

Irish Pastoral Centre Newsletter




"We are a Parish without Boundaries."

*Serving the Greater Boston
Irish Community since 1987*

IPC KNITTERS HOST BRILLIANT BIZZARE

Our Bumblebee Knitting Club who gather every Thursday here at the Centre led by IPC board member Della Costello hosted their second annual craft fair on Saturday, December 3d. It was a day filled with festive cheer! Thank you to all off our knitters, vendors and volunteers for such a successful day and congratulations to everyone who took home a prize from our raffles ranged of prizes from local businesses and some of our own talented crafters. Special guest Santa Claus, stopped by to say hello to all the children as they shopped. See more photos on Page 16.






Nollaig Shona agus Achóhliain faoi Whaise Daoibh.

In this season of giving, our thoughts turn gratefully to you with warm appreciation.

Your support inspires us and is the cornerstone of our mission to 'welcome the stranger among us'

Go raibh Maith agaibh

May you be blessed with the spirit of Christmas,
which is peace,
The gladness of Christmas,
which is hope,
And the heart of Christmas,
which is love.





Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Bostún
Consulate General of Ireland | Boston



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



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

IPC News Desk

Dear Friends

I begin with thanks to Irish Cultural Centre Director Jerry McDermott and his team for a wonderful Christmas luncheon which brought our four senior clubs together for a wonderful Christmas luncheon. All of us here look forward to these events and we hope to expand them in 2024.



Our expansion has begun and we will be able to host larger events here at the Centre soon. Once again, we appreciate the efforts of so many in the trades who donate their time and talents. The additional space will include two additional offices, a meeting room and a commercial kitchen that will open into a large space that will accommodate 120 people comfortably. We have had several events this past year where the need for a large community room is necessary and we look forward to an official opening in the new year which will mark the 36th anniversary of the Centre.

Well the holiday spirit is truly among us and as we reflect on this past year, it seems that all of us are chasing time. I wish all of you the gift of time to rest and enjoy each other's company over Christmas.

The end of the year for us here in the office sees time spent on our financial reports. So many of you give to us over and over again which means so much. For all of your help, whether it's support for the newsletter, our Immigration program, the Senior program, our Health and Wellness program or community events such as the Golf Tournament or the Craft fair, know that your collective support brings meaningful results. Above all, I must acknowledge the Government of Ireland's Emigrant Support program along with the Flatley foundation which provides the foundation for our budget every year.

Our offices will close at 4pm on Friday December 22nd and we will re-open on Wednesday December 27th at 8am. We will be checking our phone messages throughout the holidays.

Be sure to join us for a traditional Irish Polar Plunge with the Boston Irish Dippers on New Year's Day at 12 noon on Wollaston beach. It should be great fun altogether!

The proceeds will go toward further expansion of our Social work program.

Please mind each other over the holidays and enjoy yourselves. We all remember lost loved ones with sadness, fondness and love especially around Christmas time, and I hope that lovely memories will sustain you if you are grieving.

In closing, I'm wishing our team here at the Centre some well deserved rest. They are exceptional and I am privileged to work with them every day.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mind yourselves, Mary



**The IPC are looking for
donations of
banquet tables & chairs
for our new space!**

Call 617-265-5300



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE THE IPC NEWSLETTER?

Call 617-265-5300 or email aocarroll@ipcboston.org to sign up to our mailing list.

THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED BY NEIL HURLEY

IPC News Desk



Thank you Cork Club!

We extend a huge thank you to Richard Archer and all the ladies and gentlemen at the Knights and Ladies of St. Finbarr Cork Club who hosted a fantastic fundraiser in benefit of the IPC at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury! We are very grateful to Richard Archer and his team at the cork club



Christmas Arrives in Canton Early!

The IPC was delighted to collaborate with the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton to host a Christmas Luncheon where members of the ICC as well as our four senior coffee groups from Brighton, West Roxbury, Weymouth and Dorchester came together for the afternoon. More than 180 guests enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner followed by music played by traditional Irish music group, Strawberry Hill and set dancing led by Cait Bracken.

REMINDER!!!

OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL
NOT GO TO PRINT UNTIL
FEBRUARY 2024



Josephine Returns!!

We were delighted to see our great friend and volunteer, Josephine Lacey at our thanksgiving luncheon at Florian Hall. Here, Josephine is photographed with the Consul General of Ireland in Boston, Síghle FitzGerald!



On we grow: Work Begins for our new space!

As the year comes to an end, we look forward as work starts to expand our space to accommodate the ever growing needs of our programs and the Irish community here. Here, IPC Board member Mike Carey begins mapping out what will be additional offices, a meeting room and a commercial kitchen which leads into a large space that will accommodate 120 people!

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER?

Contact Amy at aocarroll@ipcoston.org or Call the IPC 617-265-5300

Sports Quiz Answers: 1. Kildare, 2. Kildare, 3. Galway, 4. Tipperary, 5. Donegal, 6. Tipperary, 7. Kildare, 8. Kilkenny

IPC News desk



Special Guests attend IPC Playgroup

A few special guests were in attendance at this year's IPC Toddler Group Christmas Party! We were very excited to have Santa Claus himself visit the playgroup who distributed presents to each child with his helpers Fr. Dan Finn and IPC board member Neil Hurley.

A huge thank you to Lauren Woods from Boston Police Department who read the book "*'Twas the Night Before Christmas*" to all the children and handed out Boston PD stickers and backpack tags, it was a great afternoon to begin Christmas week!

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC SESSIONS

SUNDAY, JAN 20th
3PM - 5PM

Join us for our monthly Trad music session at the IPC. Come one, Come all. All musicians and levels welcome.

540 Gullivan Blvd, (Rear),
Dorchester, MA 02124



ANSEO LE CHEILE - HERE TOGETHER

IPC CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP Returns in January!

We are delighted to announce that our partnership with Boston Senior Home Care to bring support to Caregivers here at the IPC will return Saturday Jan. 20th and, and recurring every third Saturday of the month, all are welcome from 11am to 1pm. Our host, Paula, is a caregiver advisor with Boston Senior Home Care. She holds a Master of Education in Counseling Psychology (M.Ed.) from UMass Boston. She is passionate about supporting caregivers, and emphasizing the importance of self-care. This is a great opportunity for caregivers to meet and share their unique experiences.

BOSTON SENIOR HOME CARE
CAREGIVER SOLUTIONS

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Join us every third Saturday of the month beginning Oct. 21, 2023 (11AM-1PM)

Irish Pastoral Centre

540 Gullivan Blvd (REAR), Boston, MA 02124



Your host, **Paula**, is a caregiver advisor with Boston Senior Home Care. She holds a Master of Education in Counseling Psychology (M.Ed.) from UMass Boston. She is passionate about supporting caregivers, and emphasizing the importance of self-care. Paula offers a safe space for caregivers to be heard and share their unique experiences.

Register by calling the Irish Pastoral Centre (IPC) at 617.265.5300



A Surprise Visit from a Familiar Face!

IPC volunteer Mairéad Connolly stopped by the IPC to visit us at the centre with her aunt Barbara Molloy who is from Carraroe, County Galway. Many of those in our senior program met Mairéad while she was interning here at the IPC. We were delighted to see her and catchup with her since she has graduated from her studies!

THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED BY JIM & CHERYL CALVEY

IPC News desk



Boston Irish Dippers Brace Boston Winter for a Great Cause!

Excerpt from article by Martha Brennan, The Irish Star

The Boston Irish Dippers are a group of Irish and Irish American sea swimmers who meet every week to embrace the cold of the Massachusetts shore. While New England's beaches are clearing out with the onset of the milder weather, the Irish Dippers are just getting started. The members vary in age and background, but they all show up for the same reasons: increased energy levels, improved wellbeing, and friendship.

"You feel great after it. It wakes you up and you're rejuvenated for the day," said Mike Carey (IPC Board Member), a veteran Boston Irish Dipper. "It's a great way of meeting people as well. A family that saw our website came from Utah once and they had a great time. We welcomed them and told them where to go in Boston. They loved it. It's a great family thing to do on a Sunday." Mike first moved to Boston from Co Westmeath in 1980 as a student. He was playing GAA and rugby at the time, and someone recommended cold water to him for muscle recovery. He's swam nearly every day since. "We swim in rain, hail, snow, when there's ice in the water - whatever it takes. You separate the men from the children around February," Mike said with a laugh. When it comes to that time of the year, when the water temperature can dip below 36 degrees fahrenheit, people usually stay in the water for about three or four minutes, he said.

There are usually about 20 swimmers every week, but the group's Facebook page has over 460 members. The group was first created as a way to safely meet people during the pandemic, it's still growing three years on.

Nessa Oates (IPC Volunteer), who moved to Boston from Co Roscommon 12 years ago, has also been a member from the start. "A few of us were doing it amongst ourselves already before Covid. It started with a small group who were looking for social interaction and then we started to do it more regularly and it eventually took off," she said. "For me, it's all about the social side of it but I also just find swimming really refreshing. Some of my friends think I'm mad but it's honestly something else. It wakes you up on a whole different level. We also have people who aren't interested in swimming at all and just meet us for the chats after."

On Stephen's Day (December 26th) last year, the group hosted a bigger swim for the Irish Pastoral Center to aid our health and wellness program. Over 60 people showed up on Wollaston beach that day and a celebration with sandwiches and hot drinks was held afterward. This year, the event will take place New Year's Day on January 1st! See the full details of this event on page 23!!



THIS PAGE IS IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL McDONAGH

COMMUNITY NEWS

Memories of Christmas in Ireland

By Richard Archer

As we approach Christmas in the United States and the Boston areas it is very natural for our thoughts to wander and conjure up memories of our childhood in Ireland. Christmas was a special time and the joy of the approaching holiday could be seen on the red wind swept faces of all children from a tender age to a more mature adult.

In some cases Christmas celebrations began as early as the 8th of December and lasted until January 6th, the feast of the Epiphany which was known as Little Christmas or Women's Christmas. Any time after December

8th people started to decorate their homes with colored paper and holly with red berries and would make that special trip to the local woods to cut down a choice tree.

Even though customs and ways of celebrating Christmas change, some practices have survived through the years. You know it's Christmas in Ireland when the streets display the green Christmas trees and Nativity scenes can be seen in many shop windows. Some of the Christmas traditions include leaving the door open or unlatched which symbolizes the generosity or hospitality of Irish families. It is also a welcome sign

for Joseph, Mary and the Baby Jesus. In some houses families place a red thick candle on the sill of the largest window once it is dark on Christmas Eve. The candle stays lighting all night and it's a welcoming light for the holy family.

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve was always a 'must' for most families. People would then return to their homes after Mass and as tradition had it would have a big Irish breakfast before moving the toys into the bedroom for the children. In Ireland Santa Clause was often called Daidi na Nollaig (Father Christmas) or San Nio-clas (Saint Nicholas). The expres-

sion in Irish used to wish someone a happy Christmas is Nollaig Shona Dhuit.

The day after Christmas is St. Stephens Day, also known as Boxing Day. One very old tradition is the Wren Boys Procession. In various parts of the country individuals or groups of boys and girls dress up in colorful costumes and go 'out on the wren'. It was said that the wren being a very small bird hitched a ride on top of an eagles head and therefore had flown higher than an eagle and became 'King of all birds'.

May all readers have a happy and blessed Christmas and a healthy 2024



Cheverus Medal Presented to Richard Gormley!

Congratulations to Richie Gormley (Vice President & immediate past president of the Irish Social Club) who was presented with the Cheverus Medal from Cardinal O'Malley at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.



US Roses festive tour !

Boston and New England Rose Fiona Weir travelled to Germany with many other roses including the recently crowned 2023 Rose of Tralee Róisín Wilely to help open the Christmas markets in Germany!

Congrats Kathi!

Big Congrats to Kathi Sullivan who was named the next president of the Knights and ladies of St. Finbarr Cork Club! She is photographed here with IPC Board member Neil Hurley and previous president and friend of the IPC Richard Archer.



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HOPE 4Liam

Dóchas Le Liam

#Hope4Liam

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FUNDS
AMERICA

News From Our Senior Outreach

Dear Friends,

All of us on the senior team hope you have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year! Please remember to check our SHINE & Caregivers programs, which are both hugely beneficial and free services facilitated here at the center in Dorchester.

This month we were delighted to celebrate Christmas with all of our coffee groups at the Irish Cultural Centre! We hope for more of these collaborations in 2024 as a means of bringing the community together. Our Dorchester group organized very an exciting yankee swap to get into the festive season!

Our senior calendar will take a break for the month of January and there will be no programs running, we will return as normal in February!

Thank you to everyone who supported our bumble bee knitters at our Christmas Craft Fair. It was a fabulous afternoon!

Merry Christmas,
The IPC Senior Team



DECEMBER Birthdays	
Chris Sheilds	Kathleen Keady
Mary Prior	Rita Grady
Maureen Meaney	Kay Gannon
Kathy McKenna	Barbara Flaherty
Ann McKeeney	Sally Feeney
Norah Mahon	Mary Fenton
Patrick Mahon	Evelyn Dunne
Kathleen Lahy	Christina Duffy
	Noelle Cryts



Individual counseling is available at the IPC by appointment. Please call the IPC 617-265-5300 if you wish to set up an individual meeting with a SHINE Counselor.



The Savvy Caregiver Program



The Savvy Caregiver program is a FREE, six-session training for caregivers caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

Date: Tuesdays, January 9 - February 13, 2024

Time: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Place: GoToMeeting

To reserve your spot, please contact:

Lydia Kingsbury: 857.260.1813 | lkingsbury@bshcinfo.org

Paula McCarthy: 857.303.0689 | pmccarthy@bshcinfo.org

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HOME CARE**

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Fr. Dan's Page



JESUS
is the
Reason
FOR THE
SEASON



The Main Thing

Management Guru Stephen Covey once wrote: *"The main thing is to keep to the main thing the main thing."* John the Baptist, made it clear from the beginning of his ministry that "I am no that main thing. I'm just here to point you to the main thing." We are called to do the same. In a world that often judges people by their success, wealth and followers on social media, our call is to point others to the true light, to the main thing to Jesus.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS WITH CELTIC ORIGINS

The date of Christmas (Dec 25) was most likely taken from the Celtic winter Solstice (Dec 21).

Leaving a candle in the window

of the house to guide Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem to give birth was inspired by an old Celtic ritual of lighting the way for the spirits to pass peacefully.

Hanging holly and ivy wreath outside of the house ward off evil spirits in pre-Christian times. Nowadays, the holly represents the crown of thorns, the ivy the pre-Christian era.

The giving of Christmas gifts most likely is as a result of a winter solstice custom when gifts were exchanged between clans and chieftains as a means of renewing ties and friendship.

Food left out for Santa Claus comes from the Gaelic tradition of leaving food for Mary and Joseph on their Journey to Bethlehem.



★ ★ ★
I
think
that we
shall always
see, God's
gifts upon our
Christmas tree;
You cannot touch
them with your hand,
Yet they are there at
your command. ★★
There's joy and faith and
hope renewed, There's
laughter for a happy mood,
There's gratitude for each new
day; A time to think, a time
to pray. ★★ The Christ
idea with holy light, shines
clear to make your pathway bright.
These things are yours if you can see
God's gifts
upon
your
Christmas tree.
★ ★ ★



MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

I SEE THE COUNTLESS CHRISTMAS TREES AROUND THE WORLD BELOW,
WITH TINY LIGHTS, LIKE HEAVEN'S STARS, REFLECTING ON THE SNOW.
THE SIGHT IS SO SPECTACULAR, PLEASE WIPE AWAY THAT TEAR,
FOR I AM SPENDING CHRISTMAS WITH JESUS CHRIST THIS YEAR.

I HEAR THE MANY CHRISTMAS SONGS THAT PEOPLE HOLD SO DEAR,
BUT THE SOUNDS OF MUSIC CAN'T COMPARE WITH THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR
UP HERE.

I HAVE NO WORDS TO TELL YOU, THE JOY THEIR VOICES BRING,
FOR IT IS BEYOND DESCRIPTION, TO HEAR THE ANGELS SING.

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU MISS ME. I SEE THE PAIN INSIDE YOUR HEART,
BUT I AM NOT SO FAR AWAY. WE REALLY AREN'T APART.
SO BE HAPPY FOR ME DEAR ONES. YOU KNOW I HOLD YOU DEAR,
AND BE GLAD I'M SPENDING CHRISTMAS,
WITH JESUS CHRIST THIS YEAR.

I SEND YOU EACH A SPECIAL GIFT, FROM MY HEAVENLY HOME ABOVE.
I SEND YOU EACH A MEMORY OF, MY UNDYING LOVE.
AFTER ALL "LOVE" IS THE GIFT, MORE PRECIOUS THAN PURE GOLD.
IT WAS ALWAYS MOST IMPORTANT IN THE STORIES JESUS TOLD.

PLEASE LOVE AND KEEP EACH OTHER, AS MY FATHER SAID TO DO,
FOR I CAN'T COUNT THE BLESSING OR LOVE HE HAS FOR EACH OF YOU.
SO HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND WIPE AWAY THAT TEAR,

REMEMBER, I'M SPENDING CHRISTMAS, WITH JESUS CHRIST THIS YEAR.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

In Loving Memory

We remember those in our community who have recently passed away. Our thoughts and prayers and with all the bereaved families, and we hope that in time lovely memories will surround them. Eternal rest grant unto them oh Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon them.

November 13 2023, Rose Kelly, Quincy, Co. Galway

November 17 2023, Miora Linehan, South Boston, Co. Cork

November 17, 2023 Jorge Luis Zerquera, Chelsea, MA

November 23 2023, James "Jimmy" Fay, Dorchester, Co. Cavan

November 24 2023, Barry McArdle, Watertown, Co. Armagh

November 27 2023, Kathleen "Teresa" Harkin, Dorchester, Co. Donegal

November 28 2023, Monica Dillon (O'Malley), Dorchester, Co. Galway

December 1 2023, Bernadette Manning, West Roxbury, Co. Kerry

December 12, 2023, Ann Doherty, Sommerville, Co. Donegal

December 18 2023, Benny McGettigan, Boston, Co. Tyrone



Remembering Kathy Harkin

"The Irish Pastoral Centre is a most centering place where always I am touched by presence & grace of all including interns enriched of each visit creating together a sense of worth &

belonging, like brothers & sisters. Thank you all for that safe space where ones heart pours out without saying a word sometimes. A safe space where & within an urban delightful space one feels as if they are in a turf - fireplace, thatched cottage warmed by the crackling fire, the sound of Ceilidh Irish music & dance, the smell of brown bread baking, where the artistry mesmerizes the eye with richness & bloom of pastoral & urban beauty on the walls. Your guests the best. The craic was 90!!



The Irish Pastoral Centre is a most Centering place where always I'm touched by presence & Grace of all including Interns enriched of each visit. Creating together a place of Worth & Belonging. Like Brothers & Sisters. Thank you all for that safe space where ones heart pours out w/o saying a word sometimes. A safe space where & within an urban delightful space, one feels as if they are in a turf-fireplace, thatched cottage warmed by the crackling fire, the sound of Ceilidh Irish music & dance, the smell of Brown Bread baking, where the artistry mesmerizes the eye with its richness & bloom of Pastoral & Urban Beauty on the walls. Your Guests The Best. The Craic was 90!! Thank you all for so much. it was delightfully lovely! Had a wonderful evening. Kathy

Thank you all for so much, it was delightfully lovely & a wonderful evening. - Kathy"

The above is a letter Fr. Dan Finn received from Kathy after a visit to the IPC in which her words beautifully capture the mission of the Irish Pastoral Centre.

THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED GORMLEY FUNERAL HOME

News From Ireland

Fermanagh Pub's Christmas Advert viewed Worldwide

Christmas commercials have become a staple of the holiday season for many retail giants, from Disney to John Lewis. This year a little bar in Co. Fermanagh, Charlie's Bar, produced a heart-warming advert that captured hearts globally for its beautiful message. The scene depicts an old man laying flowers at his wife's grave before walking down the streets of Enniskillen, attempting to greet strangers who take no notice of him. He enters a bar, where he sits alone until he is approached by a friendly little dog, shortly followed by the dog's young owners, and they all enjoy a festive drink together and finished with a quote often attributed to the poet W.B. Yeats: "There are no strangers here, only friends you haven't yet met."



Guinness Storehouse beats Grand Canyon to become 'world's leading tourist attraction' - Irish Star

The Guinness Storehouse in Dublin has been named as the world's leading tourist attraction of 2023 at the World Travel Awards. The world-renowned must-see hotspot is a staple attraction for both tourists headed to visit the capital or for locals in the city, having received more than 20 million visitors since it opened its gates for the first time in 2000. The impressive facility incredibly beat some of the world's most celebrated attractions, including Niagara Falls, the Great Wall of China and Machu Picchu in Peru to claim the title at a ceremony in Dubai. Less surprisingly, the Storehouse also earned the title of the top beer tour visitor experience for the second year in a row.



Tornado Strikes in Leitrim—Irish Echo

It was nothing in scale like the fatal twisters that struck Tennessee, but a village in County Leitrim did suffer serious damage after being hit by a tornado which was spawned by Storm Fergus, the second named storm to hit Ireland in just a few days. The first one was Storm Elin. The localized tornado caused widespread damage to Leitrim Village. The tornado hit the village in the northwest of the country on Sunday. Walls collapsed in homes, roofs were blown off and cars were destroyed. Power lines were also down. However, no-one was reported seriously injured during the freak weather event. A clean-up operation is now underway with shocked locals emphasising that businesses and individuals affected will need government assistance – particularly in the run-up to Christmas.



Clare Schoolboy Steals the Late Late Toy Show

A schoolboy from County Clare became an online sensation following his appearance on The Late Late Toy Show. The seven-year-old stole the show as he explained to host Patrick Kielty how his grandmother had been collecting Lego for a long time, allowing him to bring her collection to the Toy Show. "So my granny let me bring that up. She won't let me bring that up to my own house but she let me bring it up to the big smoke." Sheamie also informed presenter who recently replaced Ryan Tubridy on the Late night show, "After today when I met you I was thinking to myself I bet you didn't know you had something in common with a seven-year-old from the country in Clare. That it's both our first toy show, Patrick."

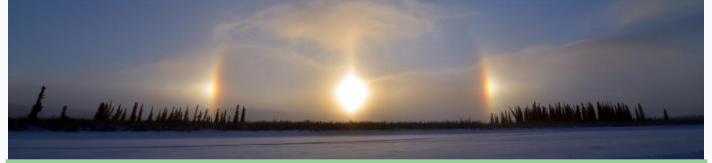


THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED BY KATHI SULLIVAN



Christmas Morning *John Montague*

Lights outline a hill
 As silently the people,
 Like shepherd and angel
 On that first morning,
 March from Altcloughfin,
 Beltany, Rarogan,
 Under rimed hawthorn,
 Gothic evergreen,
 Grouped in the warmth
 cloud of their breath,
 Along cattle paths
 Crusted with ice,
 Tarred roads to this
 Grey country chapel
 Where a gas-lamp hisses
 To light the crib
 Under the cross-beam's
 Damp flaked message:
 GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



I. New Year *John F. Deane*

January sun, a sky
 blue as summer but for the bland
 no of the moon; here is neither lake
 nor sea, nor river, but the scrawl
 of estuary. Now under a thick

fungus of light, bootprints on a mud strand
 lead out and out, and vanish, as if a life
 had been spirited away. The corpse of a dog, all
 jaw and snarl, lies sprawled
 like kelp, bones tensed to snap at the salt

air. I gaze out
 at oystercatchers on a mud
 island watching into the wind; their cries
 distinct, patient, as driftwood on the tide,
 Distances increase, unreal, but named

by numbers, 80, 83; I stand
 and wait; my cries have gone
 banging off windows like kitchen flies; the dead
 have given no sign. The oystercatchers rise
 sweeping away together with a sudden

purpose; a plover, like a knot of wrack
 hustled by the breeze, sprints between stone
 and water; startled by my shape it flings
 its body into air, leaving its scream
 speared through some living thing.

Community Spotlight: Vincent Crotty and Kieran Jordan



Vincent Crotty and Kieran Jordan with Fr. Dan Finn at the 2023 Boston Irish Honors.

To read the full article by Sean Smith can be found in the winter 2023 issue of The Boston Irish (bostonirish.com)

Kieran Jordan and Vincent Crotty – who celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary this year – not only found each other in coming to Boston, but they also arguably found themselves as artists. Jordan, born in Philadelphia, is an internationally renowned Irish dance performer, choreographer, and teacher who has worked with countless notable artists in Irish traditional music, and has taught at major summer festivals. Crotty, from Kanturk, Co. Cork, has been acclaimed for his landscapes, seascapes, nocturnes, and figurative paintings, using a plein air approach marked by fluid and vigorous brushstrokes and balanced by sensitive color. His paintings – conveying vivid moods and evocative depictions of time and place – have been displayed at gallery shows in Ireland and throughout the US, and recognized with awards from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the John Stobart Foundation, Plein Air Magazine, and plein air competitions internationally. His work also has been featured as set designs for theater companies and touring productions including the Huntington Theater Company and “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn”; four of his paintings were used on the film set in the 2003 Clint Eastwood movie “Mystic River.” Two artists, two very different paths converging in one city.

Crotty has vivid memories – going back to early childhood – of being fascinated by the interplay of light and color: “I’d be sitting in my stroller watching the sunshine make patterns of light on the kitchen wall.” His parents recognized their son’s artistic bent. When he was seven, his mother ordered books of artwork by prominent masters like Renoir, Rembrandt, and Constable, and Crotty browsed them eagerly. As he grew older, his parents encouraged Crotty to explore art as a career, and told him not to worry about whether it was lucrative. “My mother used to say, ‘If you have a bag of potatoes, you’ll be all right.’” Although he didn’t take formal art classes, during his

teens Crotty found a mentor in a schoolteacher, Dion McAuliffe, under whose tutelage he blossomed. But Crotty was rejected by the art college, to support himself he worked in a factory that made cables used for oil exploration in deserts. He kept nourishing his muse by painting backdrops for local theatrical productions – nothing he was paid for. Crotty was laid off from the factory and he made a life changing decision to go to trade school in Cork City, where he learned commercial sign painting. “This was very disciplined work, and the school had great teachers who wanted you to succeed. You learned the proper way to control a pencil and a paintbrush, how to use various paint techniques, all the ins and outs of decoration – including Celtic lettering.”

In 1990 was a turning point, when he followed his then-girlfriend to Boston. The relationship didn’t last, but his attachment to Boston did: He took art classes and met other artists. “I learned so much in just six months,” he says, “and felt the only way I could learn more was to stay.” Over time, Crotty put down roots in Boston, thanks in great part to Fr. Dan Finn, the former pastor of St. Mark’s Church in Dorchester and a Kanturk native himself. “He really watched out for me,”. The priest gave him studio space in a convent and brought him to various events so that he could form ties with the wider Irish community, which helped him to build a business in commercial art. He found several mentors, including Hull artist John Kilroy, and New Mexico landscape painter Kevin MacPherson. On one trip he took to Ireland with MacPherson, Crotty did as many as seven paintings a day – and came back “a different person” who felt confident about his style and approach. “I want the person to finish the painting in their imagination,” he explains. “To me, a landscape doesn’t require every blade of grass and a portrait doesn’t need every freckle on a cheek for the image to resonate with someone. Perhaps you’ll see, and maybe feel, something that no one else does.”

Jordan’s Irish roots come via her father’s side, notably her great-grandfather, Thomas McDonald, a native of Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny. McDonald represented the Irish government at the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis, where he promoted Irish artists and musicians, among them the celebrated tenor John McCormack. “My father always took pride in his Irish heritage, and that definitely was in my identity,” she says. When she was five, Jordan was captivated by the Irish dancers she saw performing as part of the Philadelphia St. Patrick’s Day parade and begged to take lessons. Her parents found a teacher for her through the local parish, and a few years later, her younger sister

Community Spotlight: Vincent Crotty and Kieran Jordan

started dancing, too. Jordan found that Irish dance competitions weren't as fulfilling as the performances: "Those would really light me up." Around age 12, she met Mick Moloney, one of the foremost figures in the modern Irish music revival, which ultimately resulted in gig opportunities at local festivals and concerts which she credits as the beginning of her passion for working with live music. She attended Boston College where she pursued a bachelor's degree as an English major and Irish Studies minor at the Heights and studied journalism as well; she also hosted an Irish music show, "Toss the Feathers," on the university's radio station WZBC. By the time Jordan graduated in 1996, the popularity of "Riverdance" had made Irish dance a world-wide phenomenon, a pop culture reference in movies and on TV, and, more importantly, an activity of increasing interest for many youngsters who in turn swelled the ranks of Irish dance schools.

While Jordan praises the innovation and creativity of "Riverdance," and the role it played in bringing Irish dance to a wider audience, she feels that the show ushered in a trend toward "more is more" theatricality and spectacle which overshadowed the subtler and "earthier" aspects of the dance tradition. Jordan spent her junior year of college at University College, Cork, where she studied with old-style dance master Joe O'Donovan. From that experience in particular, she became increasingly drawn to the older, "close to the ground" Irish dance styles. "You could tell the dancer wasn't doing a scripted, pre-choreographed performance, but closely following the tune being played; and because it's improvised, there is that sense of being on the edge of free-falling. Most of all, to me sean-nós carries a strong feeling of engagement with the musician and the audience."

BostonIrish publisher Ed Forry bears at least some responsibility for the beginning of the Jordan-Crotty love story. Jordan got to know Forry through her work at WZBC, and when he offered her a job in 1996 as music columnist, and later, as arts editor for the Boston Irish Reporter, she happily accepted.

Returning from one such event, the two stopped off at the then-brand-new Star Market on Morrissey Boulevard, where they happened to encounter Crotty – with whom Forry also was acquainted – while waiting in the checkout line. When Crotty mentioned that he had an exhibit coming up, Jordan recalls, "Ed pointed at me and said, 'Talk to KJ. She's my arts editor.'" Not long afterward, Crotty came to the BIR office for an interview with Jordan, bringing photos of his art so she could scan them to run with the article. It wasn't a big story, but the conversation was engaging enough, certainly for Crotty, who soon after asked her out.

Crotty took Jordan to Tasca in Brighton, but not just for the food or the atmosphere: He had designed the interior, including the wall colors, the lighting, and a large collection of murals and paintings that adorned the restaurant. More than a dinner date, this was a way to show the other dimensions of his art. "It was very romantic," says Jordan. "We had a great conversation that first night – I loved her depth, her intelligence," says Crotty. "I'd lost a few girlfriends who'd been waiting for me to put all this art to the side and make a 'proper living.' But Kieran was so supportive of what I do and willing to put up with me." Having become a couple – they would marry six years later – Crotty and Jordan together made the rounds of Irish music and cultural events in the city, as well as Somerville, Cambridge, and elsewhere in Greater Boston, while each supported the other's dance performances and art shows.

Jordan founded her company, Kieran Jordan Dance, in 2001, offering classes in non-competitive Irish dance specifically for adult students. Her teaching and performing projects have inspired beginners through professional dancers over the years, in a creative and welcoming community. While Crotty and Jordan move in their respective spheres of art, over time they've had the opportunity for shared or collaborative experiences. One highlight for the couple came in 2007 when they were both hired for the Catskills Irish Arts Week festival. For Crotty, who had not grown up with much of a connection to traditional Irish music, that week was something of a revelation: "I was just immersed in this music, and it made an impression on me. So, I wound up painting Kieran's world. That was my way of expressing it." Then came a life-changing ordeal. In 2018, after almost a full year of sickness, Jordan was diagnosed with Lyme disease, which by then had already taken a significant toll on her health, energy, and work. Jordan had to navigate a health care system that she found severely inadequate in dealing with Lyme, and although she kept teaching, she was unable to travel and had to cut back on many performances and projects. In recent years, she has studied and taken up a practice in Polarity Therapy, a form of energy healing that also helped her through the struggles of Lyme. Jordan and Crotty are comfortably ensconced in the Lower Mills neighborhood of Dorchester, living in a house they bought 16 years ago, with space enough for their various activities (Crotty has a separate studio in the back yard).

For more about Kieran Jordan and Vincent Crotty, see their websites at kieranjordan.com and vincentcrotty.com.

A Moment to Mind Yourself

Self-Care Toolkit: Practical Strategies For Managing Expectations Over The Holidays



This month, the IPC's Wellness clinicians Danielle and Gina wanted to share some practical tools they've used to support clients struggling to prepare for the holidays. The holidays can be a wonderful time of the year to reflect and feel gratitude for another year of blessings. It can also herald a lot of anxiety and stress. The costs of the holidays (meals, socializing, the gifts etc.) can add to an already fraught, financial picture impacted by exorbitant grocery prices and an increased cost of living. Spending a concentrated period of time with family while struggling with mental health or substance use issues may increase our anxiety. For many others grief and loss in the last few years may make the holidays appear bleak and lonely. One of the consistent themes we hear about are the stresses related to the "expectations" of Christmas and the holidays. "I must make it the best one ever." "If I don't get them the right gift, they will be so upset". "I have to see all these people but all I want to do is crawl back in my bed". "I don't feel the way I should this year".

When it comes to managing expectations coming up to the holidays, we have some options to reduce our own anxiety and stress. Being able to have discussions with our loved ones before the holiday may go a long way to reduce unhelpful expectations, freeing everyone to enjoy the celebrations. In these conversations, re-evaluate your holiday traditions. If possible, host a family meeting, in person or on WhatsApp or Zoom, to discuss what would work best for everyone. Be honest about your need to spend less this year and encourage others to too. Perhaps establishing gift boundaries (Yankee Swap, cost limits \$10 or \$50 per person etc.). Maybe you can all agree on gift alternatives, like everyone providing gifts for children in the family but avoiding big gifts for all the adults. You could also explore bringing food items to share rather than relying on the same one or two people cooking for everyone. Sometimes even simplifying decorations and cutting down on dining out may also help our holiday wallets. Agree to meet people for drinks or coffee rather than an expensive party. Certainly, another way to reduce costs (and the impact on the environment) is perhaps rethink gift wrapping (reusable gift bags

versus traditional wrapping paper). The purpose of the discussion is to establish that we all want to spend time with those close to us but it does not have to be a lavish affair in order to enjoy it. Social media may heighten our need for a big splash but reminding ourselves that what we see others enjoying on Instagram and Facebook doesn't mean they are any happier or enjoy the holidays more than we are.

For those who have few options over the holidays; those who can't go home or are facing a holiday without a loved one lost to COVID, cancer or suicide, the holidays can be very daunting. It's important to find and use some tools that can help soothe and re-center us when our grief and sadness threaten to haunt us. Sometimes it can be as simple as taking a quick 5-minute walk, listening to our favorite music, talking to a trusted loved one or distracting ourselves with a book, TV show or a jigsaw puzzle. We wanted to remind readers of the quick, simple, effective strategies we shared earlier this year to re-center and ground ourselves. One of the most effective techniques to re-center is to focus on one's breathing; for example, put one hand on your abdomen and one on your chest. Make sure your abdomen is raising slightly on the inhalation and your mouth is open slightly on the exhalation. Do this for at least one minute, preferably five. It's also very helpful to practice this regularly, even when you are not stressed, so it can become second nature. These tips might not erase all your anxiety and dread, but you may notice feeling more grounded and hopeful.

For additional help and support to manage the holidays, reach out to Gina or Danielle at the Irish Pastoral Center for free and a confidential chat; 617-265-5300 or e-mail: gallagher@ipcboston.org or dowen@ipcboston.org.

PAUSE

7 Steps to Re-center Yourself Now

- NOTICE**


Notice the ground underneath your feet, wiggle your toes in your shoes, shake out your hands
- LOOK**


Look around you and say 5 things you see out loud
- LISTEN**


Listen and name the sounds that you hear right now
- STRETCH**


Roll your shoulders, roll your neck
- BREATHE**


Breathe in for 3
Hold for 3
Exhale for 3
Hold for 3
Repeat a few times
- SMELL**


Take a sniff of something pleasant: essential oil, hand cream, a candle
- DRINK**


Take a sip of water

News from Celtic Angels



New Year's Resolutions for Seniors: 4 Inspirational Wellness Goals

By Maria Burke, RN, Owner, Celtic Angels Home Health Care

New Year's Eve is coming soon! Have you thought about your resolution? Often, we have trouble sticking to New Year's resolutions because we make them too strict and impractical. Plus, we want to enjoy life, right? And that's especially true in our later years. So, this year, why not make wellness your resolution instead? Here are four inspirational wellness goals that make perfect New Year's Resolutions for seniors.

1. Be More Active

Staying physically active is very important for seniors. It helps preserve mobility, flexibility, and balance while lowering your risk of many diseases. And the good news is, you don't have to commit to a strict exercise regime to benefit. There are many ways to be more active, and virtually all seniors can participate in some form of physical activity, regardless of mobility challenges. Some easy ways to be more active include taking a walk around your neighborhood or home, planting an indoor garden, or dancing. Yoga or Tai Chi is another wonderful choice that can be adapted for mobility challenges. And even simple stretches can help seniors who are unable to leave their beds.

2. Strengthen Social Connections

Many seniors suffer from loneliness, even when they live with family. No matter how devoted family care partners are, they typically have other responsibilities that keep them busy, like working, maintaining the house, or raising children. And that can leave seniors feeling lonely. This year, resolve to strengthen your social connections. Try making a regular date to meet with friends, video chatting with long-distance relatives, or exchanging cards with loved ones. And consider bringing in a home healthcare agency, like Celtic

Angels Home Health to help. We can provide companionship, transportation, assistance with activities, and so much more!



Maria Burke, RN

3. Get Better Nutrition

What we eat really impacts the way we feel. And it's vitally important to our health, too. This year, resolve to get better nutrition. There are so many delicious foods that are healthy to eat. And you can add foods that are packed with nutrition to some of your favorite meals, too. This year, try having more vegetables, fruits, whole grains, nuts, and beans. Experiment with recipes to see what you like. Or incorporate them into the foods you already love. For instance, add blueberries and almonds to your oatmeal. Try zucchini in your pasta. Or include garbanzo beans in your salad.

4. Nourish Your Spirit, Too

Nourishing your spirit means many things to different people, but it's important to take the time to connect with your beliefs and live a life that is authentic to you. If you have a religious faith, attend services when you can. Or ask about alternative methods of worship. Many services are available online, and many faith leaders are happy to visit seniors in their homes. Nourishing your spirit can also mean making time to participate in hobbies you love, volunteering, or engaging in mindfulness exercises like meditation. So, think about the ways your spirit is nourished, and resolve to dedicate more time to them this year.

Do you need help achieving your New Year's wellness goals? We're happy to lend a hand! Simply schedule an appointment to get started. We'll discuss your needs and goals and come up with a plan to reach them together! Call us today! (781) 331-0062 or (781) 662-8700 or visit us at www.celticangelsinc.com



Celtic Angels Home Health Care

OUR CLIENTS LOVE US!

"Your CNA Kelly takes care of my every need. I'm in excellent hands."
— Truly, Susan C.



Hi, I'm Milo.
The Celtic Angels Home Health Care Mascot.



www.celticangelsinc.com • 781-331-0062

IPC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR



Christmas Luncheon



Photos provided by The Irish Cultural Centre

Immigration News

Upcoming Legal Clinics

Tuesday, Jan 9th, 2023

Tuesday, Jan 23rd, 2023

Appointments are scheduled in advance. If you would like to schedule a phone consultation with an attorney, please contact Maryann Casavant at 617-265-5300 or by email mcasavant@ipcboston.org

Immigration & Citizenship Support Services Program

What we do: The IPC's Immigration and Citizenship Program provides information and support to immigrants from Ireland and elsewhere including obtaining legal status, adjusting status, matters related to Green Card applications and renewals, visas, U.S. Citizenship eligibility, and applications for U.S. Citizenship. The IPC can also provide information about how to apply for Irish passports. Staff is available during normal business hours to help to answer questions related to these matters. Additionally, the IPC offers bi-monthly Legal Immigration Clinics where individuals can have a free and confidential phone conversation about their particular immigration situation with a volunteer immigration attorney.



Consider applying for U.S. Citizenship

If you have questions about eligibility for U.S. Citizenship, questions about how to apply, or need help with the process, please reach out to the IPC. Staff is available to assist you and can direct you to helpful resources. If there are some questions, or your situation is a bit complicated, we can schedule an appointment for you with one of our experienced immigration attorneys at one of our Legal Immigration Clinics.

Work and Family Mobility Act

Information about the new law and expanded eligibility for Massachusetts residents to obtain a driver's license can be found at the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles' website.

Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles

RMV Website:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/work-and-family-mobility-act-wfma>

Dedicated Phone Line for WFMA Information:

857-368-WFMA

The RMV has a dedicated information phone line for inquiries related to the Work and Family Mobility Act. Call 857-368-WFMA (857-368-9362) to hear information on the new law that takes effect on July 1. The information line is currently available in 6 different languages. The RMV will add additional languages in the near future.

MOVING TO IRELAND

The Moving to Ireland seminar series presented by the Irish Diaspora Center and the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers has generated considerable interest!

Did you miss a session? No worries! You can request the post session materials at the following link:

bit.ly/40tbUqb or contact the Irish Pastoral Centre Directly at calling 617-265-5300

IRISH DIASPORA CENTER

COALITION OF IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTERS

MOVING TO IRELAND

A SEMINAR SERIES FOR THOSE CONTEMPLATING A MOVE TO IRELAND

Upcoming Topics

- Nov 28:** Health Care
- Dec 19:** Employment
- Jan 30:** Education Access
- Feb 27:** Immigration Factors
- Mar 26:** Personal Anecdotes & Building Networks
- Apr 30:** Housing & Packing Up
- May 28:** Retiring to Ireland
- Jun 25:** Cross-Atlantic Time Split

Schedule

Monthly Zoom sessions
6:00 pm EST / 3 pm PST
Registration required:
bit.ly/45DoB3l

Questions?

aileen.dibra@ciic-usa.org
emily@icphila.org

Partners

Missed a session?

Request post session materials here:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/MTIPostSession

- ✓ Financial Considerations (9/26)
- ✓ Where to Start - Research (10/24)

Due to the generosity of the many supporters and donors of the IPC, the IPC's Immigration Program was able to assist nearly 750 people in our community with matters related to immigration so far this calendar year!

Thank you always for your continued support.

Immigration News



The Rian Immigrant Center and The Irish Pastoral Centre **Free Immigration Legal Clinics**



**Clinics are held at the
Adams Street Branch of
the Boston Public Library,
690 Adams St,
Dorchester, MA 02122
Wednesdays
January 31st,
February 28th, and
March 27th from 3-7 pm**

During our Immigration
Legal Clinics, attorneys will
meet with members of the
community and provide
immigration advice.

Attorneys cannot review or fill
out immigration forms during
the clinic.

Individuals eligible to apply
for immigration benefits will
be referred to the Rian
Immigrant Center for case
assistance.

Consultations will be provided on a **first come, first serve basis**.
Attorneys will see as many people as they can before the clinic
ends.

For questions, or to confirm the clinic is happening, please
call the Rian Immigrant Center at
(617) 984-6542

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THE IPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

News from the Irish Consulate



A Message from the Consul General of Boston

Dear friends,

We would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. This was a banner year! The entire team at the Consulate remains deeply grateful for the work of organisations, like the Irish Pastoral Centre, who do such outstanding work to support the Irish diaspora.

Recently, the Consulate welcomed a visit from Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason. During her visit to Boston, the Ambassador met with some of our incredible partners who work to support the Irish diaspora and strengthen the deep links between Ireland and Massachusetts. While here, Ambassador Byrne Nason attended the Ireland Funds Gala, which this year honoured Jean Hynes and Reverend Bill Shaw. Also in attendance at the Ireland Funds Gala were Consul General FitzGerald and Vice Consul Rooney.

Earlier in November, Ambassador Byrne Nason was welcomed at Harvard Institute of Politics for a discussion with former Ambassador Dan Mulhall and current students. She reflected on Ireland's role in international diplomacy. It was a real inspiration for those considering a career in diplomacy and public service!

The Consulate hosted acclaimed authors Lucy Caldwell and Michelle Gallen during the Boston leg of their tour, "A New Chapter: Writing Northern Ireland Now." Dr Rachael Young, who is a postdoc at Boston College Irish Studies and the Irish Studies Program Coordinator, moderated a fascinating discussion with Lucy and Michelle on identity, authorship, and history.

Our plans to mark Brigid's Day 2024 are underway, and we look forward to sharing those details as soon as they are finalized.

Please note, in the new year, websites for missions are moving to Ireland.ie: the Consulate's new homepage will be Ireland.ie/Boston.

Again, a very happy holiday season to all. We cannot wait to see you in the new year.



Wishing a very happy holiday season to our friends at the Irish Pastoral Centre. We look forward to seeing everyone in the new year!



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Bostún
Consulate General of Ireland | Boston

News from the Irish Consulate



A Message from the Consul. General of Boston



Holiday coffee morning



*Ambassador Geraldine Byrne, Bill Brett and
Consul General FitzGerald*

The Ireland Fund
“Photos provided by The Ireland
Funds”



Northern Ireland writers group at the Irish Consulate

FADO- FADO - Long Long Ago



How the Irish changed the traffic laws in Tipperary Hill, Syracuse

Irish Central

It was the Irish immigrants, for the most part, who built the Erie Canal and then settled the area of Tipperary Hill, in Syracuse, NY, but it seems what the Irish are really known for in the area are the Stone Throwers and an inverted traffic light known as "Green over Red."

Tipperary Hill, the district that takes up half the Far Westside neighborhood in Syracuse was settled by Irish immigrants. The Irish were the chief laborers on the Erie Canal's construction from Albany to Buffalo and Syracuse is smack bang in the middle of this route. The town became the epicenter of this endeavor and, once the canal was finished, many of the Irish laborers simply settled there. In 1860 the section of Far Westside south of West Genesee Street was officially called Tipperary Hill. The neighborhood's name came from the fact that a large number of the families working at the local steel mills at the time were from County Tipperary. In 1925 the first traffic signal light was installed in Tipp Hill and it's still a local attraction. The light was erected on the corner of Tompkins Street and Milton Avenue. Some Irish youths, who came to be known as the Stone Throwers, objected to the fact that the "British" red appeared above the "Irish" green on the light and threw stones, which they called "Irish confetti," to break the red bulb.

The kids aged 11 to 17, included John "Jacko" Behan, Richard "Richie" Britt, James M. "Duke" Coffey, Kenneth "Kenny" Davis, George Dorsey, Gerald "Mikis" Murphy, Francis "Stubbs" Shortt, and Eugene Thompson. A former Onondaga County Sheriff, Patrick "Packy" Corbett, was also named as one of the Stone Throwers, but he would never acknowledge his involvement. John "Huckle" Ryan, then alderman of the Tipperary Hill section, requested that the traffic signal be hung with the green bulb above the red to placate the Irish residents. They did it.

However, New York State stepped in and had this reversed to avoid confusing the color blind. It was reversed and again the red lights were broken, again and again. Eventually, the Tipperary Hill Protective Association addressed the town rulers. On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1928, Commissioner Bradley met with Tipp Hill residents. They told him that the light would continue to be vandalized. The city leaders relented, and green was again above the red light. And so the "Green over Red" traffic light was born and remains there today.

By simply casting an eye over a list of local businesses it's clear to see that the Irish population is still thriving in Tipp Hill. There's Casey's Fish Market, Hennigan's, Michael Callahan's Funeral Home, as well as Callahan-Hanley Mooney Funeral Home. Then there's the James Kernan Theater, Corbett's Hardware Store, Shanahan's Grocery Store, Dennis O'Riley's Ice Cream Parlor, the Shamrock Grill and so on. To recognize the Irish heritage in the community, in 1997, a neighborhood group convinced the city to build a small park called Tipperary Hill Memorial Park and erect a statue which is known as the Tipperary Hill Heritage Memorial or the Stone Throwers on the corner at the "Green over Red" traffic light. The memorial is dedicated to those very Irish men who stood up to City Hall to win the traffic light battle. It features bronze, life-size figures of a 1930s Irish immigrant family and was sculpted by Dexter Benedict of Penn Yan, NY. The father is pointing out the traffic light to his wife, daughter and son, who has a sling shot in his back pocket, hinting that he might know a little bit of the history of the light.

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Aer Lingus 

COMMUNITY EVENT



Boston Irish Dippers **Polar Plunge**



In aid of the
The Irish Pastoral Centre
New Years Day, Jan 1.

12pm | Wollaston Beach
(between the yacht clubs)

Come join the Boston Irish Dippers as they plunge in aid of the Irish Pastoral Centre's Health & Wellness Program.

Swimming not required. Tea/Coffee will be provided.

Follow Boston Irish Dippers on Facebook to keep up to date on their weekly sea swims!



Donate here!

ANSCO LE CHÉILE - HERE TOGETHER

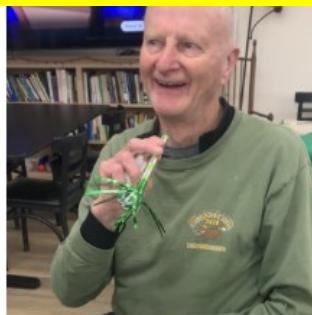
This page sponsored by the family of
Margaret 'Peggy' Roach

A YEAR IN REVIEW!



JANUARY

The IPC celebrated Nollaig na mBan at the Irish American Partnership!



FEBRUARY

Fr. Dan's birthday was celebrated at the IPC with a lovely lunch and sing song!



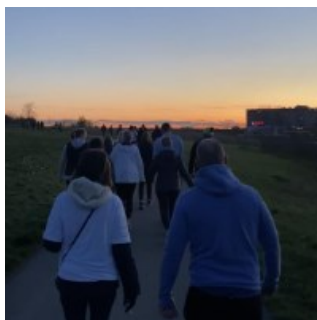
MARCH

Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs & Minister for Defence of Ireland Micheál Martin TD visited the Centre!



APRIL

We had some very special visitors from the petting zoo to celebrate Easter with our Toddler Group!



MAY

With the Boston Irish community we walked from darkness into light for Pieta House.



JUNE

Our collaborative J1 summer orientation had over 40 students in attendance.



JULY

The IPC staff and Volunteers took part in a very informative afternoon of First aid and CPR Training!



AUGUST

We were delighted to host the Cabra Boxing Club who were visiting from Ireland for breakfast at the IPC.



SEPTEMBER

We came together to honor our dear friend and volunteer at our Annual Golf Tournament



OCTOBER

Our Café Eireann group enjoyed delicious lunch donated some of our Dorchester ladies!



NOVEMBER

We had a cup of tea with the Traynor family, who travelled all the way from County Antrim!



DECEMBER

Exciting news as new works begins as we prepare to open our new space!

THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED IN MEMORY
OF BILL MCCOWAN

IPC Events



Le Cheile Sobriety Support Program

ANSEO LE CHEILE - HERE TOGETHER

6PM

Toddler Tuesdays

Bond with your child & socialize with other families in a relaxed Freeplay environment.

10AM-12PM

IRISH 25s CARD NIGHT

Come play Ireland's national card game, every Thursday evening. Tea, coffee and snacks provided. All welcome.

7:30PM

IPC BUMBLE BEE KNITTING CLUB

EVERY THURS.

11AM-1PM

All levels Welcome!

540 Gallivan Blvd. (REAR),
Dorchester, MA, 02124



**10\$
/PP**

First Friday Fish & Chips Night!

Returns February 2nd!!

Fresh Fish & Chips on the First Friday of every Month!

ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

CONTACT IPC: 617-265-5300

 540 Gallivan Boulevard (Rear),
Dorchester, MA

ANSEO LE CHEILE - HERE TOGETHER

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MG2

December Community Calendar

IPC Weekly Events Calendar

Mondays:

Cara Club @ Veronica Smith Senior Center-1-3PM
20 Chestnut Hill Ave
Brighton, MA 02135

Monday Night: Social Work Clinic by Appointment. See Page 12 for details.

Tuesdays:

Young at Heart @ St. Jerome's New Parish Center 1-3pm
Toddler Group 10am—12PM
"Le Cheile" Woman's Group @ IPC 7:30-8:30PM

Tuesday Night: Immigration Clinic by Appointment. See Page 22 for details

Wednesdays:

Café Eireann @ IPC 11-1 PM
540 Gallivan Blvd,
Dorchester MA

Thursdays:

Knitting Club @ IPC 11AM-1PM IPC
Crossroads Café @ St. John's Chrysostom 4750 Washington St,
West Roxbury, MA
25 Cards 8pm

Saturdays:

"Le Cheile" Here Together Sobriety Support Group 6PM

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

Café Eireann will now take place at our new location, 540 Gallivan Blvd!
Crossroads Café has moved to St. John's Chrysostom in West Roxbury
As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to Amy, the IPC Operations Manager.

MONTHLY EVENTS AT IPC

First Friday of the month—Fish and Chips supper Club

Monthly Sunday Sing a longs and Irish Traditional Music Sessions.
Keep an eye on our monthly

Special thanks to Ricard Archer, President of the Knights and Ladies of St Finbarr Cork Club, for compiling the Boston Irish Community monthly dance calendar. For additional info email Richard at richarda10@hotmail.com.

THE IRISH SOCIAL CLUB 119 PARK STREET WEST ROXBURY MA

Jan. 07, 2023: Tommy Byrne
Jan. 14, 2023: Mossie Coughlin
Jan. 21, 2023: Ally Harron & Marion Curry
Jan. 28, 2023: Erin's Melody (Margaret Dalton)

THE IRISH CULTURAL CENTRE 200 NEW BOSTON DR. CANTON

TUES: Children's Irish Dancing for Beginners - Ages 4 and Up.

WED: Children's Irish Step Dancing & Sean Nos with Jackie O'Riley. Advancing Students Only. Irish Card Game of 45. \$15.00 to play - 8PM
Irish Language with Cumann na Gaeilge. Beginner and Intermediate classes. 7.00 - 8.30 pm

THURS: Irish History Classes with Sean Murphy. All Ages. Class takes place on line. Irish Language with Cumann na Gaeilge from 7.00 - 8.30 pm. Advanced Class with Mary Lou Dunworth.

FRI: Open Traditional Music Sessions at 6.30 pm

SAT: Traditional Irish Music Classes with Denis Galvin. All Ages and Abilities. Classes include the Youth Accordion, Youth Fiddle, Youth Tin - Whistle. Also included Tin-Whistle, Fiddle and Button Accordion
Please call for times of classes. (781) 821-8291
Visit: www.irishculture.org to register for classes

THE IRISH MUSIC CLUB OF GREATER BOSTON

Dec. 02, 2023: The monthly dance is held at the Irish Social Club 119 Park Street West Roxbury. Music By Erins Melody w/ Margaret Dalton. Complimentary tea, coffee and home made cake and more. Always a big favorite at the ISC, Mossie draws a large crowd at each dance. Admission is just \$10.00 and starts at 7PM.

THE KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF ST. FINBARR - CORK CLUB

Jan. 13, 2023: The Cork Club will hold their monthly dance at the Knights and Ladies of Columbus Hall, 15 Winslow St, Arlington on the second Saturday of the month. The first dance of the year will feature Music by Mossie Coughlin. Complimentary tea/coffee and more. Always happy time at the Cork dances. Admission \$10.00, all welcome. 7PM Start. Cash bar at reasonable prices.

THE NORWOOD IRISH MUSIC CLUB

Jan. 20, 2023: Will hold their monthly dance at the K of C. 572 Nichols Street Norwood, music provided by Kathy and the Irish Americans. Always a fun and exciting evening of dancing. Starts at 7PM, lots of free parking. on. Admission \$10.00. A Fun, inexpensive evening.

The Knights and Ladies of St. Finbarr - Cork Club is happy to be able to supply happenings in the Irish Community as a public service. For information or questions send an email to richarda10@hotmail.com

WISHING ALL A VERY HAPPY,SAFE AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR

SENIOR PROGRAM WILL NOT RUN IN JANUARY DUE TO WEATHER



IPC January 2024 Calendar of Events

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

1 IPC CLOSED Polar Plunge, 12pm, Wollaston Beach 	2 Toddler Group: 10am @IPC Ladies le Cheile Sobriety: 7-8pm Young at Heart:	3 Café Éireann: No programs running in January	4 Knitting @IPC 11am Irish 25s @IPC 7:30PM Crossroads Café: No programs running in January	5 <u>NO SUPPER CLUB WILL RESUME IN FEBRUARY</u>
8 Social work Clinic: @IPC by appointment Cara Club: No programs running in January	9 Toddler Group: 10am @IPC Ladies le Cheile Sobriety: 7-8pm Immigration clinic 6pm: (by appt only) Young at Heart: No programs running in January	10 Café Éireann: No programs running in January	11 Knitting @IPC 11am Irish 25s @IPC 7:30PM Crossroads Café: No programs running in January	12
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28 Social work Clinic: @IPC by appointment only Cara Club: No programs running in January	29 Toddler Group: 10am @IPC Ladies le Cheile Sobriety: 7-8pm Young at Heart: No programs running in January	30 Café Éireann: No programs running in January	31 Knitting @IPC 11am Irish 25s @IPC 7:30PM Crossroads Café: No programs running in January	LE CHEILE SOBRIETY GROUP MEETS EVERY SAT, 6PM at the IPC

- Monday, 1-3pm, Cara Club: Veronica Senior Center, 20 Chestnut Ave, Brighton MA, 02135
- Tuesday, 1-3pm, Young at Heart: St. Jerome's, 632 Bridge Street, Weymouth, MA, 02191
- Wednesday, 11am-1pm, Café Éireann: IPC, 540 Gallivan Blvd. (REAR), Dorchester, MA, 02124
- Thursday, 1-3pm, Crossroads Café: St. John Chrysostom, 4750 Washington St, West Roxbury, MA,

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 Tuesday: Roast Turkey Breast, Stuffing, Gravy & Cranberry
 Wednesday: Greenhills Baked Ham, Shephard's Pie
 Thursday: Irish Boiled Dinner w/ Irish Boiled Bacon, Corned Beef, Cabbage,
 Spuds, Veg & Homemade White Sauce
 Friday: Chicken Pot Pie, Chicken Curry, Rice and Fish dinner
 Saturday: Shephard's Pie, Full Irish Breakfast
 Sunday: Full Irish Breakfast

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Sports News From Ireland

Republic of Ireland beat Northern Ireland 6-1 in the Women's Nations League

The Republic of Ireland made it six UEFA Nations League wins out of six on Tuesday evening as they breezed past Northern Ireland 6-1 at Windsor Park. Goals from Lucy Quinn and Heather Payne had the visitors in control by half-time, with Katie McCabe, Kyra Carusa, Louise Quinn and Caitlin Hayes reducing this international derby to a procession. After a historic first as the Republic of Ireland's anthem, Amhran na bhFiann, was played at Windsor Park. Republic of Ireland will bounce into 2024 feeling good about their chances of making it to Euro 2025.



Irish under-20 team win Gold

The Irish under-20 team won the Gold team prize at the European Cross Country Championships in Brussels with three inside the top 10. Nick Griggs - who took Silver last year - finished third to round off his UNDER 20 career, Niall Murphy was 9th, Jonas Stafford 10th, Seamus Robinson 26th, Shane Brosnan 28th and Waterford AC's Harry Colbert was 40th. That follows Harry's 3rd place finish at the Irish National Championships in Gowran Park in recent weeks. Ireland's tally of 22 points was enough for gold ahead of Britain's 24, reversing the result from Turin this time last year, when they came from behind to beat Ireland.



Irish swimmers set new national records in Romania

Irish swimmers set four new national records and had five European top 10 finishes on the penultimate night of racing at the European Aquatics Short Course Championships in Romania. Danielle Hill set yet another Irish record in the 100m backstroke final, the Larne swimmer's sixth record of the championships. Hill, who placed fourth in the 50m backstroke final on Friday, was sixth overall in the final of the 100m event in 57.56, lowering the record of 57.73 that she set in the semi-final. Already a 400m individual medley bronze medalist at the championships, Ellen Walshe came close to a second medal when she finished fourth in the final of the 100m butterfly. Walshe swam an Irish record of 56.67 and was just .69 behind the bronze medalist.



Clare All-Ireland Winner Podge Collins Retires

Pádraic 'Podge' Collins has confirmed that he has decided to call time on his inter-county career. The 31-year-old made his Banner debut in 2012 and won a Celtic Cross in his second season, scoring three points from play in the drawn final with Cork and starting in attack for the thrilling replay win. The Cratloe man was rewarded for his brilliant performances that season with an All-Star as well as a nomination for Hurler of the Year, although he lost out to Clare team-mate Tony Kelly. In recent seasons, the talented dual star, who also has a brace of All-Ireland under-21 hurling medals, has turned his focus solely towards football with the Banner making progress under the guidance of his father, Colm.



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& PAT WALSH JR IN THEIR MEMORY

Local Sports

St Brendan's Youth GAA to Host Winter Sessions got Football & Hurling

A big year ahead for Boston as the city prepares to host the 2024 Continental Youth Championships which will take place at Irish Cultural Centre. St. Brendan's announced their winter session schedule, with an open invite to beginners who are interested in trying out a new sport. The sessions begin from January 21 2024 at Union point in Weymouth. Teams range from U6 to U18.



The club recently got together at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton for their Annual Christmas party, with special visitors Mr & Mrs Claus who read to the children and are pictured here with U8 player Cormac to go over his Christmas list!

ST BRENDANS YOUTH GAA

GAA FOOTBALL & HURLING U6-U18 BOYS & GIRLS

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@ UNION POINT WEYMOUTH

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SUN 01/28/24 - 11AM - 1PM
SUN 02/04/24 - 11AM - 1PM
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SUN 02/25/24 - 11 AM - 1PM
SUN 03/03/24 - 11AM - 1PM
SUN 03/10/24 - 11AM - 1PM

FOR INFO CALL 617-792-8857



100 years of the Boston Northeast Board

Among those honored at the 100 year Boston GAA celebration were Bernie Reilly, Hugh Quinn, James Grealish, Joe Lydon, Conor McDevitt (on behalf of John). John Farrell, Peter Murray, Larry McCarthy GAA President, Bernie Connaughton, Bridget McGown (on behalf of Bill) and Tony Corley.



Boston Youth Players Prepare for Féile Tournament in 2024

Practice has commenced at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton for next years Boston Féile team who will travel to Ireland to compete in the tournament. The John West Féile Peile na nÓg is a Club festival for Gaelic football and Ladies Gaelic football at Under 15 level, involving teams from across Ireland. The John West Féile Peile na nÓg will be held on 1st July 2023.

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MATTHEW MCCARRICK

Local Sports

Boston Shamrocks Mark 30 Year Anniversary in Style

The Boston Shamrocks celebrated their 30 year anniversary at Florian Hall in Dorchester this month. The team which was founded in the summer of 1993 as Boston's first ladies Gaelic football club. On Facebook, the club posted, "Today we celebrate 30 years of the Boston Shamrocks, it started with a dream from this lady Joan Mc Devitt, and it has turned into a legacy. She has brought so many women together from here in America and across the sea." The night brought together the clubs founders and players, competitors and many more in the Boston GAA community.

The club welcomed guest of honor Cora Staunton, arguably be one of the best ladies footballers from Mayo! Cora began playing for the county when she was only 14 years old. Throughout her career she has brought home 4 All-Ireland medals and three national league titles for Mayo. Between junior, senior, club and county championships Cora has played in 25 All-Ireland finals.



Top: Boston Shamrocks 30 year celebration

Bottom: The original Boston Shamrocks team.

GAA Sports Quiz

Can you name the other county these GAA players have represented?

Answers on Page 3

1. Gaelic Footballer Seanie Johnston transferred to what county under controversial circumstances from his native Cavan in 2012?
2. Which county did Hurler Conor Kenny play with before he transferred to Tipperary in 2014?
3. Which county did Hurler Niall Corcoran play with, at minor level, before he joined up with the Dublin hurlers in 2008?
4. Which county did Kilkenny-Hurler Denis Byrne transfer to in 2003?
5. Which county did Gaelic footballer Martin Carney play with up to 1979, before his move to Mayo?
6. What county did Hurler Ryan O'Dwyer represent before his move to Dublin in 2009?
7. Which county did Gaelic footballer Larry Tompkins play with prior to his transfer to Cork in 1986?
8. Which of these counties did Hurler John Mulhall play with before he moved to Kildare in 2016?



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