



the CAIRDE CONNECTION

IRISH CULTURAL CENTER OF WESTERN NEW ENGLAND

JULY 2017 VOLUME 18 ISSUE 2

THE IRISH CULTURAL CENTER *proudly presents*

THE YOUNG DUBLINERS

The Irish Cultural Center invites you to an evening with the Young Dubliners, one of the most acclaimed and quite possibly Celtic rock's hardest working band. This is a rare New England appearance for the Young Dubliners, and a special opportunity to see one of the most exciting bands in Celtic rock today.

The Young Dubliners perform on Friday, August 11 at 8:00 pm at the Holyoke Elks Lodge, 250 Whitney Ave, Holyoke, MA. Doors open at 7:00 pm. A cash bar is available.

Advance tickets are just \$18 for ICC Patrons, \$20 for general public. All tickets are \$25 at the door. General admission, table seating. **Tickets are available** online at www.IrishCenterwne.org or by calling the Irish Cultural Center at 413-333-4951. Online ticket sales end at 9:00 am on August 11.

Receive a 10% off coupon for use at the ICC's new Irish House Restaurant with each ticket.

About the Young Dubliners

The Young Dubliners sound is most commonly called Celtic rock. The Irish influence is there, certainly, but it's not the only influence that rears its head on their albums, or in live shows. "That was always the idea," Keith Roberts, lead singer for the band explains. "The sound was always intended to be a hybrid because we all come from different backgrounds. Even though two of us are from Ireland, a lot of the music we listened to growing up wasn't Irish at all, but when we got here, we got homesick and developed a new appreciation for Irish music. In truth the Celtic riffs can just as easily come from the American band members. Everyone writes now



The Young Dubliners are one of the most loved bands in Celtic rock, wowing both huge festival crowds and small theater audiences.

so you never know what we'll end up with when we start on a new album."

The band has produced six albums to date. Relentless touring has garnered them a following of the faithful and this has allowed them to follow their dream year in and year out. "We are very appreciative of how the fans have continued to support the live shows. It makes for a crazy but enjoyable year despite the hectic travel schedule," says Roberts. Learn more at www.youngdubliners.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sheryl Young Quinn, Holyoke

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CONTACT US

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

Irish House Restaurant
and Trinity Pub
413-342-4358
icctrinitypub@gmail.com
Open Wednesday through
Saturday 5:00 – 10:00 pm

Irish House Restaurant and Trinity Pub Summer Schedule



The ICC's Irish House Restaurant and Trinity Pub has moved to new summer hours starting Wednesday, July 12. **The pub will be open from 5 – 10 pm on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The kitchen will be open until 9 pm each day.**

The **weekly traditional Irish music seisiún** with John Tabb, Ellen Redman and friends will now take place on **Wednesdays at 7 pm**. Reservations are recommended for dinner – please call the restaurant at 413-342-4358.

Managed by the professionals at the Log Cabin/Delaney House, the restaurant includes a handcrafted bar with custom woodwork, bar and table seating, fireplace and snug. An additional function room for smaller events is available for rental. A full menu of comfort food including starters, sandwiches, entrées and specials is served in the atmosphere of a Dublin pub.

The public open house for the restaurant and pub has been extended for the immediate future. There has been a lot of excitement around our new venture, and the additional time allows more people to visit and become a part of the ICC's future. Please visit www.IrishCenterwne.org for more information, and to stay up to date on events, the latest menu offerings and special theme nights.

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

Irish Cultural Center of Western New England Formally Launches Its First Major Donor Campaign; Seeking \$477,000 for Capital Improvements

The Irish Cultural Center is publicly launching a capital improvements campaign, seeking funds to further its mission of preserving and promoting the culture and traditions of the Irish in Western New England. ICC President Sean Cahillane explained the intent of the campaign, saying, "We wish to establish a quality facility, a monument to the Irish for the next 100 years. We are moving into the next leg of our undertaking – we intend to build out the next phases of our facility." Phase One was completed in March, including office space, the fitting out and opening of the Irish House Restaurant and Trinity Pub, and outdoor improvements.

The ICC's goal is to now complete projects in Phase Two, including an outdoor patio, library and museum, and additional exterior renovations. The campaign also seeks funds for educational and cultural programming. Over the last several months during the silent pre-launch phase, funds and donations have already been received to help complete the fireplace, landscaping, tile flooring, carpet, furniture and fixtures, totaling \$117,000 or 25% of the overall \$477,000 capital needs. The balance to be raised in this Phase Two of the project is now \$360,000.

Edward Sullivan, former Mayor of West Springfield, gives full support to the campaign, saying, "The population of Irish descent in this region is significant in numbers, professional accomplishments, and financial resources. This undertaking by the ICC seeks to bring the entire Irish community together with the aim of asking for active participation in advancing and promoting Ireland's ancient culture."

The Irish Cultural Center is a multi-faceted charitable 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, offering a range of



Design rendering of the refurbished ICC building.

activities. The vision for the Morgan Road site entails promoting all things Irish – cultivating a museum and library for the ICC's many artifacts, and promoting educational endeavors, scholarly lectures and musical offerings, in addition to the Irish House Restaurant and Trinity Pub, in operation as part of Phase One.

Leading the campaign effort are ICC President Sean Cahillane and the ICC Development Team, which includes Attorney Frank Fitzgerald of Hampden, James Garvey of East Longmeadow, former Mayor Edward Sullivan of West Springfield, City Councilor George Kelly of West Springfield, Mike McCormick of West Springfield, Attorney Martin Dunn of Holyoke, Sister Mary Caritas of the Sisters of Providence, and ICC Board Members Mary Ellen Lowney of Chicopee, Brian Corridan of Springfield, James Leydon, Jr. of Springfield, and Sheryl Young Quinn of Holyoke.

The Board Members of the Irish Cultural Center are looking for additional help with our first-ever capital campaign; we want to make this drive a success. If you are interested in spending some of your time, talent and treasure assisting our effort, please call Sean Cahillane at 413-348-5849, or email the ICC at irishcenterwne@gmail.com.



At the ribbon cutting in March 2017. Board Member Kathleen Doe, Vice President Jim Cannon, Mayor Will Reichelt, President Sean Cahillane, Secretary Mary Ellen Lowney, Board Members Rose Baker, Fran Hennessey, Former Mayor Ed Sullivan, Treasurer Bob Crowley, Board Members Will Carey, Jeanne Ahern, and Bev Browne.

Photo by Christopher Lizotte

Springtime in Ireland

By Kathleen Doe

I am thinking back with fond memories to this past May, when I had the great opportunity to travel to Ireland on the ICC's Spring 2017 Tour. Organized and led by my fellow Board Member Rose Baker, and her brother Pat Baker, the tour brought 47 passengers on a 10-day journey to Killarney, Dingle and Galway. We landed at Shannon Airport on May 9 and were greeted by our driver/guide, James Finn. We were ready to start our journey!

Our first stop, Killarney, allowed us to enjoy all the town had to offer. Walking, shopping, plenty of pubs – Killarney has the charm of a bustling town, located on the edge of the serene forests of the Killarney National Park. It was through the park that we took horse-drawn jaunting car rides, to visit Ross Castle and learn about the flora and fauna of the area. That sunny afternoon, we traveled to the town of Kenmare. Arriving on market day in the quaint town square, we were able to take in all the fresh produce farmers had brought in, plus delicious baked goods and beautiful artisan crafts. The next day, we traveled into Cork, to visit Blarney Castle. Some members of our group kissed the Blarney Stone; I wandered through the expansive grounds in the sunshine, marveling at the beautiful flower gardens, the Rock Close, and the forest paths. At our lunch stop at the South County Pub, we were treated to lively music and plenty of audience participation.

The next day, we traveled south through the rolling green landscape to the Dingle Peninsula. We stopped for a tour of the Dingle Brewing Company and a refreshing pint of their famous Tom Crean's Lager, which is now enjoyed by many visitors to the ICC's Trinity Pub! At Brian de Staic Jeweler's workshop, the group had a chance to lighten their wallets with the stunning collection of custom crafted jewelry. The seaside Dingle Town is number one on many lists of the best places to visit in Ireland, and we had plenty of free time to enjoy its scenic charm – from food and shopping to music and pub life, Dingle has it all.

Another day of great weather, and it was time for James to maneuver the coach along the narrow, winding coast road of Sleah Head Drive. The views are stunning – green fields, blue water crashing against the shore, and familiar landmarks rising out of the sea in the distance – Skellig Michael, the Sleeping Giant, and the Great Blasket Island. At the Blasket Island Centre, we learned about the hardship of life on the island, and also its importance to the



See more photos on the ICC's Facebook page.

preservation of the Irish language. Our other stops included Gallarus Oratory and Kilmalkedar Church. We were treated to a special dinner that night at the welcoming Foley's Bar in Inch. Music was provided by Noreen Finn, James's wife, and the dancing provided by the rest of us.

The next day, we took the ferry across the Shannon on our way to Galway. The only gloomy weather day of the trip, the rain stopped and the fog lifted just in time for our stop at the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher. In Galway, we stayed in the Salt Hill area of the city, with a beautiful view of Galway Bay right across the street. A stay in Salt Hill would not be complete without a walk along the Promenade and a kick of the wall at the end. For anyone who still had to buy gifts (for others, or themselves), we had more shopping to do on a day trip out to Connemara Marble, Galway Crystal and Standún. That night, we were treated to an incredible experience at Trad on the Prom, a joyous celebration of Irish music and dance.

Our last full day in Galway gave us free time to explore the ancient City of Tribes. I made the most of the sunny weather, and walked the whole way into town along the bay. We explored the winding alleys, experienced the vibrance of the pedestrian streets, took in performers and buskers, and of course visited a pub or two. That evening was a last gathering in the hotel pub, and time to pack.

Special thanks to Rose, Pat and James for making this such a wonderful and memorable trip!

ICC Welcomes Two New Members to Our Board of Directors

By Mary Ellen Lowney

The Irish Cultural Center of Western New England Board of Directors has added two new members – **Sheryl Y. Quinn of Holyoke**, retired Executive Director of the Geriatric Authority of Holyoke, and **James F. Leydon Jr. of Springfield**, who is Director of Communications and Public Information in the office of Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni.

Quinn and Leydon bring the board's membership to a full complement of 14.

ICC Board President Sean F. Cahillane welcomed both, saying they bring unique personal strengths and professional skills that will help lead our regional, non-profit organization forward into the future during an expansion of our newly opened facility on Morgan Road in West Springfield.

"Sheryl and Jimmy are well known and well liked across the region, with years of highly regarded experience between them that will make them outstanding members on our board," Cahillane said. "We look forward to working with them."

Quinn ran the Geriatric Authority of Holyoke for 16 years, retiring in 2012. She holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Ana Maria College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Nutrition from the University of Massachusetts.

A lifelong resident of Holyoke, Quinn said she has always been proud of her Irish ancestry and has more recently been very interested in genealogy and researching her family roots. She noted that her ancestors were among the first to settle from Ireland to Holyoke, in 1845.

"As I've studied each generation I've been able to learn about their commitment to hard work, the love of family and church, and the strident belief in education that was passed down to each succeeding generation. My grandmother was one of six children (all females) and each one

of them received education beyond high school," she said. Quinn looks forward to lending her business expertise to the ICC board as it enters into a new era of expansion.

"When I realized all of the work that has been done by the board and the volunteers to date, and the future plans to grow the Center, I realized that I would love to be part of that future," she said.

Leydon is a lifelong resident of Springfield who brings considerable political and business acumen to the board. He has a master's degree in Public Administration from American International College, and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts. He has worked in the District Attorney's office for the past two years, after working three years as Communication Director for Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno.

Leydon called himself a "proud Irish-American" who is enthusiastic about contributing to the ICC.

"I am looking forward to helping preserve our Irish heritage and its legacy locally. Working on furthering the establishment of the Center as a place where families can come and enjoy themselves is what I aspire to the most," he said.

"Some of my fondest memories are those spent on political campaigns as a kid, mainly those of a prominent Irish-American, Congressman Richard Neal," Leydon said.

"What I carry with me from those days is how events and activities associated with the Congressman brought so many families and friends together for so many years. I see the same thing in the ICC, an opportunity to help establish an environment to honor our past and celebrate our future with families and friends from all over."

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Thank you for your commitment, Sheryl and James – the ICC looks forward to working with you!



COMING SOON

The ICC's 2018 Ireland Tour will be visiting Dingle, Killarney and Galway. Details will be announced soon – stay tuned for more information!

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
SUPPORTER LEVEL

Mike & Brenda McCormick
SUPPORTER LEVEL

John Burnham
SUPPORTER LEVEL



The Canadian Celtic roots group, Searson, played a wonderful show for the ICC on April 30.

Irish Language Program Thrives

by Gerald Costello

The Irish Cultural Center and Elms College have demonstrated consistent support for those people in our area who have an interest in the language and want to learn. It is not a great surprise that there would be a natural desire of our Patrons to learn the language since many of our ancestors in Western Massachusetts came from Irish language speaking districts.

One of the critical ways that instruction is delivered is through the Fulbright Irish Language Teaching Assistant Program. Through the generosity and partnership of the ICC and Elms College, our students will have learned from eight different FLTAs. Although they specialize in Irish Language instruction, they are cultural ambassadors for their country and culture. Their enthusiasm and encouragement have enabled many learners to make progress with their own language journeys.



Left: Anna Ní Choibín. Right: Language learners at Lá na Gaeilge.

Anna Ní Choibín, a native of Corr na Mona, spent a very productive year in Chicopee. She taught the intermediate Irish Language class and encouraged the students to speak through a variety of means including films and conversation circles. Anna was very active in the International Club at the College and was very proud to share her language and culture with students from other backgrounds. In addition, she participated in a variety of events in the greater Chicopee area. Finally, she played the pivotal role in the Center's annual Lá na Gaeilge, attracting over fifty students from New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont. Anna's impact was significant on each of her constituencies. She made a lot of new friends during her time here.

Just as Anna left for Ireland, we learned that the Center and College had been successful in getting our eighth consecutive FLTA. Paul Snee is from Sligo and has a bachelor's and master's degree in Irish from NUIG (Galway). Paul is a passionate Irish speaker who will bring his love of the language to his classes and to different events. He is interested in poetry as well as GAA sports. We look forward to meeting him and benefiting from his interesting background.

If you would like to become a member of one of our Irish language classes in the fall, contact the Center or geraldf.costello@gmail.com. There were fifty people last year who participated in classes ranging from beginner to advanced. The College and Center would like to increase that total. *Bí gí linn* – join us.

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

CITY / STATE / ZIP

EMAIL

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. Your donation is tax deductible.

“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 restaurant and pub after the open house, first notice of ICC news, 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**

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413-333-4951

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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.

July 24 – 28, 2017

Celtic Adventures for Kids:
Summer Camp

August 11, 2017

The Young Dubliners
Celtic Rock Concert

September 2 – 12, 2017

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

September 16, 2017

Lecture on JFK *info coming soon*

October 7, 2017

Authors Suzanne Strempek Shea,
Elizabeth Searle and Tommy Shea
info coming soon

December 7, 2017

Culture & Cocktails at the Quadrangle
info coming soon

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.

NEW! The ICC is now on **Twitter**.

NEW! The **Irish House Restaurant and
Trinity Pub** has its own **Facebook page**.

Find 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

*"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