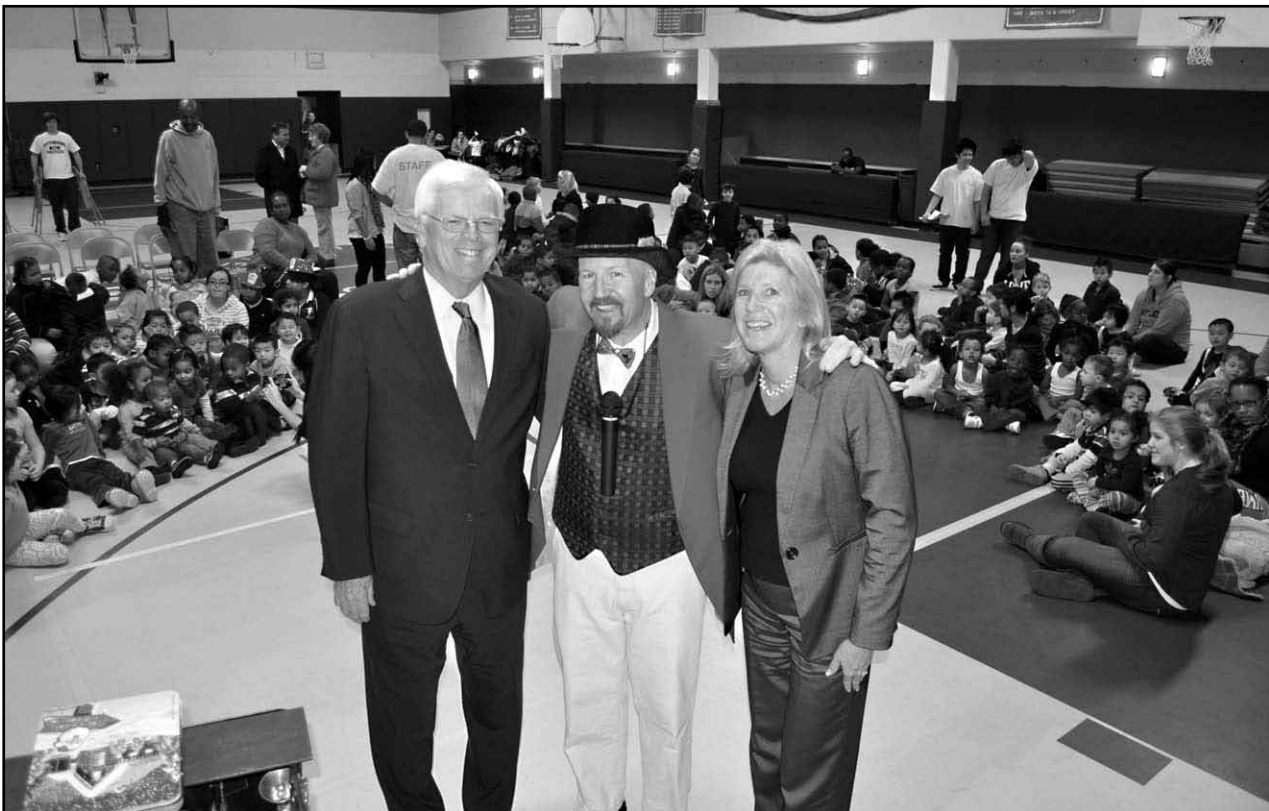
Some 150 children from the Club's toddler day care and after-school programs formed an appreciative audience, and they were joined by club president Bob Scannell and his wife Mary Kinsella, head of Early Childhood, along with members of the BGCD staff.

The event was made possible by a contribution from SBLI (The Savings Bank Life Insurance Co.) whose CEO, Bob Sheridan, and his executive assistant, Marybeth Leary, were on hand for the show.

Sheridan, who is well known for his generous support of charitable endeavors across the city, had co-chaired the Club's annual drawing at the Fairmount Copley Plaza last month, and during a visit to the club at the time he decided to sponsor this special event for the children.

"Mr. Sheridan wanted to do something special for the kids at the Club at Christmas time," Leary explained. "He thought of the magician, and Mary and Bob Scannell agreed to it."

The Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester makes a difference in the lives of thousands of children, with more than 200 programs including education, childcare, art,



Magician Joe Howard performed for members of the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester on Dec. 19, sponsored by SBLI. Pictured with the magician, who is billed as "Yo Joe- What a Guy," are SBLI's Bob Sheridan and Marybeth Leary. Sheridan co-chaired the club's annual grand drawing with board chairman Lee Michael Kennedy, and volunteered to host the magical show for the entertainment of the children.

Photo by Ed Forry

athletics, aquatics, technology, music, career services, leadership training and other engaging activities. The Club serves more than 4,000 children at three sites, on Dorchester Avenue and Deer Street in the Savin Hill neighborhood and at the Walter Denney Youth

Center on Columbia Point.

The programs are offered to the children for a membership fee of just \$5 per year.

— ED FORRY



On October 16, 2011, The New England Council held its 2011 Annual Dinner and New Englander of the Year Awards Presentation at the Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center. The organization's President & CEO, James T. Brett, of Dorchester, was surprised with his own New Englander of the Year Award in recognition of his 15th anniversary as the head of the Council. Jim is pictured here (right) accepting the award from close friend and fellow honoree Don Rodman, president of the Rodman Auto Group and founder of the Rodman Ride for Kids.

## Charitable Irish Society salutes the Brett brothers

The Charitable Irish Society will hold its annual President's Reception on Jan. 19 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Gasson Hall at Boston College where Jim, Bill, and Harry Brett will be honored for their many contributions to the civic and cultural life of Boston.

Born and raised in Dorchester, the brothers have had distinguished careers in photography (Harry and Bill) while Jim has devoted his talents to political and civic endeavors.

If you would like to attend this event in honor of these three notable Irish Americans, reservations can be made by phoning society President Paul McNamara, c/o Masterman, Culbert and Tully at 617-722-8100 or by e-mail to [cispresreception@gmail.com](mailto:cispresreception@gmail.com)

## Teen charged with murdering Galway man in robbery attempt

BY BILL FORRY  
MANAGING EDITOR

A teenager was indicted last month for allegedly killing Ciaran Conneely, a 36 year-old Galway man who was shot to death outside his Dorchester apartment building on Oct. 10. John Graham, 17, will be charged with first degree murder in Conneely's murder, which rocked the Adams Corner neighborhood last fall.

The indictment also charged Graham with two counts of armed assault with intent to rob in an Oct. 30 incident on Monsignor Lydon Way in Dorchester in which Graham is alleged to have shot two men during an attempted robbery.

Suffolk County District Attorney Dan Conley's office said that Graham was arrested on Nov. 6 for the Lydon Way incident and is now being held on \$100,000 cash bail in that case. Graham has not been "formally arrested for Conneely's slaying, but a warrant has been entered and he will remain in custody until he is arraigned in Suffolk Superior Court," Conley's office said in a statement.

Conneely, known by the nickname "Kiwi" to his friends and neighbors, had lived in Dorchester for the last 12 years and worked in construction. A neighbor found him suffering from a single gunshot wound to the chest and lying along the curb outside 20 Nahant Ave., just steps from his apartment at about 1 a.m. on Oct. 10. He was taken to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries and died later in the morning, according to the Police Department.

State Rep. Martin Walsh, whose parents emigrated from Ireland's County Galway in the 1960s, said he hopes the indictment "will bring

some comfort to the Conneely family. I'm very grateful to the Boston Police for their persistence in this case. It's just senseless," Walsh said of the crime. "It's a sad situation when you have a 17 year old, who should be in high school looking forward to his life. Now his life is over, too."

Jake Wark, a spokesman for DA Conley, said that Graham was 16 years old at the time of the Conneely murder last October. But juveniles charged with murder are automatically tried as adults under Massachusetts law. The same Grand Jury indicted Graham with shooting two men on Monsignor Lydon Way on the night of Sunday, Oct. 30. A police report obtained by the Reporter indicates that Graham was trying to rob the two men as they walked home from a Dorchester Avenue convenience store around 10 o'clock that night.

According to the police report, one of the victims — an 18-year-old Asian male — was shot repeatedly in the front and rear torso outside of 32 Lydon Way. The other victim, age 20, was shot in the right arm.



Ciaran Conneely

Both men survived the attack.

One of the victims told police that the suspect — described as a black male in a mustard-colored hoodie — was seated on the stairs of a building on Lydon Way. The assailant asked them for a cigarette and when the victims said, no, he approached them with a .22 caliber revolver demanding, "Give me everything you got." When the victims refused, he opened fire and then ran toward Dorchester Avenue.

## Feeney donates \$350 Million to Cornell



C.F. Feeney

Charles F. Feeney of Atlantic Philanthropies has given Cornell University yet another gift, this time in the amount of \$350 million, which will prove critical in the building of Cornell's new high-tech school

on Roosevelt Island in New York City.

Feeney, a Cornell alumnus who made billions of dollars through Duty Free Shoppers, has spent much of the last three decades giving away his fortune. Cornell officials revealed in 2007 that he had given some \$600 million to the university over the years. Nonetheless, nothing on its Ithaca campus, where he graduated from the School of Hotel Management in 1956, bears his name, noted the *New York Times* in reporting the story.

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## Publisher's Notebook

## Galway gears up for a busy 2012

By ED FORRY

Almost three years ago, in late May 2009, Boston was a stopover port for the Volvo Ocean Race, an around-the-world, nine-month yacht race. The tenth running of the race that year began in Alicante, Spain, and eventually spanned 37,000 nautical miles, with Boston the only American port of call.

In our town, the then-undeveloped Fan Pier in South Boston was the center of race activities, and some unexpected bad weather during the Boston visit, including several days of rain and heavy fog, resulted in a low turnout for the Boston visit.



Ed Forry

From Boston, the race set sail for Galway Ireland, and ultimately was completed in St. Petersburg, Russia.

It was quite a different story in Galway, Ireland, where the Volvo Ocean Race was a huge success, with an estimated 600,000 supporters visiting the race village just off Eyre Square during the eight-day stopover; the crowd was estimated to

have peaked at 62,000 on the In-Port race day, and the Salthill promenade drew some 120,000 visitors to watch the close-combat race of sail through Galway Bay.

As the boats were arriving from Boston, upwards of 10,000 people came out at 3 a.m. on May 24 to welcome the first yachts, and welcoming bonfires could be seen all along Galway Bay.

The year, Miami will be the only US stopover, but the racing yachts will return to Galway again this summer, but this time the fleet will finish the race there, racing a final leg from Lorient, France, around Ireland and up the west coast to Ireland's third biggest city.

Again this year the race village will be hosted by Galway Harbour Company ([volvooceandraceragalway.com](http://volvooceandraceragalway.com)). The Volvo Ocean Race Grand Finale will be an eight-day festival, featuring marine, sport, culture and arts, entertainment, and food, with a Galway "Global Village" across the harbor. The events begin June 30 through July 8, with the arrival of the fleet expected for July 3. The In-Port race will be on July 7, followed by the announcement of the winner of the 2011-2012 race.

Galway Harbour has released details about Global Village 2012: It is a business to business initiative based on a trading post concept of open and free showcasing and trading of goods and services to a global audience. The key objective of the Global Village is to create an environment conducive to connecting Irish businesses to the global market and in doing so create a legacy of ongoing business relations long after the Volvo Ocean Race is over.

"The Global Village provides an opportunity for Irish industry to present its wares to a captive global audience. Global Village has been created to utilize the platform of the media coverage ... to convey the messages under the categories of Ireland's leading components, Innovation, Food, Green and Marine... the Global Village will be the host to many of the exciting events planned over the duration of the festival including the arrivals welcome party for the final leg of the Volvo Ocean Race, a Fourth of July Party, a Celebration of Global Culture, an International Fashion Show and Speakers Platform."

The summer of 2012 is likely to be a very busy one for tourists in Galway. In addition to the Volvo Race, the town again will stage two other traditional crowd-pleasers, the Galway Arts Festival (July 16-29) ([galwayartsfestival.com](http://galwayartsfestival.com)) and the Galway Races, the annual horse races at Ballybrit (July 25-31). That seven-day meet showcases 51 races ([galway-races.net](http://galway-races.net)); the ever popular Ladies Day takes place on Day 4, July 28.

## Commentary

## Troubling signals all up the line; a painful year looms for Ireland

By JOE LEARY

SPECIAL TO THE BIR

With draconian cuts in their standard of living, the potential collapse of the European Union, and the irrelevance of the Catholic Church in their lives, the people of Ireland are looking at a bleak 2012 as the new year dawns.



Joe Leary

The huge debts run up by swashbuckling real estate developers and crooked bank officials, which required massive borrowing from Europe, have placed a horrendous burden on the Irish government and the Irish people.

While officials have received praise for their efforts to correct the situation, the new budget released by the Fine Gael/

Labor coalition government raises taxes, reduces entitlements, and takes away significant funds from an already suffering Ireland where, in the third quarter, the Gross National Product number fell 1.9 percent, a signal, maybe, of a new recession.

The effects are a slowing economy, and less cash being spent because people don't know what to expect, and are holding onto their wallets.

The country's farming, forestry, and fishing industries continue to do well as does the export side of the economy, which is being fueled by American manufacturing investment, but at the same time, the government is reducing the number of teachers, closing medical centers, cutting the government work force by 6,000, reducing public service pay, and instituting cost savings in a large number of other programs.

According to the *Irish Times*, the three highest spending departments will be cut severely: health by 540 million euro, social protection by 475 million, and education by 132 million. Overall, the government will cut 2.7 percent from 2011 spending levels this coming year.

But that's only part of the story. Student contribution charges for their university educations will increase by 250 euro each, a tax by another name. Every homeowner in Ireland will be forced to pay a 100-euro fee called a "Household Charge," something that 15 members of the Irish Parliament said they would not pay. The government responded by saying the charge would be deducted from their salaries. The fear is that, like property taxes in the United States, the 100-euro household tax will grow substantially over the years.

The Irish tax system includes a Value Added Tax (VAT) on all goods sold. This is the one that tourists can get back at the tax window in the airports. Currently at 21 percent, it will be increased to 23 in the coming year. In many ways this is a hidden tax since most retail prices don't advertise the amount – but it is a tax that has an impact on the standard of living for every consumer, rich or poor.

With the lower expenses and increased revenue, the government hopes to be able to pay the European

banks and the International Monetary Fund what Ireland owes them.

But the European Union itself is not doing that well and several countries within the union are in more serious trouble economically than Ireland. Germany and France control most of what goes on in the organization, earning the disdain of Britain, which believes fervently in its own sovereignty and refuses to participate in the euro currency. In late December, Britain refused to help fund a European common bank fund designed to help floundering states.

All this must confuse the average Irish men and women who simply want to get on with their lives.

In fact some leaders in Ireland are openly critical of the European Union, most notably Ed Walsh, the onetime president of Limerick University who recently gave an impassioned speech in Cork criticizing Ireland's participation in the Euro union. And further unrest was generated by an article in *The Wall Street Journal* saying that the Central Bank of Ireland is evaluating printing facilities necessary to print Irish pounds once again.

What is clear, however, is that there is a growing sentiment among Irish leaders to carefully evaluate its relationship with Europe.

In addition to the uncertainty surrounding the cuts and the relationship with Europe, the Irish have lost confidence in the institution that has always offered a refuge in troubled times: the Catholic Church. It is no longer a powerful and integral part of Irish life. Dramatic evidence of this came in mid-December from Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin's report on the state of the Church in his diocese.

Of the Dublin Catholic population of 1,162,000, only 14 percent go to Mass weekly. Sunday collections for the support of the priests and the many charitable endeavors of the Church are down appreciably. What seems to be a continuing tolerance of pedophile priests has many Catholics disillusioned with their church. The archbishop has been outspoken about the apparent lack of firm action being taken to prevent these atrocities.

And Ireland's leaders, including Prime Minister Enda Kenny, recently showed their anger by summarily closing the Irish embassy at the Vatican. It is not an exaggeration to observe that the Church has lost its credibility with the Irish people.

The Vatican has appointed a new papal nuncio to Ireland, Monsignor Charles Brown, a New Yorker, who is said to be close to Pope Benedict. A young man in his early fifties, he may be just the personality required to begin to repair the damage. But in the meantime, the individual Irish parishioner is left to rely upon his or her personal faith in the Church.

Yes, conditions are difficult and the future is uncertain, but history has shown that there is strength and courage in the Irish culture and character forged over the last 400-500 years that can't be defeated. Every nation seems to develop its own character traits and abilities to cope with adversity. The Germans, French, Spanish, and English are all quite different in that way.

It is important, then, to note that the Irish people have a record of succeeding in the face of great adversity.

## Losing our balance: The Uncivil War

By JAMES W. DOLAN

SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

As we observe the 150th-anniversary year of the start of the Civil War, we are again facing disunion and testing whether a nation, once the noble beacon of representative government, can survive.

The present-day unraveling of our democratic system of government is not territorial, nor is it based on states rights or slavery. Today's "peculiar institution" is the combination of money and special interests that threatens our capacity to govern ourselves.

Are we witnessing the slow dissolution of this republic? Have the media so supercharged politics in this era of punditry and polls that conscientious deliberation is impossible as politicians bounce like pinballs from one sound bite to the next?

Has political survival replaced the common good as the guiding light in this century? The public's disdain for Congress apparently is not enough to drive leaders from the swamp to the highlands.

Those young Americans who died at Shiloh, Antietam, and Gettysburg did not make that sacrifice to see our nation founder on the rocks of discord and mistrust that today threaten those values that have motivated and sustained us since the birth of the republic?

The founding fathers anticipated that prudent men of good will would serve the republic by acting in the best interest – not of themselves – but of those they served even when such action might be contrary to the wishes of their constituents.

Are we culturally and ideologically capable of setting aside our differences in the interest of the common good; or are we again a "house divided," this time by money, power, and class.

Is it no longer of the people, by the people, and for the people? Or are special interests in control? Representative government collapses when elected officials fail to understand whom and what they represent. Governance is undermined when bitterness and conflict

supplant cooperation.

Too many believe they merit the advantages that secured them positions of power and influence. They no more deserve their status than the disadvantaged deserve to be born to poverty, neglect, disability, or ignorance. Fundamental fairness demands that those to whom much has been given look after the less fortunate, for none of us truly deserve what we possess.

It is absurd to suggest that representative government does not involve the redistribution of wealth. The issue is how that wealth is to be distributed: to whom and for what purpose? Such decisions require prudence, compassion, and compromise, and, above all, wisdom. They require the selfless application of the common good and the courage to accept the consequences.

The common good seeks balance. It tries to encourage productivity while assuring that all are entitled to basic human dignity. One cannot exercise the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness without a decent place to live, food, health care, education, and opportunity.

The effort to achieve the proper balance is constant as the weight shifts. Perfect balance is unattainable; the goal is to have the wisdom to make those adjustments necessary to maintain sensible equilibrium. Those qualities are certainly not in evidence in Congress or thus far in the 2012 presidential campaign. Partisanship, petty bickering, and sheer nonsense have so distorted the process of enacting laws and electing our national leaders that they call into question whether our democratic process is still capable of wise governance.

Wisdom is sensibly applied knowledge. It assumes understanding, fortitude, restraint, and patience. It is to knowledge what the North Star was once to navigation -- a true course to a safe harbor. At the moment we are lost in a turbulent sea.

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



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POINT OF VIEW / PETER F. STEVENS

# One Man's Hero: In the 'Age of Tebow,' a forgotten Boston Irishman stands out as the 'Genuine Article'

By PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

The recent, relentless media hyperventilation over Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow's football prowess and accompanying religious persona – no matter what one's take is on his beliefs – reveals yet again just how pathetically and flimsily countless people bestow the term "hero." Recently, a friend sent me a note about a small exhibit in Drogheda, Ireland, whose artifacts contain a Boston Irish connection. What does this exhibit have to do with Tebow or the other celebrities whom so many folks deify? It reveals how they pale when set against bona-fide heroes, the type who stand for or against something with no fanfare and no desire for acclaim. Such a quiet hero was John Edward Kelly.

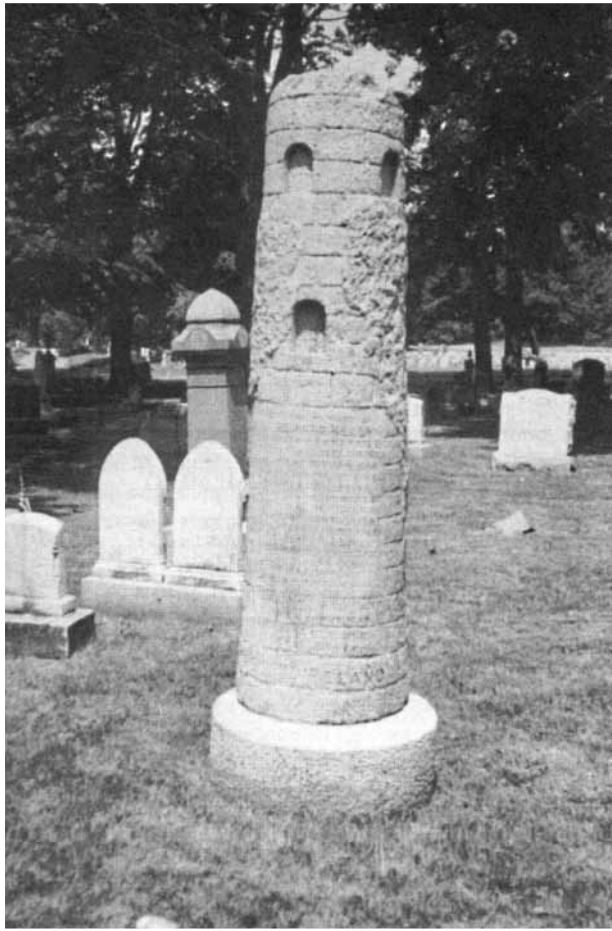
The aforementioned artifacts, on display at Drogheda's restored Martello Tower, part of the Old Drogheda Society's Millmount Museum, are weapons that were supposed to be in rebels' hands for the ill-fated Fenian Rising of 1867. Concealed all too well by a Brother Furlong inside the local Franciscan friary, no one knew of their existence until a leak in the church's roof revealed their hiding place 130 years later. One of the abortive rising's principal figures was John Boyle O'Reilly, a man whose gifts made him one of 19th-century Boston's most famous figures, arguably the first Irish immigrant embraced, if slowly, by Yankee society. Though a heroic man himself, O'Reilly recognized that it the quiet hero who was and is the real deal.

On a blustery November Monday in 1885, a crowd gathered at Mount Hope Cemetery in Mattapan, surrounding a granite monument cut in the configurations of an Irish round tower. They fell silent as a jut-jawed man with a bristling mustache began to speak. John Boyle O'Reilly, renowned writer, poet, editor, orator, and Boston Irish "mover and shaker," had come there to pay homage to the Irishman "who sleeps under the monument," fellow rebel John Edward Kelly, an immigrant who, like O'Reilly, had been one of the "bold Fenian men" in the 1860s.

Many Boston Irishmen of the day shared the surname of John Edward Kelly, but few knew of him or knew that he had sacrificed much for their beleaguered homeland. O'Reilly noted, "We have come together today for the purpose of honoring the memory of a man who was found true in a day of supreme trial... [and] gave example of the virtues of courage, fidelity, and sacrifice."

Although Kelly, just 35, had passed away in January 1884, he had lived far longer than he had anticipated. For shortly after his capture at Kilclooney Wood in the Fenian rising of 1867, rifle still in hand, he had been sentenced to a "traitor's" death – to be "hanged, drawn, and quartered" by the British.

Until the ceremony at Mount Hope and O'Reilly's eulogy, few of the Boston Irish who had passed Kelly in the city streets would have noticed anything extraordinary about him. He had come to the city in the early 1870s, a free man for the first time in five years. The story of how he had escaped the gruesome sentence handed down by a British magistrate and



The roundtower marker above John Edward Kelly's grave in Mount Hope Cemetery, Mattapan.  
*Harry Brett photo, Boston Irish Reporter*

how his path had led to Boston was largely unknown in his adopted city. Now, in the chill of November 1885, another Fenian told it to those gathered round the monument.

The saga of John Edward Kelly's saga began in Kinsale, Ireland, with his birth in 1849 to a family of "modest means." Somewhat fittingly, the future rebel's birthplace near the banks of the River Lee had been the site of the crushing defeat for Hugh O'Neill and Red Hugh O'Donnell on Christmas Eve of 1601 that effectively ending their long revolt against the English. The ruins of a war-battered fortress shadowed the landscape of young Kelly's town.

As a youth, Kelly was swept up in the Fenian movement, which was organized in Ireland and the United States in 1858 and whose members took a secret oath to create an Irish Republic – by any means necessary. The cause for which Kelly was willing to die was doomed, riddled with informers and lacking the broad-based support necessary for even "a glimmer of chance." As rumors of revolt swelled into a coming reality, the Crown moved with its characteristic ruth-

less efficiency to crush it. By 1865, most of the movement's leaders in Ireland had either been arrested or they had fled. Still, in America, thousands of Irishmen who had learned the soldier's trade in the Civil War seethed with a desire to apply those lessons to driving the British from Ireland.

On the island, remnants of the Fenians awaited some signal to rise. With no real hope of success, scattered bands took up what weapons they had and rose in rebellion. As O'Reilly would note in 1885, in the doomed Fenian vanguard stood John Edward Kelly. "Eighteen years ago, the moldering form under this tomb went out and faced the bayonets of the oppressor of his country in a fight of overwhelming odds. No matter now about the wisdom or the calculation of chances for success. The motive beneath the act was golden."

In early March 1867, Kelly had marched with a ragtag band to Kilclooney Wood and faced British steel in a hopeless action. "The few men who went into open rebellion in Kilclooney Wood in 1867 were heroes as true in defeat as the world would have hailed them in success," O'Reilly said. The 19-year-old Kelly was hauled into a courtroom "before an English judge... and could do nothing but listen as he heard his own name attached to the abominable sentence... to be hanged, drawn, and quartered."

Although his death sentence was commuted, he and 62 other Fenians were clapped aboard the convict ship Hougoumont and transported to western Australia's remote, "escape-proof" Fremantle Gaol, which was flanked on one side by shark-infested waters and on the other by the lethal Australian bush. Kelly was lucky to be alive, but he condemned to never again see his homeland and to die in servitude.

In 1871 he and other "civilian Fenians" – unlike the "soldier Fenians" of the British army – were released from prison but barred from ever going back to Ireland. He eventually made his way to Boston.

On Nov., 23, 1885, nearly two years after Kelly's death, O'Reilly was determined to give his unsung compatriot a measure of immortality. "The highest honor that a man can bear in life or death is the scar of a chain burns in a good cause," O'Reilly said. "Standing here by the grave of a man who lived and died humbly, modestly and poorly, we are not deceived by lowliness, by poverty, nor even by errors. We find that, after the sifting of death and years, there remains to us his courage and devotion." John Edward Kelly's name would soon enough slip out of public memory. In Mount Hope Cemetery, however, a granite marker in the shape of a round tower testifies still that the remains of a valiant rebel lie below.

If anyone wants to see heroism in Tim Tebow's "fearlessness" in espousing his religion, if somehow the mere expression of free speech with no fear of genuine repercussions strikes anyone as courageous, that is his or her business. To my mind, it is the John Edward Kellys of the world, the men and women who sacrifice everything for what they truly believe – with no thought of fame, wealth, or sycophantic adoration – who are the true heroes.

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## BIR Profile

# Suzin Bartley relentlessly works her mission: Stressing prevention to stem tide of child abuse

BY GREG O'BRIEN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It has been said about child abuse that it "casts a shadow the length of a lifetime." Suzin Bartley, executive director of the Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund, has spent a professional lifetime trying to bring light to this darkness. She describes a chilling analogy—a haunting image that she has—of standing in a boat on a wide river, watching a baby float in the current. She grabs for the baby. Another one floats by, and she reaches out again. Again and again, until the boat is filled with babies. She then realizes that while it's critical to save babies floating in the river, she also need to find out who is throwing them in, and then try to stop them.

In a sentence that's what Bartley and the Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund is all about: prevention.

Each year, about three million reports of child abuse are filed nationally—from physical abuse and neglect to pedophilia. It's a stunning statistic about a subject most would prefer to avoid. "We need, as a society, to get over the reluctance of talking about this, pretending that it doesn't happen, and focus on the solutions—strict reporting systems, education and counseling," Bartley said in a lengthy interview with the *Boston Irish Reporter*. "We need to work hard to stop the signs and break the chain." Many abusers, she says, were abused themselves as children. "If we can prevent children from being abused, we can greatly diminish the number of abusers."

Established in 1988 by an act of the Massachusetts Legislature, the Children's Trust is the only such state organization dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect. With private, state, and federal funding, the trust supports more than 100 family education programs throughout the state and offers training and technical assistance to professionals who work with children at risk and with their families.

As the director of the multi-million dollar trust, Bartley, a woman with deep Dorchester ties, oversees a child abuse education network and home visiting program for young parents that has become a national model. "For a long time," she concedes, "we were stuck, as a society, in a place of just pulling babies onto a lifeboat. Now we're combing the shorelines collectively, looking for who's tossing them in."

A licensed independent clinical social worker (LICSW), Bartley is no stranger to community service and organizing as she has worked over the years in children's centers, at city hospital, and with health and neighborhood action committees in Dorchester and Jamaica Plain. A University of Massachusetts graduate with a master's in social work from Smith College, she is an adjunct on the faculty of the School of Social Work at Boston College. She also has been a member of several gubernatorial commissions—on Sexual and Domestic Violence; Responsible Fatherhood and Family Support; Sexual Assault and Abuse; and on School Readiness—while serving additionally on the Cardinal's Commission for the Protection of Children. She was a founding member of the Uphams Corner Health Center, served on the Fuller Street Neighborhood



**Suzin Bartley: "I was taught to stand up for what is right no matter the personal cost."**

Association, the Dorchester Women's Committee, the Boston Center for Blind Children, and now is vice president of the board of trustees of Friends for Children in Dorchester.

Asked about her penchant for community service and zeal for the protection of children, Bartley, 59, who grew up in working class Brighton and in Watertown on a street where ten firefighters and their families lived, reflects on her maternal grandfather and her parents—John and Anne (Colpoys). Her grandfather, Frank, whose family tree traces back to the 1500s in County Clare, was a state lawmaker from South Boston in the early 1900s, a member of the Boston General Council in the days before there was a City Council, and a close friend of the late Speaker of the US House, John McCormack.

"My grandfather had a passion for community; it was contagious," she recalls. "I was brought up in a household where you were taught to be active in church and community, where you were encouraged to seek your passions in life to the fullest for the betterment of others. I was taught to stand up for what is right no matter the personal cost."

Bartley's father, John, is a retired civil engineer who oversaw land acquisitions for Boston Edison. A third-generation Irish American, he has close family ties to Tuam, Galway. "My father is a character in the best sense of the word," she

says. "A dry humor in all ways, but a man who always encouraged us to do our best." A collector of antique cars, he still owns the 1937 Ford that took his wife and daughter home from St. Elizabeth's maternity ward.

Bartley's mother, Anne, was first a housewife, then a nutritionist in the Lexington school system. She ran the Girl Scout troop at St. Theresa's in Watertown, and kept Bartley, her brother John, and her sister Anne closely in tow. Growing up, Bartley never played sports, verboten, she said, for girls of the day, but earned the prestigious Marian Award in Girl Scouts, the highest Catholic medal given in honor of Mary, the first female disciple of Christ. "My parents," she says, "were deeply religious and very involved in the church; the same was expected of us."

What was also fully expected, Bartley says, was respect for others, no matter the consequence, the race, color, or creed. She remembers an intense confrontation her senior year at Watertown High School after she had transferred from Mt. Trinity Academy, which had closed. Holding tight to her parents' values, she stood firm on an inequity issue in a way that caused disruption in the cafeteria lunch program. She and her parents were summarily summoned to the principal's office for a collective disciplinary session where the Bartleys were taken to task for her actions. But Mrs. Bartley didn't take the bait, and refused to shake the principal's hand on the way out. "Now I know why I sent my daughter to Mt. Trinity Academy," she told him. "And I will scrub floors before any of my other children come here!" She then walked out.

Bartley, who calls herself a socially conscious child of the 60s, never forgot the moment.

After high school, she attended Regis College to study sociology and then UMass Amherst where she majored in Urban Community Services. When she was 19, she moved to Uphams Corner during the early days of school busing and married Chris Navin, a man with family in Kerry and Cork who operates a consulting practice in human services and strategic planning—Navin Associates. The two of them were founders of the neighborhood health center at a time

when the infant mortality rate there was very troublesome. The couple have two children, Brian, a Holy Cross graduate, and Paul, a freshman in the honors program at the University of Alabama.

In many ways, Bartley "grew up" in Dorchester during busing. She says she was horrified by what she saw—rocks thrown at the homes of black families who had moved close to white neighborhoods. She and her husband often stood out on the street to identify the culprits to police. "There were times when I was embarrassed to be Irish Catholic," she says. "Collectively, we forgot for a time where we came from. The Irish became oppressors."

Always one to seek redemption, Bartley says she learned about the importance of community first-hand in Dorchester. "I remember driving down Blue Hill Avenue in 1972, and was blown away by the poverty. I couldn't imagine how I could have grown up so close to it and never seen it. That moment shaped me forever. It was a call to action."

After college, she engaged her bent for community activism and worked a spate of jobs: as a community organizer for the Ecumenical Social Action Committee in Jamaica Plain and the Fields Corner Community Organizing Project; as an emergency services coordinator at Boston City Hospital and University Hospital; as an advocacy instructor at UMass Boston; as an adolescent Crisis Team member with the Coastal Community Counseling Center in Braintree; as a private practice psychotherapist; and as a clinical Services Team member for the Judge Baker Children's Center in Boston, the last named "one of the most important jobs I've ever held."

In 1992, she became executive director of the Children's Trust Fund. She remembers when she responded to the job-application ad. "I came home one night after an intense counseling session on child abuse, one of the most intense ever. I told my husband that I can't do this any more, that I needed a new job. Instead of a pat on the back or a glass of wine, he handed me a classified ad from the trust fund. 'You want to prevent abuse,' he said. 'Here's your chance.'"


Bartley never looked back. Over the years at the fund, she has dramatically increased the operating budget, developed a statewide network for parenting education and support programs, spearheaded the development and funding of a nationally recognized independent evidence-based evaluation, and developed an award winning website for parents ([onetoughjob.org](http://onetoughjob.org)).

Always, though, the images of abuse linger, but she's optimistic that child abuse can be prevented in part, both in the home and at the hand of pedophiles. The headlines today disgust her, and she stresses again the critical necessity of rejecting a societal denial of the problem and focusing on solid reporting to spot the signs of abuse. Noting statistics, she points out that the average pedophile has close to 200 victims, not just one.

"Would it surprise you to walk into a bar and find an alcoholic?" Bartley asks. "Then why does it surprise some that pedophiles are drawn to places where they have access to children? We need to be far more watchful of situations where this can happen. If I left a cookie jar in the kitchen with a bunch of four-year-olds, and when I come back they all have chocolate Oreos on their faces, then shame on me!"

She says tries hard not to be consumed with the all the tragic stories of abuse. "Does it make me angry? Absolutely! But I need instead to focus on the prevention—identifying and trying to stop those throwing babies into the river." Suzin Bartley keeps filling the boat with victims, but she unendingly scours the shoreline with the eyes, ears, and heart of a lifesaver.

*Greg O'Brien, a regular contributor to the Boston Irish Reporter, is president of the Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political/communications strategy company based in Brewster. The author/editor of several books, he contributes to various regional and national publications.*



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# Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

**The Fat Lady Hasn't Sung Last Note Yet At BC**—Those working to quash the Northern Ireland Police/US Justice Department subpoenas against Boston College's "Belfast Project" oral history interviews took a hit last month when a federal judge supported the Police Service/Justice view of things. On Dec. 27, Judge **William Young** ordered BC to turn over the tapes of recorded interviews with a former IRA member, **Dolours Price**, to the U.S. attorney's office in Boston for a transfer to the police in Northern Ireland who are continuing their probes of the killing times in the North during the Troubles. Young gave the university a deadline of Dec. 30 and BC said it would not appeal the ruling. Meanwhile, the judge still has in hand for his own review scores of interviews with numerous other IRA figures.



**Bill O'Donnell**

There is another key player in this drama, though: the increasingly active **Ed Moloney**, a journalist, author and coordinator of BC's oral history IRA interviews whose bid to become involved in the case as resisting the subpoenas has already been rebuffed by Young. Moloney and an associate, **Anthony McIntyre**, are appealing that decision, their lawyer told the *Boston Globe* in late December. The pair is charging that the subpoena request is flawed and that in processing it the US attorney in Boston, **Carmen Ortiz**, relied on assumptions that were "bogus."

Moloney said Ortiz was in error as to the origin and source of information she used to support the subpoena demand and he challenged the presumption that the BC archives were the source, offering an alternative origin for her "unjustified and unwarranted" action against Boston College. He alleges that the basis for the subpoenas was "the result of an atrocious piece of dishonesty by two journalists in Belfast" — **Allison Morris** of the *Irish News* and **Ciaran Barnes** of *Sunday Life*. Moloney further asserts that the Boston College archives and the "Belfast Project" interviews consist of one copy and are held under conditions of great security in Boston and that no one but Moloney, the researcher, and a small group of people at the college know what is contained in the interviews. No seal of confidentiality has been breached, says Moloney, and no outside journalists have had access to the files.

The scenario that Moloney alleges has driven the involvement of the US attorney and the ongoing litigation regarding Boston College is the following: an interview of a former IRA activist about a series of IRA disappearances in 1972 by Morris of the *Irish News* was passed on to Barnes of *Sunday Life*. After it was published, Barnes, in turn, suggested that the interview was taken from the "Belfast Project" tapes at Boston College and this claim, which Moloney terms bogus, ultimately underlined the US attorney's rationale for its subpoena to BC. Stay tuned.

**A Christmas Moment In Ardoyne**—There is perhaps no more troubled neighborhood in Northern Ireland than the Ardoyne interface in north Belfast where sits the Holy Cross elementary school that unionists besieged for weeks. You can tell when you slip from a unionist street (the curbs adorned with British flag colors) into Catholic territory (an occasional Tricolor fluttering). And the raucous twelfth of July parades past shop fronts that punctuate the tremulous summer calm.

But in mid-December, less than two weeks before Christmas, outside the Ardoyne ambulance station, there stood, people shoulder to shoulder, a community carol service that belied the turmoil so often associated with the area. The event was organized by local churches and the small crowd projections were overtaken by the unusually large attendance that proclaimed a seasonal truce with voices raised in song that might just become a hymn to a more positive and hopeful future.

**Save Moore Street Campaign Continues**—Frankly, I thought the Irish government had already taken a few precious Dail moments to protect the area and whatever buildings still exist in the historic Moore Street locale. It seems that the faithful, in the form of Descendants of the Leaders of the Rising, are still at it, calling on the government to create a cultural and historic quarter to be situated between 14 and 17 Moore Street. This is the location where some leaders of the 1916 Rising met for the last time.

The delay in formalizing the Moore Street quarter (the area was designated as a national monument in 2007) has prompted some to call for the state to take ownership from the developer-owner and create a heritage area in the city centre. Sounds about right. We can't demolish everything and it could be a central tourist focus leading up to the centenary in 2016.

**Sinn Fein Brings Prosperity To US**—*The Independent* newspaper, which keeps track of such things, is reporting that **Gerry and Martin's** Sinn Fein Party is on a sublime mission to help the ailing American economy. According to documents on file at the US Department of Justice, party leaders McGuinness and Adams and entourage have been spreading the wealth around stateside bistros and upscale pubs at the end of the Atlantic corridor.

The lads in green are regular customers at some of Manhattan's chic hotels, ranging from the Affinia and Sheraton to the Surrey on East 76<sup>th</sup> Street, where you can lay your sweat-soaked brow for \$686 to \$1,424 a night. Mr. Adams's favorite restaurant is the relatively reasonable Bobby Van's, where you can enjoy a \$50

steak. A couple of the boyos marked the Hunger Strike by attending a dinner at the lush Manhattan Club off Central Park. Of course.

It has been duly noted that the taoiseach, **Enda Kenny**, flew cheapo Ryanair to a recent Brussels summit. Gerry and his friends, however, continue to fly in club class across the Atlantic to perform their arduous stateside duties. Note: Sinn Fein, which leads all Irish political parties in US fund-raising, has collected somewhat over \$1.5 million from their wealth-sharing allies here in the past three years.

**Immigration Dilemma Still Rattles America**—Nobody is happy with the current state of the immigration issue; it has become in recent years a hot political football. States like Arizona (in an uncomfortable catbird seat), Alabama (the Confederacy rides again) and others are busy passing legislation that attempts to answer fears, real and imagined.

Alabama's new extremist immigration law reads like South Africa, *deja vu*. The law, which the state attorney general admits he would have trouble defending in court, essentially curtails civil rights for all residents, criminalizes routine business deals, exploits racial profiling, and targets children's constitutional rights while making it a crime if immigrants do not have their papers with them, which is illegal under federal law. Arizona has new extreme legislation regarding immigrants (translation: anybody of color) that has been passed and placed on the books but has been stalled by the actions of wary federal officials. The governor there is a wingnut who pandered for uber-tough, exclusionary immigration laws as she was trying to get elected.

On a more reasonable scale affecting just a single segment of the population is the Immigration Fairness Bill introduced by Senators **Scott Brown** (R-Mass) and **Mark Kirk** (R-Ill). This legislation adds the Republic of Ireland to the E-3 visa program that provides 10,500 two-year visas for speciality jobs in the US. The tide, however, has turned on relief legislation that impacts just a slice of the population, but maybe good will and a need to fill special employment niches might get it passed. And for Brown, it's not a bad addition to his campaign literature, pass or fail.

A small victory of right over might: Arizona's notorious Maricopa County Sheriff **Joe Arpaio** (who loves chain gangs and putting innocent Latinos in his hotel at \$5 a night) finally drew the overdue attention of the federals, who are putting together a grand jury to take the measure of the Southwest's highest ranking public bigot, who is, incidentally, a native of Springfield, Massachusetts. Civil rights abuses lead the list of concerns about him but some fancy footwork on the county books might also be a cause of some discomfort for "da sheriff."

**Living Standards Elevate Dear Old Dublin**—There's something called the Mercer Quality of Living survey and they like Dublin. Ireland's capital city ranks 26<sup>th</sup>, higher than Paris, London, or New York but south of datelines like Vienna, which topped the poll, followed by Zurich, Auckland, Munich, Dusseldorf and Vancouver (tied for fifth), Frankfurt, Geneva, Copenhagen, and Bern in the top ten. To nobody's surprise, Iraqi capital Baghdad came in dead last (# 221) for both living standards and personal safety. Bye, Bye, Baghdad.

**Recession Hits Ireland Hard**—While Ireland and other Euro-zone countries await word on the fate of the euro, the coin of the realm in sixteen zone countries, the recession continues to batter the Irish Republic. New figures out in these last days of 2011 show a heartbreaking decline in the number of viable companies, with 47,000 having gone out of business since 2008. That represents an average of five Irish companies closing their doors every day in a country of 4.6 million people.

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions is urging the Irish government to quickly reassess the job creation strategy, a cry heard often these days in the Obama White House. The latest unemployment number for Ireland is a dismal 14.4 percent, almost 75 percent steeper than the US national jobless rate and among the highest in the EU.

Another complaint that mirrors troubled economic conditions here and in Ireland is the answer many small- and medium-sized Irish firms get when seeking loans: a resounding "no." In addition, in Ireland not only have many of these smaller business owners failed to secure bank loans, but more than half have also had an increase in bank charges or interest rates.

**Some light At End Of Church Tunnel**—**Michael Kelly** is the deputy editor of the *Irish Catholic* newspaper and he believes that changes in the Irish church, and new attitudes among church officials are at last evident. A close observer of the Irish church, Kelley gives much of the credit for the changes to **Ian Elliot**, the head of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church. Elliot and his relatively new organization led the audit of six troubled dioceses in Ireland that provided clear evidence of widespread clerical abuse of children.

The professional audits unearthed horrendous neglect and abuse and hierarchy-enabling among the targeted dioceses and the results in all cases were made public swiftly. The same hard-line approach and post-report transparency has unfortunately not yet been widely in evidence here.

A more practical aspect of the shifting fortunes of the Irish Catholic Church is the admission by Dublin Archbishop **Diarmud Martin** that his archdiocese "is facing its greatest crisis in almost two centuries." The number of available priests to minister to Dublin-area churches is in decline, church attendance is down significantly, and, of course, so is giving. And a widening

trend in understaffed Irish communities is the growth of "cluster" churches, where priests minister to several churches and/or parishes. That concept was recently introduced as a possibility in Massachusetts and appears to be in prospect for Rhode Island and other New England states.

**Jim Beam Buys Border Distillery**—The Cooley Spirits Company is the only independent Irish whiskey producer in Ireland and it makes a superb Irish whiskey, Tyrconnell, which I can recommend from personal experience. They also make Kilbeggan, Connemara, and Greenore brands. Friends in the Dundalk area who have been longtime owners of the first rate Ballymascanlon Hotel there have also been shareholders in the Cooley Company, which is located just south of the border. Several years ago I was gifted with a bottle of Tyrconnell and I thought at the time all it needed was a wide-scope marketing plan. And Jim Bean should be able to furnish that.

**Congratulations to BITA And The Quinlins**—In Boston we don't have an army of good will ambassadors to spread the word about the wonders of the city, especially the depth of the wonders that an Irishman or Irishwoman would find here. However, we do have a dynamic tandem that is on the job 24/7 strengthening and expanding the tourism ties between the Green Isle and New England.

A richly-deserved "Well Done" to **Mike and Colette Quinlin**, founders of the *Boston Irish Tourism Association (BITA)* and the most energetic Town Criers a small big town like Boston could ask for. Mike and Colette were winners this year of an *Irish Echo* tourism award and Massachusetts was again selected as a key member of the "Irish Hospitality Top 50."

**A Quiet Word About A Brave Lady**—**Nuala Kerr** is a mother who lost a son in a senseless, sectarian murder simply because some thugs believe that Catholics should not serve in the PSNI, the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Despite carrying a load of grief that would cripple a giant, she spoke out eloquently, urging Catholic young people to continue joining the police service. She stood tall, just a few yards from the GAA and the PSNI, who gathered shoulder to shoulder at her son **Ronan's** service, alongside Protestant Stormont ministers. In all, a powerful, inescapable reminder of a new and emerging Northern Ireland.

The *Belfast Telegraph*, Northern Ireland's main unionist newspaper, named Nuala Kerr as the winner of its Woman of the Year honors. That's a powerful message in itself.

## RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Amidst all the talk about the Boston College "Belfast Project" oral histories, it should be noted that the GAA, marking the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding, is working with BC on an oral history of the league. ... The **Bob Kraft-Steve Wynn** walk-around and so-called press conference was one of the worst events ever staged by two business heavyweights. Two billionaires, a mini Q&A session cut short, and inconsequential chatter about a "bucolic Foxborough, a casino that will be hidden from view and more jobs than the Big Dig had. Please! ... The original "Quiet Man" cottage, a down-at-the-heels pile of stones owned by another quiet man who can't be found to make an offer, is the hope of the Connemara faithful who look to a resurgent tourism crush that will return the area to its 1950s glory. ... Best news of a so-so year: As of mid-December, the West Roxbury-based Irish Social Club has over 900 members, more than three times its last membership count in April. ... Irish engineers are likely to agree with their US counterparts that "fracking," a controversial gas extraction method, is harmful to neighbors and their water. ... The Titanic Museum, set for a completion in March, will need 300,000 visitors a year to break even. They'll need some luck, too. ... A driver who was stopped in Dublin for drunken driving stole the police cruiser and drove all the way to Armagh. Drunken driving charge dismissed; auto theft charges brought. ... News reports have Ryanair set to charge \$130 for checking in a bag at the terminal. Air travel today is no bargain, and comfortless, to boot. ... **Cardinal Bernard Law** has retired from his Roman sinecure at St. Mary Major Basilica. Does that mean absolution now for all his former Boston priestly enablers?

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, is so rampant in the North of Ireland that it could be affecting more people there than any place else in the world. ... The British government and **David Cameron** will be legally challenged by **Pat Finucane's** family for running away from an open, public investigation of Pat's 1989 murder. ... Someone who is obviously unbalanced recently tried to enter Dail Eireann by charging the main entrance. Has not the poor soul ever heard a typical Dail debate. It's out, you want, my man. ... The trio of Northern Irish clergymen known as "The Priests" scrapped their fall US tour and have rescheduled it for next April and May, including a stop in Boston. ... Experts are still saying that outside forces in the EU cannot unilaterally raise Ireland's low 12.5 percent corporate tax. ... In October, following passage of an aggressive anti-begging legislation, the garda were making hundreds of arrests in Dublin of down-and-outers asking for money on the streets. ... The new papal nuncio to Ireland as the Vatican and **Enda Kenny** try to make up, is an Irish American, **Monsignor Charles Brown**, a well-placed Vatican insider, an indication that the pope's people want a cease-fire. ... A final leftover Christmas tale is the story of dozens of volunteers in Limavady staying late filling 6,000 boxes filled with Christmas presents for needy and homeless children in Haiti. Ireland simply doesn't stop giving. And a Happy New Year to All.



## IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

# IIC had a 'terrific year on several fronts,' – Sister Lena Deevy

Following is the introduction given by Sister Lena Deevy, executive director of the Irish International Immigration Center, at the organization's annual Solas Awards dinner last month.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our annual Solas Awards Celebration such a marvelous success earlier this month. The night was a great reminder of the vibrancy and generosity of Boston's Irish community and, indeed, I was struck by the thought that many of those in attendance could themselves be described as immigrant success stories.

I want to take a bit of time here to note the contribution of several people in particular. The night simply wouldn't have happened without the hard work of the dinner committee and the wonderful staff at the JFK Library and Museum – they did a spectacular job.

WCVB's Mary Richardson could not have been a better emcee and we are very grateful to her for keeping us all on track. We are also indebted to Vicki Kennedy, not only for her warm welcome and gracious support on the evening, but also for her continued activism on immigration reform.

Special appreciation must also go to Irish Consul General Michael Lonergan who represented the Irish Government at the event, and who champions our cause when it matters most. I'd also like to give thanks to all the wonderful musicians and dancers who performed throughout the evening.

Of course, the real reason for the celebration was our three remarkable honorees: Ralph De La Torre, MD

(CEO of Steward Healthcare System); Eva A. Millona, Esq. (Executive Director of MIRA); and Father Dan Finn (Pastor of St. Mark and St. Ambrose parishes in Dorchester and co-founder of the Irish Pastoral Centre).

I can't emphasize enough how highly we value their work on the critical issues of healthcare reform, immigration reform, and pastoral support for the immigrant community. And to Father Dan, we want to add a special appreciation for his spirited singing on the night. Finally, I want to thank all our friends, partners and supporters out there in the community, without whose generosity the event couldn't have happened. I know I speak for all the IIC staff when I say that your support in coming out for something like this gives us a morale boost which lasts all year.

### Reflections on 2011, a terrific year for us

December is typically when we take the time to reflect back on all that has gone before, and I'm delighted to be able to say that 2011 was a terrific year for us on several fronts. Close to home, we benefited from two excellent additions to our own team.

Ronnie Millar, our new Deputy Director, began making a positive difference the moment he walked in the door, and evidence of his professional touch can be seen in all aspects of the IIC's operation. In June, Megan Carroll hit the ground running as our Director of Intern Placements.

Board member and volunteer attorney Eoin Reilly was honored with the Adams Pro Bono Publico Award by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court for his

contributions to the IIC and our community over the last twenty years.

One of the really welcome developments this past year was the convening of the first New England Conference of Irish Organizations. I have long told anyone who will listen that the IIC's most successful programs are invariably the result of partnerships with our sister organizations here in the Irish community, whether it's the Irish Pastoral Centre, the Irish Cultural Centre, the Eire Society, the Boston College Center for Irish Programs, or the dozens of other organizations working to make our city more open and welcoming to immigrants.

However, October's conference, organized jointly by the Irish Consulate and the Irish Cultural Centre, was the first time that we all had the chance to meet together to discuss our common goals. I think we all left the Cultural Centre that day buoyed by the spirit of collaboration and the sheer potential we will unlock in working even more closely together in 2012.

I'll be in Ireland for Christmas, and by the time I'm back here in Boston we will already have crossed into the New Year, so I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas and health and happiness in 2012.

Thank you,  
Lena Deevy

P.S. "Thank you from the volunteers and staff members at the Irish International Immigration Center."

## Sen. Brown backing bill to open up 10,500 visas for Irish

BY GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS  
NEWS EDITOR

U.S. Sen. Scott Brown is pushing a bill that would provide 10,500 employment visas for Irish immigrants. Brown, a Wrentham Republican, filed the bill with U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk, an Illinois Republican. Citing a "close bond" between the United States and Ireland, Brown said in a statement that "inefficiencies" in the national immigration program have led to "increasingly poor prospects" for Irish immigrants.

"This legislation rectifies the decades-long plight by including the Irish in a special visa program that encourages their skilled workers to come to our shores," Brown said. "Legal immigration is the foundation of America, and we must continue to find ways to improve our visa and green card programs, especially when it comes to the treatment of our strongest allies and closest friends."

The employment passport, also known as an E-3 visa, is currently only available to Australian nationals. According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' website, applicants must have a "legitimate offer of employment" within the United States and academic credentials. The visas last for two years and can be renewed.

The Brown/Kirk bill has been dubbed the Irish Immigration Reform and Encouragement (IRE) Act.

On Dec. 23, Brown sent a letter to U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, urging him to include the bill in negotiations to advance another immigration-related bill. "This measure is crucially important to an Irish community that maintains strong historical and cultural ties with the United States," Brown wrote. Massive waves of Irish immigrants came over to the United States in the 1800s, but in 1965, Congress signed off on the Immigration and Nationality Act, which set up "bureaucratic hurdles" for Irish immigrants, causing immigration figures to drop, according to Brown's letter.

"Despite some legislative relief in the 1990s, the Irish continue to face quotas that don't reflect the level of demand," the senator wrote. "Temporary work visas from Ireland are very low – only 2,700 H-1B visas were given to the Irish out of a total of 85,000 in 2010. Nearly 450,000 Irish came to this country in 2010 on visa waivers and many have chosen to stay illegally when their visa expired since there [is] no viable legal path available to them."

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, a New York Democrat, has offered a similar bill, which includes a waiver for those who have stayed despite their visa expiring.

John Foley, an immigration attorney who occasionally does legal work for the *Reporter*, said he would like for the bill to include the waiver for those who have overstayed, but the matter could also be potentially handled administratively by USCIS, he added. "The relationship between the two countries is well documented and we should be doing a better job of treating our allies like allies," said Foley.

Franklin Soultis, a spokesman for the left-leaning Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition, which advocates for more comprehensive immigration reform, said Brown is responding



Rev. Daniel J. Finn, pastor of St. Mark's parish, was tendered a 2011 Solas (Gaelic for "light") award by the Irish International Immigration Center for his tireless efforts on behalf of immigrants. Father Finn was joined at the event at the Kennedy Library by members of his family. From left, Dennis Finn, Noreen Finn, sister-in-law Denise Finn, and Owen Finn.

Photos by Ed Forry



Father Finn was joined at the event by a group of his parishioners and neighbors, among them, from left: Rev. Paschal Mugerwa, Judy Greeley, Frank Hannigan, Marianna Hannigan, Jean Hunt, Della Costello, Marion Diener, [Father Finn], and Lew Finfer.

to a "real need," but the bill is a watered down version of Schumer's legislation. "We're glad that he's doing that, but we think it's important that this not be the end of his action," Soultis said of Brown.

Brown is up for reelection in 2012, having won a

special election to fill out the rest of the late U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy's term in 2010. Former Obama administration official Elizabeth Warren is among the Democrats jockeying for the chance to face off against him next year.



## 'With Good Will Doing Service'

(Continued from page 1)

and crafted the key. His hallmark is still visible on the key and replicates those on Hurd's other works that reside in the Museum of Fine Arts colonial silver collection.

Another notable early member was Patrick Tracey, a sea captain from Newburyport, who emigrated from Wexford in 1736, and quickly acquired great wealth. He operated a fleet of privateers during the Revolutionary War and captured 2,000 British prisoners. His grandchildren became prominent in Boston, one founding the Massachusetts General Hospital, another becoming Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, and another developing the first fully mechanized cotton mill in Waltham, and other mills in Lowell. Twentieth century Tracey descendants included Governor Francis Sargent and US Attorney General Elliot Richardson, both of whom were CIS members. Another CIS member who supported the revolutionary cause was General Henry Knox, who orchestrated the delivery of the guns from Fort Ticonderoga to Dorchester Heights, enabling General George Washington to threaten the British fleet and thereby effect the British evacuation from Boston on 17 March 1776.

The CIS is unique among Irish American associations for its long-standing inclusive tradition of having both Protestant and Catholic members and providing assistance to people of both religions. In 1760 the society dropped the qualification of being Protestant, sixty years before religious disqualifications against Roman Catholics holding public office in the Commonwealth were abolished. In fact, one of its members, Samuel L. Knapp, took a leading role in getting the Massachusetts Legislature to remove the ban on Catholics holding public office in 1820. Knapp served as president of the society in 1824-25. The society's commitment to inclusiveness

was also reflected in its two invitations to Boston's first Catholic bishop, Jean Cheverus, to address the society in 1805 and 1817. The bishop recognized the society's good work, and on one occasion transferred all of the proceeds of the March 17 Cathedral of the Holy Cross collection to the Charitable Irish Society to disperse to the needy. Despite the religious tensions of the 1830s that were evidenced by the burning of the Ursuline Convent in 1834 and the Broad Street riots three years later, in his 1837 centenary speech CIS President James Boyd, who was a Protestant, welcomed the growing number of Catholics joining the organization. He also proposed toasts to the Irish Liberator Daniel O'Connell, who had successfully spearheaded the campaign for Catholic Emancipation in the 1820s. Among the increasing number of Catholics who joined the CIS in this era were Bernard Fitzpatrick, the father of the future Boston Archbishop John Fitzpatrick, and Rev. Thomas J. O'Flaherty. The latter was the CIS President in 1831 and is the only clergyman ever to hold that office.

### The CIS's Role in Famine Relief Efforts 1845 to 1851

When the arrival of the royal mail ship the *Britannia* on Nov. 20, 1845, brought news of the initial potato crop failure in Ireland, the Charitable Irish Society responded quickly and generously at both the individual and organizational level. Former President Rev. Thomas J. O'Flaherty established the Irish Charitable Fund, which was the first formal response in the nation to the bleak news from Ireland. In just nine days O'Flaherty raised \$1,000 and the local Repeal Association collected \$2,114 from Irish laborers. Before the year's end, \$19,000 was collected for Irish relief in the City of Boston.

There were no organized relief efforts in the city in the first half of 1846 because subsequent potato crop failures were not



The sloop-of-war USS Jamestown leaving Boston Harbor on March 28, 1847 en route to Ireland with Irish famine relief.

Portrait by Edward D. Walker, assisted by P.S. Sabrina.

anticipated and the British government had bought substantial quantities of American corn to sell at moderate prices in the event of another crisis. However, the arrival of the *Hibernia* on Jan. 25, 1847, confirmed earlier autumn reports of impending starvation in Ireland as a result of the total failure of the 1846 potato crop. CIS members and other concerned Bostonians redoubled their earlier efforts to send relief. On Feb. 7, Archbishop John Fitzpatrick, whose father was a society member, launched a pastoral appeal to all parishes in the dioceses and within six weeks he sent \$24,000 via the *Cambria* to Archbishop Crolly in Armagh. Andrew Carney, a CIS member and the founder of Carney Hospital, was the treasurer of Fitzpatrick's fund and personally contributed \$1,000 at its launch. Rev. James O'Reilly of Boston raised \$1,300 in cash and \$700 in pledges in just one day. When the *Hibernia* left Boston for Ireland in early February, it carried \$72,000 in relief aid.

The city's Brahmin elite responded to the shocking news from Ireland and joined the fund-raising efforts initiated by the city's Irish community. On Feb. 18, some 4,000 people attended a public meeting at Faneuil Hall that resulted in the formation of the New England Relief Committee, which included five members of the Charitable Irish Society: Andrew Carney, Patrick Donahoe of the *Boston Pilot*, Captain Robert Bennet Forbes, his brother John, and Rev. O'Flaherty. Within days of the Faneuil Hall meeting the Forbes brothers successfully petitioned Congress and secured the release of two US Naval sloops lying idle in Boston and New York for the shipment of food and supplies to Ireland. Members of the Charitable Irish Society participated in a city-wide effort that eventually netted 800 tons of provisions and supplies worth \$35,000 that were shipped to Cork on the USS *Jamestown*. Members of the Boston Laborers Society, mostly native-born Irishmen, began loading the vessel free of charge on St. Patrick's Day. Meanwhile, the Charitable Irish Society canceled its annual St. Patrick's Day dinner and donated its expected dinner receipts to the USS *Jamestown* effort. Captain Forbes and all the ship's officers and crew undertook this voyage without any pay.

After a record-breaking 15-day crossing, the *Jamestown* was greeted jubilantly when it arrived in Cobh on April 12. Captain Forbes was horrified by the conditions that he saw in Cork and the surrounding area and as soon as he returned to Boston he used his influence to cut through the red-tape that was delaying the sailing of the USS *Macedonian* from New York. He organized a Boston *Macedonian* Committee and when that ship landed at Cobh on July 28, its cargo included 5,000 barrels of corn that Bostonians had donated. The efforts of Captain Forbes and Bostonians were recognized by testimonials he received from the corporations of Cork and Dublin as well as a gift of a beautiful engraved silver tray still proudly displayed at the Forbes Museum in Milton. Captain Forbes's heroic stature in Cork is also reflected in the square in Cork city that bears his name. In total, the New England Relief Committee sent \$151,000 of the total of more than \$300,000 in relief that went from Boston to Ireland in 1847. The equivalent of the last figure in today's currency would be approximately \$820,000.

Although such city-wide ecumenical relief efforts waned after 1847, Boston's Irish community knew first hand the challenges facing the impoverished Irish immigrants who arrived in Boston, especially after 1847. The Immigrant Aid Society was established in 1850 to meet the needs of these new arrivals. By year's end this society was placing 100 Irish girls per day as domestic servants in the city and providing approximately \$1 per day or twice the daily laboring wage to those in need. The Charitable Irish Society cooperated with this organization and gave \$300 annually for immigrant relief over the next seven years.

During its first century of existence and certainly during the famine era, the Charitable Irish Society and its individual members exhibited a constant commitment to its motto of "With Good Will Doing Service."

*Catherine B. Shannon is a Professor Emerita of History at Westfield State University. She was the first woman president of the Charitable Irish Society, serving in 1990 and 1991.*

## Federal judge tells BC to hand over IRA tapes

(Continued from page 1)

the Price documents by Dec. 29. Boston College spokesman Jack Dunn told the *Globe* that the school was disappointed by Judge Young's ruling, but did not intend to appeal the decision.

Both Hughes and Price were interviewed as part of an oral history initiative called the "Belfast Project," a BC-led effort launched in 2001 to collect the personal histories of people involved in the Troubles. The tapes and transcripts of the project have been housed at the university's Burns Library as part of BC's Irish Studies department.

The project was managed by Edward Moloney, a journalist and writer, who was hired by BC to lead the compilation, which includes interviews with 24 individuals associated with the IRA and 192 people in total.

According to court filings released this month, the Project required interview subjects to sign a confidentiality agreement aimed at protecting both BC and the participants from being identified. It used a coding system to "maintain the anonymity of interviews" that only Burns Library curator Robert O'Neill and Moloney knew how to decipher. Interview subjects were promised that their records would be kept confidential until their death, unless they made a specific written request to make them public, according to court records.

In his Dec. 16 ruling, Young acknowledged that subpoenas seeking confidential academic research deserve "heightened scrutiny." But, Young writes, "This Court, having reviewed the government's submissions on the public record and under seal, as well as Boston College's affidavits and motions, is confident the subpoenas are in good faith,

and relevant to a nonfrivolous criminal inquiry. Nor are the materials readily available from a less sensitive source."

Young added that the "legal commitments that the United States made" in approving a treaty agreement with the British trump any concerns of journalistic or academic freedoms.

Young points out that while forcing BC to surrender tapes that the university promised to keep confidential might have a "chilling" effect in a general sense, it would not impede the specific Belfast Project effort, since the collection of interviews for that ended in 2006. The judge also noted that Moloney had himself published a book in 2010 that was based in part on interviews collected as part of the BC project.

Both Moloney and Anthony McIntyre, who was hired by Moloney to conduct interviews for the Belfast Project, signed onto an appeal to quash the subpoena last June.

A coalition of Irish-American groups—including the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Brehon Law Society, and Irish American Unity Conference—issued a statement criticizing Young's Dec. 16 order, noting that the jurist had "refused to even listen to the arguments of the Directors of the Oral History project about the fears for themselves and their families if the documents were to be released to the British."

"Remarkably, the same Judge who had no regard for the fears of Mr. McIntyre and his American wife has apparently ordered Boston College to enlist his aid in sorting out which of the volumes of files might be relevant. In other words, to select the evidence that might be used in British trials against those who gave interviews. Really??"

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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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## Letting the younger set know the feeling when a house party turns into a session

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It seemed like most any typical all-ages holiday gathering, and in many ways, it was.

A Christmas tree stood in the corner of the living room, right by the entry to the dining room. Christmas decorations graced the fireplace mantel and other parts of the house, and an assortment of various treats, including Christmas cookies, was laid out on the dining room table. Adults loitered in the kitchen, sampling a festive cup of punch, while young children darted hither and yon, upstairs and down, and, when prompted, occasionally out the door to play in the front yard; older children clustered in pairs and trios, pausing every so often to check, or send, text messages.

Then, a few of the children brought forth instrument cases, pulled out fiddles and flutes, and joined by a couple of adults likewise bearing instruments, settled into chairs set up to form a circle in the dining room. After five (maybe 10) minutes of tuning

and chatting, the musicians started up a set of Irish reels.

As the tunes flowed, in the adjacent living room Irish dance teacher Jaclyn O'Riley led a trio of girls—sisters Elizabeth (10 years old) and Mary (8) Kozachek, and 7-year-old Nora Rotti -- through various sequences of steps and figures, encouraging each one to do a short solo and then joining in with them to keep the pace going.

Finally, O'Riley and the girls entered the dining room, and after some brief consultations, they danced a hornpipe to the accompaniment of the musicians. The final notes sounded, and there was a smattering of applause from onlookers as the musicians sat back in their chairs and the dancers paused to take a breather. The Christmas party had turned into a session.

This tableau, which unfolded on a Sunday afternoon two weeks before Christmas in the Melrose home of John and Lisa Coyne, has, of course, been repeated countless times over the years anywhere a



(L-R) Maeve O'Brien, Josie Coyne and Pegeen Kerr enjoy the multigenerational session co-organized and hosted by Comhaltas Ceoltoíri Eireann music school teacher Lisa Coyne.

Sean Smith photo

community of Irish musicians and dancers has existed. And it's the kind of experience the Coynes and their fellow adult co-organizers hope to recreate

for the youngsters on a regular basis.

Lisa, who along with husband John is a much-appreciated mainstay of the

area Irish music scene, teaches in the music school run by the area's Comhaltas Ceoltoíri Eireann Hanafin-Cooley (Continued on page 14)

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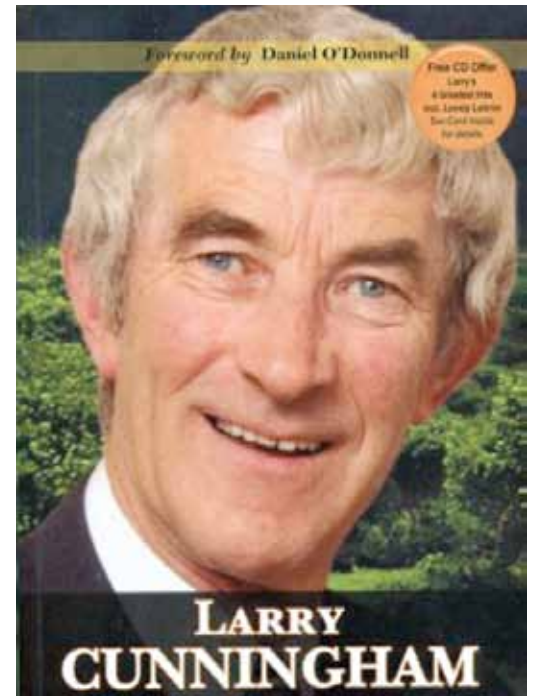
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# CD ROUNDUP

By SEAN SMITH

**Bua, "Down the Green Fields"**—Midwest-based Bua, who received well-deserved accolades for the 2009 release "An Spealadóir" has reshuffled and downsized its lineup, with fiddler Devin Shepherd having joined the band after the departures of Chris Bain and Jackie Moran. But the changes have done nothing to lessen



Bua's credentials as one of America's best traditional Irish ensembles, with an authentic, crisp sound and a scholarly grasp of the music and its roots.

At the heart of the band is Brian Ó hAirt, who in addition to playing concertina supplies a sweet-toned

and ornamented singing voice that seems to have been harvested straight from the sean-nos sod of Connemara. His command is evident whether the songs are in English—the regretful "My Parents Reared Me Tenderly" (learned from the great Antrim singer Len Graham) and "Soldier, Soldier," which receives dexterous back-

ing from Brian Miller's bouzouki and Shepherd's fiddle (adding a sarcastic touch on the song's climactic punch line)—or Irish Gaelic, especially in the medley of "Baba 'Con na Leath-Adhairce."

Although it's not as if the group sounded cluttered in its previous incarnation, the contraction in instrumentation—especially the absence of Moran's bodhran and percussion—inevitably puts more onus than ever on the melody players, and Shepherd and Sean Gavin (flute, pipes and whistle) are quite up to the task. Their work on, for example, the "Eddie Moloney's/Micho Russell's," "Killashandra Lasses/Down the Green Fields" and "Sean Reid's/Milliner's Daughters" sets is nothing short of invigorating. Miller's guitar is more conspicuous to great effect in this contingent, and he shows an equally deft hand on bouzouki, especially in the songs.

Bua's reverence for the Irish music tradition also is reflected in the copious sleeve notes, which are in Gaelic as well as English, and include biographies of source singers, archival photos, song backgrounds, and translations (all made possible by a grant to the band from Foras na Gaeilge, the Irish language's governing body).

If that isn't enough, the CD contains 16 tracks, one more than "An Spealadóir"—pretty good value in any economy, especially this one.

**Mick Moloney, Athena Tergis and Special Guests, "An Irish Christmas: A Musical Solstice Celebration"**—This CD arrived just a little too late to be included in last month's reviews, but even with Christmas over it deserves notice as one of the better holiday-themed Irish/Celtic albums to come down the snowy pike in recent years (along with Cherish the

Ladies' 2010 release "A Star in the East"). Musician/singer/scholar Mick Moloney once again has assembled a cadre of talented friends to produce a collection of ear-pleasing tunes and songs with a particular focus—in this case, "what Christmas should be about," writes Bill Whelan in the liner notes, "celebration, the craic, good music and song, the closeness of friends and family, and the thoughts spared for our brothers and sisters on the margins of life."

Recorded live at New York City's Irish Arts Center,



the album features Moloney (on vocals, tenor banjo, mandolin and octave mandolin) and a core ensemble of fiddlers Athena Tergis, Rhy Jones and Boston area native Liz Hanley (who along with Jones supplies lead and backing vocals), accordi-

onist Billy McComiskey, pianist Brendan Dolan and step dancer Niall O'Leary. They power through three sets of tunes, evoking the festiveness of a house party with a healthy dollop of briskness and energy—listen to McComiskey on the album-ending medley of reels, especially "Christmas Eve," and you'll hear someone having a load of fun.

The selection of songs is intriguing, and a major reason why this album is a cut above the usual "maudlin background seasonal tinsel" (Whelan again). Some are obvious choices: "The Holly and the Ivy," "The Cherry Tree Carol" and "The Wren Song," as well as Jones's rendition of an Appalachian song and tune in celebration of mid-winter, "Breaking Up Christmas." John McCutcheon's "Christmas in the Trenches"—sung here by Hanley with the proper mix of dignity and poignancy—has rightfully become a seasonal classic in its own right, as a depiction of man's all-too-fragile humanity in one of the most inhumane settings imaginable.

But other selections push the Christmas card envelope a bit: "The Bushes of Jerusalem," Tommy Sands's portrait of Jesus as social/human rights activist, and "The Rebel Jesus," a Jackson Browne composition which holds up Christianity's core principles in a way that might be discomfiting for modern American society (the latter track features the Washington Square Harp and Shamrock Orchestra, drawn from the New York Irish music community, and a game performance by their young vocalist Louise Sullivan). Can't imagine either of those songs going down well with the conservative Christian crowd.

Moloney also injects a sense of good-natured fun into the proceedings, reciting Terry Winch's reminiscence of an Irish American Christmas Eve party, and leading the vaudeville number "Miss Fogarty's Christmas Cake"—reflective of his great interest in early Irish American music.

Of course, you don't have to wait until the holiday season to get this CD. The music is plenty good enough for the rest of the year, too, but is definitely an effective bulwark against shopping mall muzak and TV Christmas specials.

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# JFK's Presidential Library and Museum captures history while remembering a life

By R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Nestled on 10 acres of waterfront property along Dorchester's Columbia Point, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum faces the sea, an apt location given JFK's love of the ocean. If you've never visited the Museum, now's a perfect time to absorb the rich history that awaits within its halls. And if you've stopped by in the past, new exhibits beckon. Columbia Point was not the original site chosen for the Library and Museum. In 1961, JFK himself began the process of establishing his library in Cambridge, envisioning a venue that would provide both a home for his official papers as well as a personal office for himself once he left the presidency.

In 1963, shortly before his fatal trip to Dallas, he went to Cambridge to personally select a location adjacent to his alma mater, Harvard University. Although plans for the Library and Museum continued after his death, the obstacles became such that, more than a decade later, the Cambridge location proved impossible due to construction issues coupled with concerns from local residents regarding traffic.

And so Jacqueline Kennedy selected the serene Boston Harbor site, which donated by the University of Massachusetts at Boston. She also decided upon the services of renowned architect I. M. Pei, who would go on to design a gleaming white geometric structure, accented by a striking tower and a tinted glass pavilion. The official ground breaking occurred in 1977 and the living memorial to our 35th President was completed just two years later.

Then as now, the mission of the Library and Museum has been "to further advance the study and understanding of President Kennedy's life and career and the times in which he lived, and to promote a greater appreciation of America's political and cultural heritage, the process of governing and the importance of public service."

While the Library contains official Presidential documents, recordings and videos, it is also a treasure trove of personal artifacts and memorabilia. Kennedy family members wanted to make sure that the Library and Museum would be the only national memorial to the fallen president so they provided a host of items from their own private collections, with Jacqueline taking a personal hand in overseeing the displays and exhibits depicting Kennedy family life.

Among the more than two dozen multimedia exhibits chronicling President Kennedy's life and career, visitors can experience the first televised presidential



The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum at Columbia Point, Dorchester.

Photo by Tom Fitzsimmons/Kennedy library foundation.

debate, Mrs. Kennedy's historic televised tour of the White House, press conferences with the president, Mrs. Kennedy's iconic clothing, political campaign memorabilia, and recreations of White House corridors. A replica of The Oval Office is a particularly popular exhibit as it features many of the personal items that rested on JFK's desk when he was President. Through the end of his year, the Museum will be hosting the special exhibit, "In Her Voice: Jacqueline Kennedy, The White House Years." Showcasing excerpts from an oral history Mrs. Kennedy recorded in 1964 with Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and former Special Assistant to the President Arthur Schlesinger, the exhibit coincides with the publication of the related book and CD set, *Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations on Life with John F. Kennedy*.

Originally a series of seven extensive interviews, the recordings were made just months after JFK's death. Mrs. Kennedy wanted to preserve her memories of family life in the White House as well as her reflections on world events that took place during that same time. She

also insisted the recordings be sealed and held by the Library. With the cooperation of the family, they are now being shared as part of the 50th anniversary of JFK's presidency.

In addition to the recordings in Mrs. Kennedy's own voice, the exhibit includes such special items as: the tea set presented to Mrs. Kennedy by Premier and Mrs. Khrushchev on June 4, 1961; the Cuban Missile Crisis paperweight calendar President Kennedy gave to Mrs. Kennedy in November of 1962; a never-before-displayed ancient Egyptian bracelet given to Mrs. Kennedy by the president; and assorted family photos of JFK, Mrs. Kennedy, Caroline and John Jr.

The Library and Museum also represent the strong connection the president maintained with respect to his ancestral history. JFK's eight great-grandparents left Ireland during the potato famine in search of a better life. While the Kennedys hailed from Dunganstown, County Wexford, the Fitzgeralds were originally from Bruff, County Limerick. When JFK made his historic pilgrimage to Ireland

in June of 1963 as the first American president to visit Ireland during his term in office, he remarked: "When my great-grandfather left here [in 1848] to become a cooper in East Boston, he carried nothing with him except two things: a strong religious faith and a strong desire for liberty. I am glad to say that all of his great-grandchildren have valued that inheritance."

Included in the Museum's collection from that 1963 visit is the Irish blackthorn walking stick the president received from his cousin Jimmy Kennedy, a Carrickmacross lace napkin (part of a set of 36) presented by Irish Prime Minister Sean LeMass, and a striking Waterford crystal vase. The Waterford piece, a gift from the New Ross Harbor Commissioners, contains etchings depicting the Kennedy homestead, The White House, an immigrant ship, and the New Ross coat of arms.

Also among the items in the Museum's collection is the Fitzgerald family Bible upon which JFK laid his hand while taking the oath of office on Jan. 20, 1961. Brought to America by JFK's ancestors, the 1850 edition Douay English translation Bible contains a family tree tracing the Fitzgeralds back to 1857. Additional items of Irish interest include: The Sword of John Barry, which JFK displayed in the Oval Office (Barry, born in Co. Wexford, was founder of the US Navy and a onetime commander of the USS Constitution who served in the Revolutionary War) and the Treaty of Ormonde and O'Kennedy, written in Latin, dated 1336, and marking the first known mention of the Kennedy name in Irish recorded history.

Beyond its exhibits and extensive historic collection, the Library is a vital research facility. As well, the Library and Museum host everything from debates and lectures to contemporary cultural events. The Kennedy Library Forums are a series of public discussions featuring historical, political, and cultural figures and topics. Upcoming events include an analysis of the Obama presidency, a discussion of the literary life of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and an evening with former PBS host Jim Lehrer. R. J. Donovan is publisher of *On-StageBoston.com*.

Administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, at Columbia Point in Dorchester, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 7 days per week, with the exception of New Year's, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Information: 617-514-1600 or [jfklibrary.org](http://jfklibrary.org).



June 28, 1963: President of Ireland Éamon de Valera signs in at St. Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle, as President Kennedy looks on.  
Robert Knudsen/White House Photographs/JFK Library.



## Appraising the 'Jig' documentary: entertaining; but context is an issue

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It's not just Irish dance aficionados and child development experts who can find grist for conversation in "Jig." Add classical philosophers to the list, too.

Sue Bourne's documentary on Irish competitive dancing, released early last year and now available on DVD, touches, albeit somewhat indirectly, on universal questions about perseverance in pursuit of an elusive goal. When is it all too much? Why endure the sacrifices when the returns, at least in material terms, are virtually non-existent?

But a more immediate and relevant question for some viewers might be: Is that all there is to Irish dancing? Hours (and hours) of practice, accumulated exhaustion and stress, nagging injuries, plus the wigs, make-up, spray-on tans and outlandish, often expensive dance costumes?

The film chronicles a widely dispersed and disparate group of young dancers as they prepare for, and compete in, the 40th Irish Dancing World Championships, which took place in 2010 in Glasgow. Bourne's cameras head to New York City, the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, and even Russia, to offer a glimpse not only of the dancers' training but also of their personal and family lives as well. These clips are interspersed with interviews of the competitors, and their parents and instructors.

Bourne uses this approach to set up several stories within the larger narrative, each with its own distinctive tension. One contrasts the lives of 10-year-olds Brogan of Derry, Northern Ireland, and New York City native Julia, competitors in the same age category who come from clearly different socioeconomic circumstances. Another thread involves three older girls from Galway, England, and Glasgow who have gone up against one another practically all their lives. In a third, 10-year-old John Whitehurst, full of promise but still prone to losing focus, finds a role model at his Irish dance academy in three-time Worlds champion Joe Bitter, who faces the challenge of surpassing his already impressive achievements.

The film's most fascinating stories emerge in the most unlikely settings. Bourne finds a troupe of determined Russian women in Moscow (with an equally determined instructor whose commute is mindboggling) training for the Worlds, largely just to have the experience of

engaging the wider Irish dance community. And there is probably no better example of contemporary multiculturalism than Sandun, a Sri Lankan-born adoptee of Dutch parents attempting to move into his age group's top five at the Worlds.

Bourne's keen choice of her subjects, and the way she intermingles them, make it almost impossible not to empathize. Hearing Sandun talk about how important Irish dance is to him, and his awareness of how "brown faces" like his are rare in Irish dancing, puts you in his camp from the beginning. Similarly, the imminent arrival of adulthood lends poignancy to the scenes of the trio of girls, young women, actually, as they near the end of their competitive dancing days.

Things get complicated as "Jig" juxtaposes Brogan and Julia. Brogan, precociously expressive, has to make do with whatever instruction she gets at her crowded dance academy, since her family can't afford private lessons; Julia has both academy and private instruction, and her mother, who assiduously takes notes during these sessions, works with her at home. Are you supposed to feel resentment for Julia, who seems more reserved than Brogan (until the Worlds, that is; it's startling to see her emotions percolate up) but doesn't act entitled, for the resources she's been given?

But it's the thread with Joe Bitter where the parental role really gets your attention, as we learn that his father gave up a lucrative career and moved the family to England so Joe could attend the academy run by John Carey, a former champion and understudy to Michael Flatley in "Riverdance." And that's where those aforementioned deeper questions come to the fore: Just because you can do something, does it mean you should?

Inevitably, these issues get pushed aside, at least temporarily, during the last portion of the film, which takes place at the Worlds. Not everyone's story has a happy ending—the expression on one dancer's face when he knows he's fallen short, even before the scores are announced, is devastating—and the Brogan-Julia drama reaches epic intensity.

In and of itself, the film makes for compelling, yet also entertaining, fare. What's missing, though, is some context: "Jig" presents Irish dance as grand spectacle—including the obligatory "Riverdance" and "Lord of the Dance" references—without giving you a sense of its tradition, and the diversity of styles therein. Nor is there a hint of its non-competitive aspects. If



Ten-year-old John Whiteside is among the young dancers appearing in Sue Bourne's documentary "Jig," now out on DVD.

you didn't know already, you might never guess that some people actually dance just for fun, and without all those wigs and costumes.

## Letting the younger set know the feeling when a house party turns into a session

(Continued from page 10)

branch. Over the past year or so, she and other Comhaltas teachers and parents began holding house party sessions for the more youthful students, to enlarge the kids' appreciation of Irish music, and make it fun in the bargain.

"We wanted the kids to see that there's more to Irish music than the routine of practice and lessons, practice and lessons, week in and week out," explains Lisa, who plays flute and whistle. "There is a social component to this music: You share it with other people, just for the enjoyment of being together, and sometimes you even find yourself learning things."

To enhance the sessions, O'Riley began bringing over her younger Irish dance students. "We thought it would be great for the kids to get used to playing for dancers; you have to keep the rhythm and tempo constant, so it's very good discipline," says Lisa. "And they really see the connection between music and dance, which is so important. It also helps expand the community, by putting kids and families in touch with others who have similar interests."

In an earlier age, when the world seemed a smaller place, gatherings like these seemed to happen of their own accord; the only question to be settled was in whose kitchen or parlor the neighborhood would gather. It's different now, obviously, and phone calls and e-mails are necessary



"We wanted the kids to see that there's more to Irish music than the routine of practice and lessons, practice and lessons, week in and week out," says session co-organizer Lisa Coyne. "There is a social component to this music: You share it with other people, just for the enjoyment of being together, and sometimes you even find yourself learning things."

Sean Smith photo

to organize such events, given that some guests have to travel considerable distances. All of which, says Lisa, make the sessions that much more valuable to the young musicians.

"They usually don't have the kind of 'session culture' that adult Irish musicians do, where there is a group of friends and acquaintances you see and interact with regularly as you play the music. So it takes some planning and management, but the kids get to see what sessions are all about."

Last month's Christmas party session (which also was held to mark the end of the music school's fall semester) included 17-year-old flutist Pegeen Kerr from Northbridge and a pair of fiddlers, 10-year-

old Maeve O'Brien of Brighton and the Coyne's daughter Josie, who at 12 already has the demeanor of a seasoned sessioneer. Lisa, John, and the other adult participants made a point of deferring to the girls for suggestions of tunes to play, even if a little nudging was needed ("Sailor on the Rock?" ventured Lisa during one discussion, naming a reel that is popular in session circles. "You all know that pretty well, right?") As the musicians settled into playing, they displayed that interactive non-verbal language typical of sessions: making eye contact to presage the transition to the next tune; arching an eyebrow or leaning slightly toward one another in anticipation of a tricky passage; exchanging

smiles or winks as they near the end.

Maeve's mother Mary is happy to see her daughter, still relatively new to playing fiddle, enrich her involvement in Irish music, a legacy from the family of Colm O'Brien, Maeve's Antrim-born father. "This is a great way for her to experience a different environment for the music, one that's informal and relaxed. She loves playing the sessions."

Michael, Pegeen's father, has been active in traditional music himself, although he has leaned more to the Scottish and Cape Breton side. He's similarly enthused by the regular gatherings. "We signed up Pegeen, and our son Alex [who's learning fiddle], for the school because

of Comhaltas's reputation for being able to work with kids in different age levels," he says. "The sessions are such a terrific idea. They get to play not only with experienced adults, but with musicians closer to their age, and it adds a lot to their understanding of the music."

O'Riley feels sessions are important for the young dancers, too. Her classes are for non-competitive Irish dance, but because of her students' ages and the lack of dance events for them, most of their dancing takes place within the four walls of a studio. "This gathering was a great chance to show them that Irish dance and music is a living, breathing tradition, and that it happens in houses, parties, dance halls, et cetera with family and friends. Also, I think dancing to live music played by their peers brought home the sense that this is a community, and that they are a part of it. There was a really joyful air around the whole experience, and along with steps, this is what I am trying to give to my dancers."

The afternoon wore on, some guests departed, and new arrivals took their places, and the cast of musicians changed slightly. But as the early-winter sun edged toward the horizon, the tunes continued to resound while shadows gradually coalesced in the Coyne's dining room, adults and children both enjoying this musical Christmas treat.





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

**Getting set for BCMFest 2012**

As the ninth annual BCMFest draws near - it'll be held January 6 and 7 at venues in Harvard Square - here is a look at some special attractions at this year's festival:

**"Roots and Branches"**- Youthful energy usually abounds at the BCMFest Friday night kick-off concert, and this year is no exception. "Roots and Branches," which takes place January 6 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Club Passim in Harvard Square, will give a fun, fresh take on the music of Scotland and Ireland, and its diasporic communities in Appalachia, Quebec, and Cape Breton, presented by some of the most dynamic young musicians, singers and dancers in Boston's Celtic music scene.

A diversely talented house band of Eden Forman (fiddle, vocals), Abbie MacQuarrie (fiddle, feet), Jefferson Hamer (guitar, vocals), Neil Pearlman (piano, mandolin) and Nic Gareiss (feet), will be the anchoring force of the concert. They will welcome a number of special guests, including fiddlers Kimberley Fraser, Emerald Rae and Hanneke Cassel, singer and multi-instrumentalist Grace Van't Hof, and Irish stepdancer Siobhan Butler - what's more, concert co-organizers Forman and MacQuarrie add, there will be "some secret 'rad' musicians joining in as well, so you don't want to miss it."

Tickets for the Friday night concert are \$28, \$25 for Passim members. Hold onto your ticket stub - when the concert is over, you can join a parade from Passim around the square to The Atrium (50 Church Street, 4th floor) and use it to get free admission to the Boston Urban Ceilidh, BCMFest's Celtic dance party.

**The Boston Urban Ceilidh** - The idea behind the Boston Urban Ceilidh is pretty simple: Don't just sit there, get up and dance. Always one of BCMFest's most popular events, the "BUC" gives you a chance to take part in social dancing from different traditions within Celtic music, with talented musicians providing the beat. All dances are taught, so don't worry if you've never done it before. This year's BUC will take place January 6 beginning at 8 p.m. in a new setting, at The Atrium, 50 Church Street, 4th floor. Here's a look at the BUC line-up:

\*The Reiner Brothers - Andy (fiddle, mandolin) and Eric (keyboards) expertly combine Irish, Cape Breton, Quebecois, New England and old-timey music to get you moving on the dance floor. Dave Eisenstadter will do the calling.

\*Triple Spiral - Pulsating Celtic music with focus on Brittany and the Scottish Isles and Highlands. They will lead Breton dances to boot.

\*Neil Pearlman and Friends, "BUC Style" - Think "contra dance meets mosh pit." Caller Hanneke Cassel will get everyone out there on the floor and show you how it's done.

Admission to the Boston Urban Ceilidh is \$15, \$10 for children and teens.

**Fun for Families** - During the Saturday "Dayfest," go up to the Attic in First Parish Church of Cambridge (corner of Church Street and Mass. Ave.) and check out "The Children's Corner," featuring entertainment geared to families with younger children. You can listen to storyteller Joe Keane talk about the magical Pookah, or sing along to the duos of Hannah Sanders & Liz Simmons and Bridget Fitzgerald & Shannon Heaton, or learn about the wonderful, mysterious hurdy-gurdy (no, it's not that thing with the monkey and the tin cup). Finally, there's "Cirque De Celtique," which takes place in the Sanctuary of First Parish: A trapeze show? Lion taming? Probably not. But you can expect a three-ring circus of music, juggling, and comedy. Oh, and to get you into the festival mood, there will even be a parade at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday to the First Parish.



**NOÏR** is among several acts that will appear for the first time at BCMFest January 6 and 7

**Grand Finale** - As the culmination of BCMFest, the festival's Saturday night finale concert is a venue for area Celtic performers to let their creativity shine and enjoy collaborations that, in some cases, are all too rare on the concert stage.

That's what BCMFest 2012 finale concert organizers Matt Heaton and Flynn Cohen have in mind. For the January 7 event, the two - who are among the Boston Celtic music scene's most eminent guitarists - have assembled a multifaceted cast of friends and colleagues, some of whom are seldom seen in this manner of performance.

"This is a chance to spotlight a number of musicians who, instead of playing in a sacrosanct concert setting, are more likely found at sessions in loud pubs with other melody players," explains Cohen. "They're great players, and we enjoy sitting in with them; now, we'll be playing together in a context that allows people to hear what excellent musicians they are."

The guest list includes Tina Lech (fiddle), Ted Davis (flute), Katie McNally (fiddle), Sean Clohessy (fiddle), Kieran Jordan (dance), James Hamilton (flute), Joey Abarta (Uilleann pipes), Kimberley Fraser (fiddle) and Maeve Gilchrist (harp, keyboards).

In addition to playing with the guest musicians and as a duo, Heaton and Cohen - both of whom play guitar, bouzouki, and mandolin - will appear at the concert as part of their most well-known musical collaborations: Heaton with his wife, Shannon (Irish flute, whistle and vocals); Cohen with his "alt-trad" band Annalivia, which blends traditional Irish, American and English folk music with original material.

Heaton and Cohen also will gather some of their guest performers for a tribute to the Bothy Band, one of the seminal groups in the modern Irish folk music revival.

Says Heaton, "We're looking forward to sharing the stage with people we play music with regularly, but also some of the more underappreciated 'tradition-bearers' and 'sessioneers.' There will be a good sampling of the Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton and other music that makes Boston such a wonderful place to be a Celtic musician."

The BCMFest finale concert takes place at 8 p.m. in First Parish Church in Cambridge (corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Church Street in Harvard Square). Tickets are \$15, \$13 for Passim members, and \$5 for age 15 and under; a combo pass for the Saturday BCMFest "Dayfest" and the finale concert is \$25, \$23 for Passim members.

This is only a small sample of what awaits at BCMFest 2012. For more festival information and updates, go to [bcmfest.com](http://bcmfest.com).

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**Fellswater** will make its BCMFest debut this year.

Club Passim will have a different look to it this year. Beginning with the Jan. 9 event, every other month will feature "The BCMFest Session": These will be informal sessions open to all, led by some of the area's best musicians. Bring an instrument, a song to share, even a poem to read; there also will be some room for stepdancers to strut their stuff. All BCMFest sessions are free and open to the public, and begin at 7:30 p.m. Club Passim is located at 47 Palmer Street in Harvard Square [[clubpassim.org](http://clubpassim.org)].

**IRELAND'S WEATHER**

REPORTED MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2011

It was a mild week with daytime temperatures mostly in double figures, in fact it went up to 13C on Thursday. Here in the West there was no sign of frost and very little rain. We had a number of long sunny spells, the best of which came on Friday which, at 7C, was the coolest day of the week.

It will remain mild but with rain and gales on most days. The gales could increase to storm force for a time in the middle of the week.

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## The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

**Blian Mhaith Úr!** "Happy New Year!" Last month we reviewed the **verbs**. I promised that we would now pay attention to the pronunciation of the various endings. We used only "Class I" **verbs**, those of a single syllable. The model we used was **cuir**, "plant, bury, put, put on."

We could just as easily have used **glan**, "clean, clear" a verb that ends with a "broad vowel" (**a, o, u**). In the following examples we will use both of these.

Remember that in examples below that the vowel underlined and in italics is **not to be pronounced** – nor is **f** in the middle of a verb. Think of **bhfuil** /weyl/ or /veyl/ where the **f** is silent. However, they must be there in written form to maintain the Irish sense of "balance". The remainder of the suffixes **is** pronounced.

The so-called "**Present Tense**" found in most Irish grammars is in reality a "Habitual Present". Here an action is in "present time" but implies that this is a repetition of what has gone on before.

If something is happening in "real time" you must use the Present Progressive form. By the time you finish reading this sentence the "present" is "past."

**Tá mé ag cur prátaí.**

"I am planting potatoes."

**Tá sí ag glanadh a seomra.**

"She is cleaning her room."

This is best illustrated by the following examples:

**Tá mé ag cur prátaí.**

"I am planting potatoes."

**Cuirim prátaí.**

"I plant potatoes."

**Tá sí ag dul go Doire anois.**

"She is going to Derry now."

**Téadh sí go Doire go minic.**

"She goes to Derry often."

The suffixes (endings) for the **Present Habitual** are "I" –(a)im, pronounced /-uhm/; "we" –(a)imid /uh-muhj/; "you/he/she/you-all, they" is -(e)ann/uhn/.

**Cuirim.** /KOOR-uhm/ "I plant."

**Cuirimid.** /KOOR-uh-muhj/ "We plant."

**Cuireann tú/sé/sí/sibh/siad.**

/KOOR-uhn/ "You/he/she/ etc. plant."

**Glanaim** /GLAHN-uhm/ "I clean."

**Glanaimid** /GLAHN-uh-muhj/ "We clean."

**Glanann tú/sé/sí/sibh/siad**

/GLAHN-uhn/ "You,he,she,etc. clean."

The **Definite Past** has only one suffix (ending) form, the one for "we", -(e)amar, pronounced /uh-mahr/. Recall that the **Definite Past** is formed by **lenition** ("aspiration") of the beginning consonant or artificially by prefixing **D**.

**Chuir mé/tú/sé/sí/sibh/siad**

/hoor/ "I, you, he, etc. planted."

The "we" form is **Chuireamar**

/HOOR-uh-mahr/ "We planted."

Similarly, **Ghlan mé/tú/sé/sí/sibh/siad** is pronounced /glahn/ with a "gargled g"

The "we" form is **Ghlanamar** /GLAHN-uh-mahr/

"We cleaned."

In contrast the **Habitual Past** has five endings. This is equal to English "used to" and refers to repeated actions in the past such as, "I used to smoke."

The two endings that are the same are for "he/she" and "you-all."

**Chuirinn** /HOOR-uhn/ "I used to plant"

**Chuireteá** /HOOR-chuh/ "You used to plant."

**Chuireadh sé/sí** /HOOR-uhk/ "He/She used to plant."

**Chuirimis** /HOOR-uh-mush/ "We used to plant."

**Chuireadh sibh** /hoor-uhk sheev/ "You-all used to plant."

**Chuiridis** /HOOR-uh-jeesh/ "They used to plant."

And with our other "model" verb, **glan**.

**Ghlanainn** /GLAHN-uhn/ "I used to clean."

**Ghlaná** /GLAHN-tuh/ "You used to clean."

**Ghlanadh sé/sí** /GLAHN-uhk/ "He/she used to clean."

**Ghlanaimis** /GLAHN-uh-mush/ "We used to clean."

**Ghlanadh sibh** /GLAHN-uhk sheev/

"You-all used to clean."

**Ghlanaidis** /GLAHN-uh-jeesh/

"They used to clean."

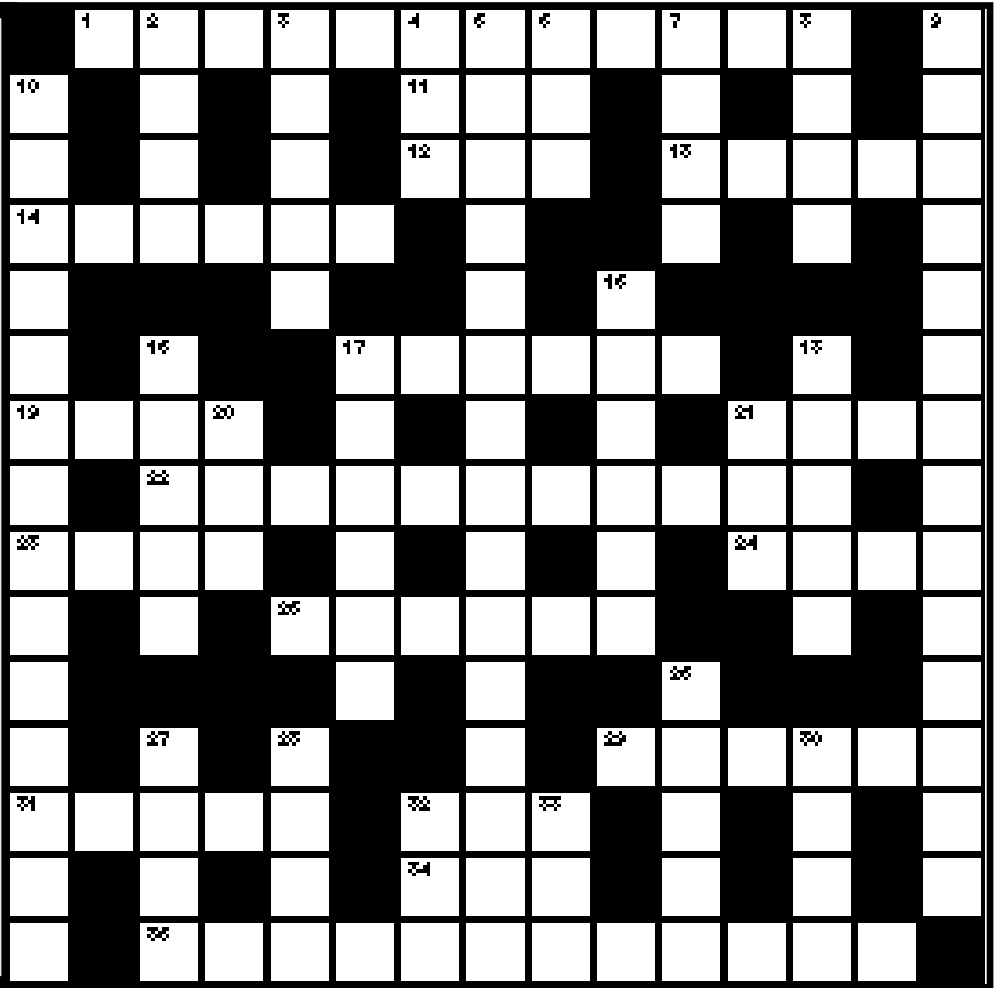
Let's try to translate a few sentences into Irish using not only our two "model verbs" but also some other "regular" Class I verbs that you have already learned and some new ones: **gearr** "cut, òl "drink", **díol** "sell", **scuab** "sweep", **tig** "understand".

"I buried my mother yesterday." 2.) "We used to eat potatoes." 3.) "They drank milk often." 4.) "How old are you?" 5.) "Do you take coffee with milk?" 6.) "I didn't understand him." 7.) "They cut the potatoes with a knife." 8.) "What time is it?" 9.) "We cleaned our room last night." 10.) "I often wear a coat and cap when it is very cold." 11.) "Nora sold me this dress." 12.) "She swept the floor on Saturday">

Answers: 1.) **Chuir me mo mháthair inné.** 2.) **D'ithimis prátaí.** 3.) **D'ólaidis bainne go minic.** [The word for "often" is used in an early example]. 4.) **Cén aois atá agat?** 5.) **An gabhann tú caife le bainne?** 6.) **Ní thig mé eisean.** 7.) **Ghearr siad prátaí le scian.** 8.) **Cén t-am é?** 9.) **Ghlanam ar seomra aréir.** 10.) **Cuirim dhom cóta agus caipín nuair a tá an-fuar.** 11.) **Dhíol Nóra mise an gunna seo.** 12.) **Scuab sí an urlár De-Sathairn.**

## CELTIC CROSS WORDS

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



## IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

### ACROSS

- A cell dustbin goes astray in Irish capital stronghold wherein is St. Patrick's Hall used for many state functions. (6,6)
- Electron deficient learner fails to start jungle king. (3)
- Conditional return of plant container. (3)
- Wants to be born a detective sergeant. (5)
- I moults badly in the last month in beautiful Timoleague. (6)
- Did the cow sound colourful when the boat was tied up? (6)
- "You write with ease, to show — breeding. But easy writing's vile hard reading." Sheridan. (4)
- Ardfert rekindling involves long migratory march. (4)
- All one's bail (anag.) Galway horse town with a well-known castle adjoining Garbally park. (11)
- "There was — ground where a man might linger, For a week or two for time was not our master." Ewan McColl -The Travelling People. (4)
- Noble but not quite on time. (4)
- Cut back and see where the zloty goes round. (6)
- This do suit, up in workplace. (6)
- "Where fierce indignation can no longer tear his —." Epitaph of Jonathan Swift. (5)
- Drunkard returns to south. (3)
- Soft approach by United Nations initially is a wordy joke. (3)
- Wants west tor. (anag.) Tyrone village near Coal-island and seat of Viscount Charlemont. (12)

### DOWN

- One nut I cracked. (4)
- Peruvian pack animal seen coming back through Tuam all alone. (5)
- Upset trash can to find the means of writing. (3)
- Oh, R.U.C. tour ban row. (anag.) North Wexford sea-side resort near Gorey with a 2 mile sandy beach. (8,7)
- "Go to the — thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise." Proverbs Chap. 6 verse 6 (3)
- Sound of Ireland's first republican? (4)
- "Nothing is — done in this world until men are prepared to kill one another if it is not done." Shaw (4)

- Elf room passkey. (anag.) Galway beauty spot near Letterfrack with 3 lakes and a famous abbey. (4,2,8)
- No, tough, many can be broken in Ulster region of many lakes, known as the MacMahon country, . (6,8)
- Engaged in banter seated around. (6)
- Brute dug up the root crop. (5)
- Grand let in prosperous Cork town, known as the 'Bath of Ireland' where Thomas Davies was born. (6)
- "No, there's nothing half so sweet in life As love's young —." Moore. (5)
- Made haste along in Maghera navigation. (3)
- Tip of the separate legend! (3)
- A contrived event will put a stop to growth. (5)
- Sam's coming over for the celebration. (4)
- Southern, yet upset about what's causing a pain in the eye. (4)
- Tie in the back room of the hospital. (4)
- Sap rising in Kerry resort four miles west of Tralee, with mineral springs. (3)
- Take us out of 26 down with explosive result initially. (3)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 17

## Irish Sayings ...

"People live in each other's shelter."  
 "The world would not make a racehorse of a donkey."  
 "You are not a fully fledged sailor unless you have sailed under full sail," "and you have not built a wall unless you have rounded a corner."  
 "There is no strength without unity."  
 "You must live with a person to know a person. If you want to know me come and live with me."  
 "Praise the young and they will blossom"  
 "The raggy colt often made a powerful horse."  
 "Age is honorable and youth is noble."  
 "Youth does not mind where it sets its foot."  
 "Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die."  
 "The well fed does not understand the lean."  
 "He who comes with a story to you brings two away from you"

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Traveling People

# At New Year's, looking back, looking forward at the things we love about the island of Ireland

By JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It's hard to believe that another year has sped past, leaving behind some good and some not-so-good memories, and that 2012 has now been launched. As the year turns, it's fun to remember all the things we love about Ireland, especially what we experienced during the previous year.

Here are a few 2011 favorites:

- We really enjoyed the Fota Wildlife Park ([fotawildlife.ie](http://fotawildlife.ie)) in Co. Cork. It's a wonderful place to take the family, walk around and watch the animals, stop for lunch, shoot some great photos, and just have an interesting day learning about some of the animals there that are unfamiliar to us. The park opened in 1983 and animals were chosen that can roam free, mix with other species, and thrive in the free-range environment.

- While in Co. Cork, we also enjoyed the Cobh Heritage Centre, Jameson Distillery in Midleton, Donkey Sanctuary in Liscarroll, and the lovely seaside town of Kinsale, the gourmet capital of Ireland where food choices are many and quality is superb. Be sure to tour around West Cork, too, for some truly beautiful scenery.

- In Co. Offaly, the Clonmacnoise monastic settlement, founded by St. Ciaran in 548, is stunning and well worth a visit. The settlement is on the River Shannon and, while you're near the Shannon, you might want to add a river cruise to your itinerary. Of course, you also have to visit Moneygall, a one-horse town that Barack Obama visited last spring when he was in Ireland and where some of his family originated.

- In Co. Tipperary, be sure to visit the Rock of Cashel, an amazingly well-preserved and fascinating attraction, and in Co. Meath see Newgrange, Knowth, the Hill of Tara, and Trim Castle.

- In Northern Ireland, don't miss the Giant's Causeway, Dunluce Castle, Ballintoy Harbor, the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge, the historic homes and gardens. One of our favorite places is Carnlough and the Londonderry Arms Hotel. Visit [discovernorthernireland.com](http://discovernorthernireland.com) for lots of tourist attractions, accommodations and more.

- In Co. Donegal, we enjoyed the colorful fishing boats in the harbor town of Killybegs, the lovely drive down into the town of Glencolumbkille, Glenveagh Castle, and the magnificent grounds and gardens there, and the scenery on the Inishowen Peninsula. There's so much to see there and all over Ireland.

- In Co. Kerry, our favorite accommodation is Heaton's Guesthouse ([heatonguesthouse.com](http://heatonguesthouse.com)) in Dingle. Heaton's is spotlessly clean, welcom-



Celtic crosses on a foggy day at Clonmacnoise monastic settlement in Co. Offaly.

(Judy Enright photo)

ing and comfortable with beautifully appointed rooms and delicious meals in the dining room. We've stayed there a number of times and always had most enjoyable visits.

- In Connemara, my absolute favorite accommodation is Lough Inagh Lodge Hotel in the pristine Inagh Valley. Rooms are wonderful with an "old-world" feel to them, food is great, and the staff acts as though you were family returning home – in short it's a wonderful place to stay, dine, visit – whatever you can manage.

- If you happen to be in Connemara in October, the Maam Cross Fair is a great day out. Vendors of all ages hawk everything from live ducks to ice cream and the side roads are jammed with horses, goats, dogs and puppies, donkeys, and thousands of people. This and other Irish fairs offer an amazing slice of country life.

- Favorite B&Bs include magnificent Cahergal Farm (very near Shannon airport) and Riverfield House in Doolin, both in Co. Clare. Favorite castle accommodations: Dromoland (also very near Shannon in Co. Clare) and Ashford in Co. Mayo.

- Kylemore Abbey in Connemara is a wonderful place to visit, walk the grounds and enjoy the gardens;

- My favorite rental car company is, and for many years has been, Dan Dooley ([dandooley.com](http://dandooley.com)). The cars are current (last year I had a great Skoda – automatic, of course), well maintained and the Doolley personnel – Michael, who collects you outside the airport at Shannon and drives you to pick up your car, the counter staff and staff at the nearby lot – are friendly, helpful, and totally top-notch.

- Great pubs abound in Ireland where food is usually very good and reasonable. A couple of West Coast favorites are the Granuaile in Newport and McDermott's in Doolin. You can find quality Irish food products in stores across the country,



Mom and baby giraffe at Fota Wildlife Park in Co. Cork.

(Judy Enright photo)

too. And, Irish crafts are outstanding and sold in many fine stores. Some of our favorites are The Beehive on Achill Island, Co. Mayo (which also serves delicious, fresh lunches); O'Reilly & Turpin in Westport (a fun town to walk around in), and Cottage Handcrafts in Moyard, Co. Galway. There are also many stores in the cities – Dublin, Galway and Cork – where you'll find excellent Irish goods.

If touring and tourist attractions aren't for you, there are many other activities available all over the country. You can sign up for hill walking through the Burren, Glendalough, Kerry, or other areas of Ireland (many internet sites offer suggestions), biking or equestrian holidays, play golf at some of the more than 300 golf courses. There really is something for everyone in Ireland no matter what time of year you go or where you travel.

receivership. The paper said Galway businessman Gerry Barrett turned over ownership and control of Ashford to Bank of Scotland from which he had taken loans that he had not repaid.

The well-known hotel in Cong, Co. Mayo, is on 365 acres and overlooks Lough Corrib. It's a wonderful place to stay, have tea, eat, or just walk the grounds.

*The Times* story said the receivers' appointment would ensure that the hotel would continue "without any interruption to guests, staff and suppliers." Ashford employs about 140 staff members. Barrett bought Ashford in 2008 from a group of American investors for 50-million euro through his company Edward Holdings of Galway.

*The Times* story also noted that "Irish hotels have been badly hit by the

cluded Ronald Reagan, who stayed there while on a state visit in 1984, Britain's Prince Edward, and Hollywood actors Brad Pitt and Russell Crowe. The hotel also became famous in 1951 when John Ford filmed much of his classic, "The Quiet Man," with Maureen O'Hara and John Wayne, on the castle grounds. Every year "The Quiet Man" fan club meets there.

**TRAVEL PLANS**

We hope your 2012 plans include a visit to the Emerald Isle. You couldn't choose a better place to enjoy vacation activities. Travel deals are available from numerous sites on the internet and information about Ireland is always available at [discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com), Tourism Ireland's excellent and informative website as well as through Aer Lingus and other airlines.

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Let Our Family  
Take Care of Yours

**PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 16**

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SummerWorks Youth Jobs Program  
Senior Program

## "TOY DRIVE & WINTER CAMPAIGN" KICKS OFF!

The "Toy Drive & Winter Campaign" of Action for Boston Community Development needs your assistance to put smiles on the faces of children across the city this year and help families survive and thrive during the holiday season and beyond!

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WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR:


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For more information or to volunteer, please visit:  
[www.bostonabcd.org](http://www.bostonabcd.org) or call [617-348-6559](tel:617-348-6559) to put a smile  
on a child's face this holiday season!



# BIR's Year in Pictures



 The 2nd annual Boston Irish Honors luncheon, hosted by the Boston Irish Reporter drew some 400 guests to the Seaport Hotel on October 20. Receiving special recognition were former Boston Police Commissioner Kathleen O'Toole and Brockton State Senator Tom Kennedy, and three exemplary local families, the Corcoran family, the James and Jean Hunt family and the Mulvoy family. *Margaret Brett Hastings photo*



It was Welcome Home Day on May 23 for Barack Obama as he greeted residents in Moneygall, Ireland, the home town of his great-great-grandfather. Three days before, Queen Elizabeth was welcomed with glee at the English Market in Cork on the fourth and final day of her first-ever state visit to Ireland, an ambitious, successful trip that many have seen as a consolidating element of a new era of cooperation between England and Ireland. *AP Photo, top, by Charles Dharapak; AP pool photo below.*



Mary Robinson, Ireland's former President & UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, was presented the 2011 Gold Medal by the Eire Society in May. She is pictured with Ireland's Consul General to Boston Michael Lonergan. *Harry Brett photo*



West Roxbury's Irish Social Club (above) was closed in the spring, but it won a new lease on life, as a group of volunteers helped recruit 900 new members, A September 24 fund raiser drew hundreds, including (below) committee members Sean McKenna, Richie Gormley and Kathleen Adams. *Harry Brett photo*



In office for less than a week, new Irish President Enda Kenny visited the White House on St. Patrick's Day 2011 for the traditional presentation of a bowl of shamrocks to President Obama. *AP pool photo*





Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, Co. Antrim.

# Come Home To Ireland This Year

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