



the CAIRDE CONNECTION

IRISH CULTURAL CENTER OF WESTERN NEW ENGLAND

MARCH 2017 VOLUME 18 ISSUE 1

The Irish Cultural Center Has Officially Opened, Including Our New Irish House Restaurant and Trinity Pub

by Kathleen Doe

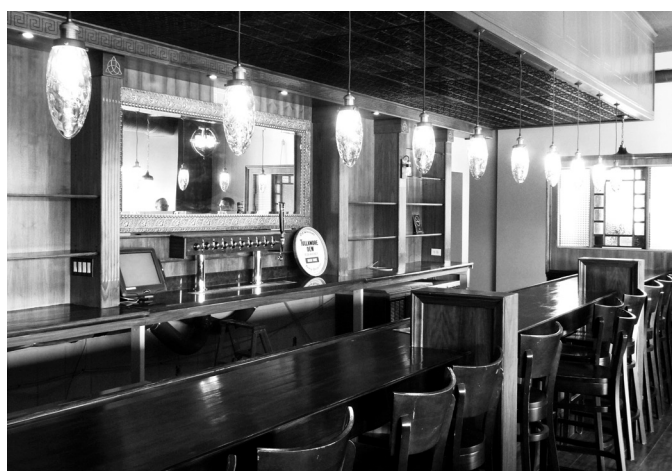
We are pleased to announce that we are now open at our new location at 429 Morgan Road in West Springfield, MA. An open house period has begun, to invite our Patrons and the community to visit our new facility, including new office space, restaurant and traditional Irish pub.

The restaurant and pub are open from 4:00 – 11:00 pm Tuesday through Sunday (closed Mondays).

The **Irish House Restaurant and Trinity Pub** is managed by the professionals at the Delaney House, and includes a handcrafted bar with custom woodwork, bar and table seating, fireplace and snug. An additional meeting room has been created for smaller events. The restaurant will feature the Delaney House's exceptional quality of food and service, and will serve as a training ground for staff. A full menu including starters, sandwiches, entrées and specials will be served in the cozy atmosphere of a Dublin pub.

This opening is the culmination of two years of hard work, since the ICC signed a twenty-year lease with the City of West Springfield in 2015 for the former home of the Elks Lodge. An extensive amount of work has been completed, including the cleaning out of the building, electric work, new plumbing and heating systems, kitchen renovation, new flooring, painting, and work on the grounds including new sidewalks and railings. Renovations are still ongoing, with additional stages planned that include a library and museum, and a performance hall.

The open house is designed as an introduction to the new space and a transitional period for the ICC, and is planned to last several months into the spring. At that time, access to the restaurant and pub will be limited to active ICC Patrons and guests, necessitated by the residential location and city zoning. The ICC office will continue to be open



to all visitors for information. As always, our Patrons and the public alike are encouraged to attend ICC events, including concerts, lectures, and exhibits at our future library and museum. Community outreach and education is a vital part of the ICC's mission, and will continue with programs such as Celtic Adventures for Kids this summer.

We encourage you visit our new space, and look forward to seeing you!



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CONTACT US

429 Morgan Road
West Springfield, MA 01089
413-333-4951
irishcenterwne@gmail.com
www.IrishCenterwne.org

Irish House Restaurant
and Trinity Pub
413-342-4358
irishcentertrinitypub@gmail.com
Manager Sheri Hannifan
Open Tuesday through
Sunday 4:00 – 11:00 pm



From The President



The Irish Cultural Center is embarking on a new adventure. Our strategic planning goals call for growth and expanded outreach, and we seek to serve a wider audience throughout Western New England with enhanced educational, cultural and musical offerings. We hope to expand our library collection and the gathering of rare and unique memorabilia for our collections. Our new home will provide the ICC with new, larger and better facilities thus allowing Patrons to gather in, and enjoy our Irish cultural offerings.

We value our Patrons and thank you for your past support; we want you to be part of this future process with us.

Regards,

Sean F. Cahillane, President

Our Mission

The mission of the Irish Cultural Center is to cultivate a connection with Ireland, through the arts, culture, history, language, and heritage. The Center offers opportunities to engage in educational, travel, and social events that promote Irish culture.

The Irish Cultural Center is a leading Irish/American cultural non-profit organization in Western New England. We strive to:

- offer our Patrons the highest quality programs, with popular and respected guest speakers, artists and musicians
- provide unique opportunities to actively participate in aspects of Irish culture
- promote ties between the Center and educational and cultural organizations in Ireland
- establish links with Irish organizations throughout New England
- develop programs for all ages to learn about Irish arts and culture
- maintain a collection of literature, films, music and archival materials available for use

Consul General Visits the Irish Cultural Center

by Mary Ellen Lowney

Irish Consul General Fionnuala Quinlan paid a visit to the ICC's new headquarters in West Springfield on February 24, touring the newly renovated facility and giving an official greeting from Ireland ahead of the official opening.

Quinlan, who is Ireland's representative in the Boston office of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, was greeted by ICC President Sean Cahillane, West Springfield Mayor Will Reichelt, former Mayor Edward Sullivan, state Senator Jim Welch, and several other city officials, including City Councilors George Kelly and Brian Griffin, Fire Chief William Flaherty and Building Inspector Padraig Moore.

Also on hand were ICC Director Ellen Gallivan and board members Jeanne Ahern, Bev Brown, Jim Cannon, William Carey, Kathleen Doe, Mary Ellen O'Brien and Mary Ellen Lowney. Local media representatives were also out in full force, seeing the 429 Morgan Road Center for the first time in its new iteration, and interviewing officials.

Quinlan went through all four floors of the ICC and said she liked what she saw.

"The place is lovely," she proclaimed following her tour. **"It's easy to see the heart and soul that has gone into making this place a new and beautiful home for the Irish Cultural Center. It will be a fine place for you to flourish."**

Cahillane said he was happy and proud to have Quinlan be the first official guest, just two weeks before the official opening. It was her first time in West Springfield, though she has been in other area cities and towns.

"It was an honor and a very appropriate unveiling, if you will, of our new home," Cahillane said. "It was just great having Ms. Quinlan help us with our unofficial 'christening.' We welcome her any time."

Reichelt also gave a warm official welcome, and led a subsequent tour to the Eastern States Exposition, where there are already business ties between Ireland merchants and the annual fair in September.

The visit to the ICC showcased the work done in large part by volunteers, including Bev Brown, Will Carey and Dan McGrath.



Jeanne Ahern, Kathleen Doe, Edward Sullivan, Will Reichelt, Fionnuala Quinlan, Sean Cahillane, Mary Ellen Lowney, and Jim Welch.



Jim Welch, Edward Sullivan, Will Reichelt, Fionnuala Quinlan, and Sean Cahillane.

Among the highlights was a walk through of the Irish House Restaurant and Trinity Pub, the lower-level space that will be run by the Delaney House of Holyoke. Representing the Delaney House at the tour were co-owner Mick Corduff and on-site manager Sheri Hannifan.

"We're honored to have the likes of Fionnuala Quinlan here to help christen our new place. This is the beginning of a long-standing relationship that is sure to grow," Cahillane said.

In addition to the restaurant and pub, the new Center will be the site of the ICC offices, an Irish heritage museum and programs including concerts, author events, classes and more.

Quinlan has worked as a journalist in both Ireland and Australia, and also was Director of Press Relations to the Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She has served as Irish Consul General in Boston since 2015, representing Ireland for all of New England.



Erin and Colleen Searson.



SEARSON

Canadian Celtic Music Group Performs April 30

The Irish Cultural Center is excited to welcome back the Celtic music group **Searson**. Searson is known for their own original music from Canada's Ottawa Valley, mixed with Celtic, East Coast, and Scottish. Their performances feature **high energy fiddling, vocals and step dancing**.

The sisters perform on a variety of instruments, including **Colleen Searson** on fiddle and vocals, and **Erin Searson** on piano, tenor guitar and vocals. Rounding out the group are seasoned musicians **Danno O'Shea** on drums and percussion, and **Fraser Gauthier** on bass and acoustic guitar.

Searson performs on **Sunday, April 30 at 4:00 pm at the Holyoke Elks Lodge**, 250 Whitney Ave, Holyoke, MA. Doors open at 3:00 pm.

Don't miss the chance to see Searson in a rare New England show! Tickets are general table seating. Cost is \$20 for ICC Patrons, \$23 for general public, \$28 at the door. Get your tickets online at www.IrishCenterwne.org or call the ICC at 413-333-4951.

Memories of Our Fall Ireland Tour

By Rose Baker

The ICC's October 2016 Ireland Tour, led by Rose Baker and Pat Baker, was an unforgettable journey to beautiful Dingle, Killarney and Bunratty. With 47 passengers, we landed in Shannon Airport on October 14 and were greeted by our driver/guide James Finn. We travelled to Dingle where we spent four amazing nights at the lovely Dingle Skellig Hotel. Some highlights included the beautiful Sleah Head Drive with visits to the Gallarus Oratory and Kilmalkedar Church. At the Blasket Centre, we learned about what life was like for the people who lived on the Blasket Islands and the families who immigrated directly to the Springfield, MA area. We also visited the Dingle Brewery to savor a pint of Tom Crean's Lager, Brian De Staic's jewelry workshop and Sean Daly's Dingle Crystal workshop. Many participants took a harbor tour to see Dingle's most famous resident, Fungi the Dolphin! At Foley's Pub in Inch, we had a wonderful dinner with superb entertainment provided by Noreen Finn (James Finn's wife) as well as the Foley family. We will all remember the good craic we had with "Ma" taking many of us out to the front of the room to dance the night away!

After Dingle, we made our way to Killarney where we stayed three nights at the charming Killarney International

Hotel. We enjoyed a traditional horse-drawn jaunting cart ride through the scenic Killarney National Park. We also visited Kenmare with its unique charm and inherent beauty. On our return, we travelled part of the Ring of Kerry through the picturesque Molls Gap with its sweeping views of the MacGillycuddy Reeks. That evening at Kate Kearney's Cottage we enjoyed traditional songs and step dancing. At Blarney Castle, many of us kissed the "Stone of Eloquence" and shopped at the Blarney Woollen Mills. We enjoyed the craic of an afternoon session and a performance by James Finn during lunch at the South County Pub in Douglas, Co. Cork! Traveling to Bunratty included a stop in the beautiful village of Adare. At Bunratty, we visited the acclaimed 15th century castle and 19th century folk-park, where we explored Ireland's medieval past. We spent our last evening at the Bunratty Castle Hotel where we enjoyed a farewell drink and shared fond memories.

Many new friendships were formed during this trip. Every day was a full experience and we learned so much about Ireland and its history, culture, and language from James. Leaving Ireland was bittersweet – we were tired, but full of wonderful memories that will forever be in our hearts.

We (Rose and Pat) send a heart-felt thank you to those who travelled with us and for making the trip a success. We hope to see you again!

End of Summer Ireland Tour with the Irish Cultural Center Visiting Dingle, Kilkenny and Dublin: September 2 – 12, 2017



Embrace Ireland's three treasures, Dingle, Kilkenny and Dublin, on a leisurely paced tour through gorgeous countryside, charming towns, and bustling cities. **Multiple night stays** allow you to immerse yourself in Ireland's beauty, hospitality and culture.

The tour includes round trip bus transportation and airfare, 9 nights top rated hotel accommodations, daily breakfast and dinners, admission to the Blasket Centre, Gallarus Oratory, Sleah Head Drive tour, horse-drawn jaunting cart ride in Killarney, Rock of Cashel, Kilkenny Castle, Smithwick's Experience, National Stud Farm and Japanese Gardens, Powerscourt

Gardens, Kilmainham Gaol, Guinness Brewery, and more. Deluxe touring motor coach with a professional Irish driver/guide throughout; portorage of 1 suitcase per person; tips and taxes while in Ireland (gratuity to the Irish driver/guide included).

The cost of the tour is \$2,850 per person/double room occupancy, or \$3,175 single room occupancy (limited availability). An initial \$1,000 deposit, accompanied by a fully completed reservation application and copy of your passport, reserves your seat. Tour is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-paid basis. **Reserve your seats today!**

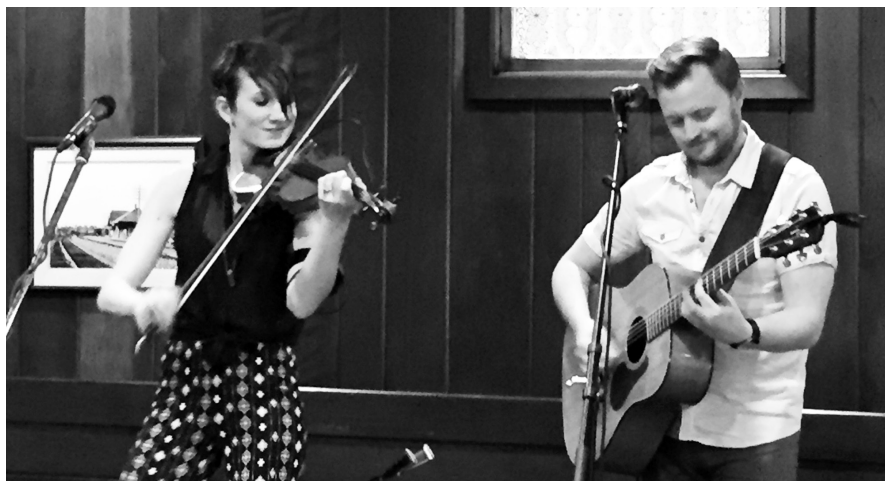
Information Session – please join us!

Sunday, April 2, 2017 • 1:00 pm • Room 207, Dooley Campus Center, Elms College

For more information, itinerary and application:

Call Rose Baker at 413-519-2135, the ICC at 413-333-4951 or visit www.IrishCenterwne.org.

RECENT HAPPENINGS



House of Hamill performed a sold-out show at the Collegian Court on February 19.

Left: ICC Patron and merch seller Megan Doe, Rose Baldino, Brian Buchanan, Board member and show organizer Kathleen Doe, President Sean Cahillane.

Mark Your Calendars

Our Celtic Adventures for Kids week-long camp will be taking place again this year! The dates are July 24 - 28, at Elms College. Stay tuned for registration info.

Stay Up to Date

If your email, phone number or address has changed, please let us know so we can ensure that you don't miss any news from the ICC.

E-News

If you are not on our email list, you can easily subscribe on our website, www.IrishCenterwne.org.

Be sure to check your spam folders if you are not receiving our emails! Let your friends and family know they can sign up to receive the latest news and updates on events from the ICC.

Thanks to Our Patrons

Frank Fitzgerald
INVESTOR LEVEL

Frank & Justine Kane Garaughty
SUPPORTER LEVEL

Thomas & Margaret Fitzgerald
SUPPORTER LEVEL

Gary & Tina Gorman
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Mike & Brenda McCormick
SUPPORTER LEVEL

John Burnham
SUPPORTER LEVEL

Remembering Monsignor Pádraig Ó Fiannachta

by Tom Moriarty

Last July Monsignor Ó Fiannachta died in Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland. The online Irish Language newsletter *Tuairisc* described him as *duine de mhórscoláirí na h'Éireann*, "one of the great scholars of Ireland." The English translation of his name is Fenton, and he was closely related to a number of Fentons with Kerry roots in the Springfield area. Monsignor Fenton took a great interest in the work of the Irish Cultural Center which he visited and where he lectured on several occasions. He also said mass in Irish in the Elms College chapel.

Ó Fiannachta was born in 1927 and raised in Irish-speaking Bhaile Móir near Dingle town. His fluency in Irish and his love of the language is vividly reflected in his scholarship. Besides English and Irish he had as well a knowledge of Welsh, German, Japanese, Greek and Hebrew. He played a key role in the translation of the whole Bible into Irish. It is known as *Bíbla Naofa*, and it was published in 1981. His *An Leabhar Aifrin* was his translation of the mass into Irish.

Ó Fiannachta spent thirty four years teaching at Maynooth where he was appointed professor of Old, Middle and eventually Modern Irish. During these years he worked with other scholars who in 1964 published the Royal Academy's *Foclóir Gaeilge*. He also began a long career as editor of the journals *An Sagart* and of *Irisleabhar Mhaigh Nuad*. He directed his scholarly attention as well both to Maynooth's valuable collection of manuscripts and to those of many clergy throughout Ireland.

When he retired from his responsibilities at Maynooth, he assumed what many might view as the typical responsibilities of an Irish parish priest. He served for a time in a parish in Wales where he had spent time as a student and where his fluency in Welsh was no doubt an asset. However, his final years were spent serving in several Munster parishes. In 1993 he returned to his native place, Corca Dhuibhne in west Kerry, where the Irish Language is widely spoken. He eventually became the parish priest at St. Mary's Church in the town of Dingle. He retired from these responsibilities in 2007 at the age of eighty.

One of Ó Fiannachta's most cherished causes in his late years was the foundation and growth of the *Díseart* located in the former convent of Presentation Nuns who had served the needs of the local Catholic community. The Irish word *Díseart* means retreat or hermitage. For him, the Dingle version of the *Díseart* was to be an educational and cultural institute particularly devoted to the heritage of the area. He always welcomed visitors and urged them to view the fine stained glass windows in the Presentation Nuns' chapel, the work of the artist Harry Clarke.

The Irish Cultural Center owes a particular debt of gratitude to Monsignor Ó Fiannachta. He supported and inspired its mission to appreciate Irish culture and the Irish Language when he visited us personally and when our members visited him in Ireland. For the past several years the Irish Center has featured a Christmas liturgy with readings by Irish language students from his *Bíobla Naofa* and *An Leabhar Aifrin*. Let us cherish Monsignor Ó Fiannachta's memory by continuing that tradition. *Suaimhneas Dé dá anam*. The peace of God to his soul.

I would like to support the Irish Cultural Center at the following 2017 Patron level:

☐ \$75 – Friend ☐ \$130 – Family ☐ \$250 – Backer ☐ \$500 – Contributor ☐ \$1,000 – Supporter ☐ \$2,500 – Investor

NAME(S)

HOME STREET ADDRESS

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PHONE NUMBER

BUSINESS NAME IF APPLICABLE

☐ I will make an **additional tax deductible donation** to support the ICC: \$ _____

Ask your employer if they have a matching gift program for charitable donations.

☐ I have enclosed a matching gift form.

☐ I would like more information on including the ICC in my estate planning. Please contact me.

Please cut along dotted line, and send with donation check made payable to:

Irish Cultural Center of Western New England
429 Morgan Road • West Springfield, MA 01089

Support the Irish Cultural Center, Become a Patron!

The Irish Cultural Center is devoted to keeping the Irish arts and culture alive.

The ICC is an American-Irish non-profit charitable organization. We work to preserve, share, and promote Ireland's cultural heritage, for all people to be able to experience and appreciate the rich Irish legacy. Your support is vital to our continued success, allowing us to maintain operational expenses, develop new programs, exhibit our collection of cultural artifacts, and continue to provide high quality events.

We invite you to become a Patron of the Irish Cultural Center. Whether you are Irish or not, love the language or the music, or just want to promote the preservation of art and culture, your contribution is greatly appreciated. If an opportunity exists for you to tell a friend or family member about the ICC, please do so!

View all Patron benefits or easily make your contribution online at www.IrishCenterwne.org

“Patrons supporting the Irish Cultural Center have the opportunity to reinvigorate their interest in all things Irish, establishing an active link and commitment to one’s heritage.”

Sean F. Cahillane
President, Irish Cultural Center of Western New England

Benefits include discounted pricing for events such as concerts, Irish language classes and Celtic Adventures for Kids, access to the private restaurant and pub, first notice of ICC news, invitation to Patron appreciation events, and periodic newsletters. **Benefits last for one calendar year, from January 1 to December 31. Patron support is renewed annually.**

\$75 Level – FRIEND

- Receive all Patron benefits.

\$130 Level – FAMILY

- Receive all Patron benefits for two or more members of the same household.

\$250 Level – BACKER

- Receive all Patron benefits plus two Patron Facility Access Cards.

\$500 Level – CONTRIBUTOR

- Receive all of the above benefits plus two tickets to the ICC Annual Breakfast and three Patron Facility Access Cards.

\$1,000 Level – SUPPORTER

- Receive all of the above benefits, plus recognition in our newsletter and at events, and four Patron Facility Access Cards.

\$2,500 Level – INVESTOR

- Receive all of the above benefits, plus five Patron Facility Access Cards.

**Irish Cultural Center
of Western New England**

429 Morgan Road
West Springfield, MA 01089

TEL: 413-333-4951

EMAIL: irishcenterwne@gmail.com

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keeping the IRISH ARTS and CULTURE alive



Irish Cultural Center Calendar of Events

Ongoing

Irish language classes offered each semester; please call the Registrar at 413-265-2314 or visit our website for more details.

March 10, 2017

ICC Opening Day

April 30, 2017

Searson Concert

May 2, 2017

Valley Gives Day

May 6, 2017

Lá na Gaeilge:
Day-long Irish language workshop

May 8 – 18, 2017 (SOLD OUT)

ICC Spring Ireland Tour:
Killarney, Dingle and Galway

July 24 – 28, 2017

Celtic Adventures for Kids:
Summer Camp

August 11, 2017

The Young Dubliners Concert
save the date!

September 2 – 12, 2017

ICC End of Summer Ireland Tour:
Dingle, Kilkenny and Dublin

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**Visit our website and like our
Facebook page** for news and the
most current information on our
programs and events.

Visit our YouTube channel for
interviews and event videos.

Links on www.IrishCenterwne.org

For information on the ICC's
affiliate Irish organizations,
please visit their websites.

AOH

Holyoke
www.AOH-Holyoke.com

John Boyle O'Reilly Club

Springfield
www.jbo-club.com

Sons of Erin

Westfield
www.sonsoferin.com

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*"You should keep up the good work
because there are so many lessons to
be learned from Irish history, and Irish
culture is beloved to so many people."*

Christine Kinealy, Professor of History
and Irish Studies at Quinnipiac University