

Echo Feature

Campfire Champion: Iona Pres inspired by hurling legend Cody



IRISH AMERICA'S UNIVERSITY: The New Rochelle, NY, campus of Iona University.

by Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

As he prepares to welcome the Big Irish Campfire onto his New Rochelle, NY, campus, Iona University President Séamus Carey has a lot to be proud of.

As an educationalist, he authored a series of books offering invaluable advice to parents and teachers.

As recently-appointed President of Iona University, he increased registrations by 32 per cent, despite COVID, and forged a groundbreaking partnership with New York Presbyterian to create a new School of Health Sciences.

And on the glorious Twelfth of July this year, Iona switched from college to university status in recognition of its growing scale and ambition.

But for this son of Irish immigrants, it's clear that nothing makes him prouder than his Irish heritage.

Arriving at Iona after a stellar career in higher education has, then, been something of a homecoming for the Bronx native and Fordham grad. After all, this is the only college in the world set up by the Irish Christian Brothers - a link celebrated in the nickname of the university's sports teams: Gaels.

One detects in Carey a certain sympathy with Camus who stated that everything he knew "about morality and obligations" in life he owed to soccer — except that in Carey's case, his fountainhead is hurling.

Indeed, a son of Irish immigrants, Carey fielded for New York GAA in both hurling and football - the only American-born player to do so at that time. No surprise then, when asked ahead of the Campfire (see video above), which will see Irish American leaders from across the nation gather at Iona, to name a person who inspires him, Cary opted for Kilkenny's legendary hurling coach Brian Cody.

"Even though Kilkenny lost the all-Ireland hurling final recently, a person I admire in Ireland for the last quarter of a century is Brian Cody," says President Carey.

"He's won 11 All Ireland's during his tenure, and appeared in 17. What I admire most about Brian Cody is the sustained level of success and excellence that he brings to the organization and the class with which

each member of that organization carries themselves both on the field and off the field."

But the manager's values also strike a chord with the President of Irish America's University.

"I've always been struck by his interviews in which he almost always makes reference to the virtue of honesty, and describing how his players perform and how they prepare for their games. And I find that Cody's leadership is exemplary for people who are leading sports teams or organizations or families."

Asked to address the theme of third annual Big Irish Campfire - 'Shape the Future of Irish America', Carey,

not surprisingly, points to the key role of education.

"There's one ingredient that I think is essential to the success of any community and to our country as a whole. And that's education. As an educator here at Iona University, I see firsthand the power of education to transform lives, and to set students up not just for economic success, but for success in their lives as members of the community as family members, and as contributors to society. And I think for Irish America, that is a key ingredient for future success."

You can earn more about the third annual Big #Irish-Campfire and purchase tickets online.



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#IrishCampfire

August 19, 2022
Iona University
New Rochelle, NY

Keynote Speaker:

Seamus Carey,

President, Iona University

Special Guest from Ireland
(LIVE VIRTUAL): **Gerry Adams**



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Shape the Future of Irish America

Campfire 2022: A chance to reset the Irish American compass

by Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

Truth be told, I'm not much of a camper.

And that's coming from a guy who once camped on California's Channel Islands, complete with breathtaking views of the coast at Ventura, blazing wildfires included, surviving on astronaut food which would make the International Space Station fare seem like haute cuisine.

But there is one aspect of bonding with the great outdoors which does appeal to me - those hours around the campfire after night falls when honest-to-goodness, pinging cell phone-free, conversation blossoms.

"There will be chat and craic, for sure, but there will also be challenges and calls-to-action. And the future — the bright future — of Irish America will be shaped."

So it was more the opportunity to shoot the breeze than to shoot what we fancy for dinner which inspired the Big Irish Campfire - now in its third year.

Born in a time of Covid, the first Campfire was online only, connecting over 700 champions of Irish America from coast-to-coast and providing some timely TLC to a locked-down nation. An opening address by President Michael D. Higgins set the scene for an eight-and-a-half-hour marathon, featuring over 100 speakers as well as messages of solidarity and musical interludes. The Irish love a party - even during a pandemic!

Last year, the Big Irish Campfire went hybrid - erecting our tents in Rosie O'Grady's on Seventh Avenue in the Big Apple, we introduced a mix of in-person participants and online contributors. With the country not out of the Covid woods, Campfire II represented a meaningful step forward in the recovery. But one panel discussion at the New York gathering did sow the seed for our 2022 gathering - when Rob Walsh brought together educationalists to discuss the crucial role of colleges in building community, we heard for the first time of the ambitious plans by newly-appointed Iona College President Seamus Carey to revamp the college's stor-

ried Irish roots.

And that, in turn, led to our decision to base Campfire III at Iona, which, in the interim, upped its status from college to university. With the generous support of the Grand Council of United Emerald Societies, Eddie Dowling's The Padded Wagon, the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation and Tourism Ireland among our sponsors, we decided to move lock, stock and barrel to the New Rochelle, NY campus.

And to go almost 100 per cent in-person (honorable exceptions proving the rule being Congressman Brendan Boyle and Gerry Adams).

Thankfully, Irish America an-



swered our call to come together to 'Shape the Future'. That's a bold goal but then the groups gathering around the Campfire on Friday 19 August at Iona have been bending the arc of Irish American history for some time now.

There will be chat and craic, for sure, but there will also be challenges and calls-to-action.

And the future — the bright future — of Irish America will be shaped.



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Shape the Future of Irish America

Stack, IAHM lead way in Albany

By Peter McDermott

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Albany stepped up in 2020. Well, specifically, the Irish American Heritage Museum did.

It adapted to the technology of the times, holding 90 virtual events via Zoom in that traumatic year.

Its recently-appointed executive director, Dr. Elizabeth Stack, had been planning more talks than the museum had usually done. "That was my goal, but then Covid kicked it up another notch again," she recalled.

The museum didn't have a whole lot of objects; it had moved premises, and without exhibitions installed, there wasn't much available for a virtual tour.

"It was a mixed blessing," Stack said of the technological experiment the IAHM opted for.

"Some missed being in person," she said. "And it's difficult to monetize the online talks."

But there's been a big upside: "It's opened up the amount of speakers we have coming to us. From all across America and people at home in Ireland."

It suits the speakers, too, who in some cases want to get the news out about a book, for instance.

"It's really opened up the community who we are reaching and who we can invite," Stack said.

The museum even hosted an event from John B. Keane's pub in her native Listowel, Co. Kerry.

"But there is that danger of losing touch with your core base. And the human element," she said.

Still, she added, "We can't go back to the small pool that would be Albany on its own. I suppose hybrid is here to stay."

Hybrid is "messy," she said, but it has attracted new members outside of Albany and it has created expectations.

"Audiences have been good about the challenges of technology," Stack said.

The executive director has found that the three or four discussions they had about Brexit were popular and so was a panel from Dublin on being Black and Irish.

Irish-Americans are always interested in the American Civil War, a subject that Stack taught students at Fordham University, where she was associate director of the Institute of Irish Studies, but she added, "It's heartwarming to



Dr. Elizabeth Stack is executive director of the Irish American Heritage Museum.

find out that they're interested in Irish history."

Many people have family memories of violent times, particularly involving the War

An interest in the Famine was ignited in part by "Star of the Sea," the novel by Joseph O'Connor.

"I absolutely adored it," she



of Independence, and the Irish Civil War.

"Older members are more informed in a general way, even if sometimes the stories are a bit mythologized," she said.

Stack had worked for a time as a schoolteacher in Ireland, but wanted to do a deeper study of history and Fordham would provide the opportunity. "We had a vibrant department up in the Bronx," she said.

remembered.

But the era itself was covered academically from a research point of view, and anyway she preferred to focus "on what happened them after the Great Hunger."

Stack, whose master's degree from University College Dublin was in Anglo-Irish relations in the 20th century, took as the subject for her doctoral thesis a comparative study of Irish and

German immigrant communities and the next generations.

The Germans came as a result of political and social upheaval arising out of the 1848 revolutions. There were some obvious differences between "two groups that maintained their own culture [and] kept themselves to themselves" and who were both viewed as "clannish and pugnacious."

The Germans tended to come in family groups, the Irish more as individuals; the Irish were mostly Catholic at this time, whereas the Germans were comprised of more or less equal numbers of Jews, Catholics and Protestants.

Overall, the comparison proved a good way to explore the host society's prejudices: why, for instance, for many people at certain periods was a "Teutonic" invasion a more acceptable proposition than a "Celtic" one?

World War I provided an

interesting dimension to her study, it being a "flashpoint" for both Irish- and German-Americans, while Prohibition also profoundly affected both groups.

Albany is quite central to the Irish story and the city is situated in one of the most heavily Irish-American regions in the country.

The New York State Legislature founded the



The late Mick Moloney and Lenwood Sloan, 2nd and 3rd from left, spoke at an event at the Irish American Heritage Museum last month.



museum in the mid-1980s and inevitably politics figures very much in the history. Incumbent Mayor Kathy Sheehan has some notable predecessors as power-brokers, like Daniel P. O'Connell, the leader of the Democratic Party's machine for the half-century from about 1920.

William Kennedy, perhaps the region's best-known writer, has fictionalized and featured Albany's rough and tumble public life in his novels. U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, like Kennedy had before her, grew up with real-life family ties to the city's Irish machine.

Stack wants the IAHM also to tell the "story of normal working people," factory workers and maids in places like Troy.

It's important, too, to make connections with the broader population by focusing on the Irish contributions to American society and culture, like Halloween.

The executive director is grateful for the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Culture Ireland and the informal links and sharing of resources with other Irish groups and centers in the Northeast.

"You're showing the Irish culture and Irish-American culture is living – it isn't just something in the past," Stack said.

But as time goes on, that isn't easy. People from ethnic groups integrate into American society and they intermarry, and the connection with the ancestral homeland eventually becomes more remote.

"Their grandparents were Irish [immigrants]," she said about some Irish-Americans she knows in their 70s, by way of example, "and maybe their grandchildren have never visited Ireland."

Stack said, "That is a concern that most of us in Irish America will have to take into account: how do we keep Ireland relevant, how do we keep the connection active and alive for the future generations?"

For more information about the Irish American Heritage Museum, go to www.irish-us.org.



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THERESA TOBIN Chief of Interagency Operations, NYPD

Chief of Interagency Operations Theresa Tobin joined the NYPD in 1983 and began her career on patrol in South Jamaica, Queens. She was promoted through the ranks to her current title of Chief of Interagency Operations. Chief Tobin has served as the Commanding Officer of the Behavioral Health Division, the Office of Collaborative Policing and Personnel Bureau's Staff Services Section. She has served as the Executive Officer of the 1, 10 and 13 Precincts. Chief Tobin earned a Ph.D. and Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice; a Master of Social Work; and a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology/Social Work. She has been a New York State Certified Social Worker since 1985. Chief Tobin is also a graduate of the FBI Academy, Columbia University's Police Management Institute; and, Harvard University's Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program.

During her career, Chief Tobin has received numerous honors and medals including and the NYPD's Medal of Valor and a Special Congressional Recognition in honor of her heroism, bravery and sacrifice during the tumultuous events of September 11, 2001. She has also served her community in a myriad of ways, from Eucharistic Minister at her local parish, to a board member of Noah's Ark Inc. a shelter for homeless and runaway teenagers. She has served as Second Vice President of the Academy for Professional Law Enforcement (APPLE). She has run a support group for female officers in the NYPD.



Some of the awards she's received over her long career have been the Kiefer Humanitarian Award, the Brutocao Family Foundation's Champions of Freedom Award, The National Organization of Women's Liberty Award, The New York Blood Center's Champion for Life Award, the Molloy College Presidential Award for Distinguished Service, and the New York City Police Foundations Hemmerdinger Award.

THE BLACK AND THE GREEN BRIDGE-BUILDER AWARD

SONNIE WELLINGTON HEREFORD IV

The presentation of The Black and the Green Bridge-BUILDER Award to Sonnie Hereford recognises his standout efforts to promote stronger links between the African-American and Irish American communities.

1963 - Became first Black child to integrate the Alabama Public School system
1973 - Won City of Huntsville Unrated Chess Championship
1973-1975 - Tennis Team Captain at S. R. Butler High School
1973-1975 - Chess Club President at S. R. Butler High School
1974 - Elected Student Body President at S. R. Butler High School
1975 - High School Diploma, S. R. Butler High School
1979 - Bachelor of Science Electrical Engineering, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN
1979 - Began career as Software Engineer with General Electric Company, Schenectady, NY
1985 - Master of Science Computer and Systems Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY
1988 - Founded Triana Youth Tutoring Program, Triana, AL
1992 - Founded University of Notre Dame Alumni Association chapter in Huntsville, AL
1993 - Honored for service to Phillips C.M.E. Church, Huntsville, AL
1994 - Elected to University of Notre Dame Alumni Association National Board of Directors
1994-2011 - Board of Directors Big Brothers - Big Sisters of North Alabama



2013 - Attended March on Washington Film Festival - Sat on a panel for a discussion of "Race Relations - Then and Now" with Congressman John Lewis
2016 - Sonnie Hereford Elementary School named for my father and me
1986-Present - Participated in many charitable fund-raising activities, including United Way, United Cerebral Palsy, American Heart Association, Leukemia Society, American Cancer Society, Big Brothers - Big Sisters, etc. Organizer of Huntsville, Alabama's St. Patrick's Day Parade from 1996 through 2011
Children: Beth Hereford Patin and Catherine Ann Hereford
Working for Five Stones Research Corporation (Huntsville, AL) as a Senior Systems Engineer



WINGS OF IRISH AMERICA AWARD

JEFF WRIGHT Director of Sales North America, Aer Lingus

The presentation of the Wings of American Award to Jeff Wright recognises Aer Lingus' exceptional efforts during the COVID pandemic to ensure the airbridge to Ireland never failed. The company's commitment to the transatlantic connection was a boon to Ireland and the US and demonstrated an unshakeable bond between Aer Lingus and its Irish American customer base.

Jeff Wright is Manager, Corporate Sales for Aer Lingus, based in the United States. He is responsible for the sales relationship between Aer Lingus and all U.S.-based corporate accounts with business in Ireland and Europe, as well as travel management companies, such as American Express, Carlson Wagonlit and Internova Group. His role has been central in helping Aer Lingus throughout the pandemic and will be pivotal as it moves forward in recovery.

Wright's extensive 45-plus year aviation career covers all facets of the industry. Throughout his 32-year tenure with British Airways, Wright held several roles including airport operations, airport security, air freight, passenger reservations and finance. On the sales side, he has been a proven leader in sales development, field and group sales, as well as pricing for wholesale and retail distribution channels. Wright received a bachelor's degree from St. John's University. Sailing is amongst his passions as he holds a US Merchant Marine Master's License for Sail and Power Vessels. He is married and the father of five children and proud grandfather of seven.



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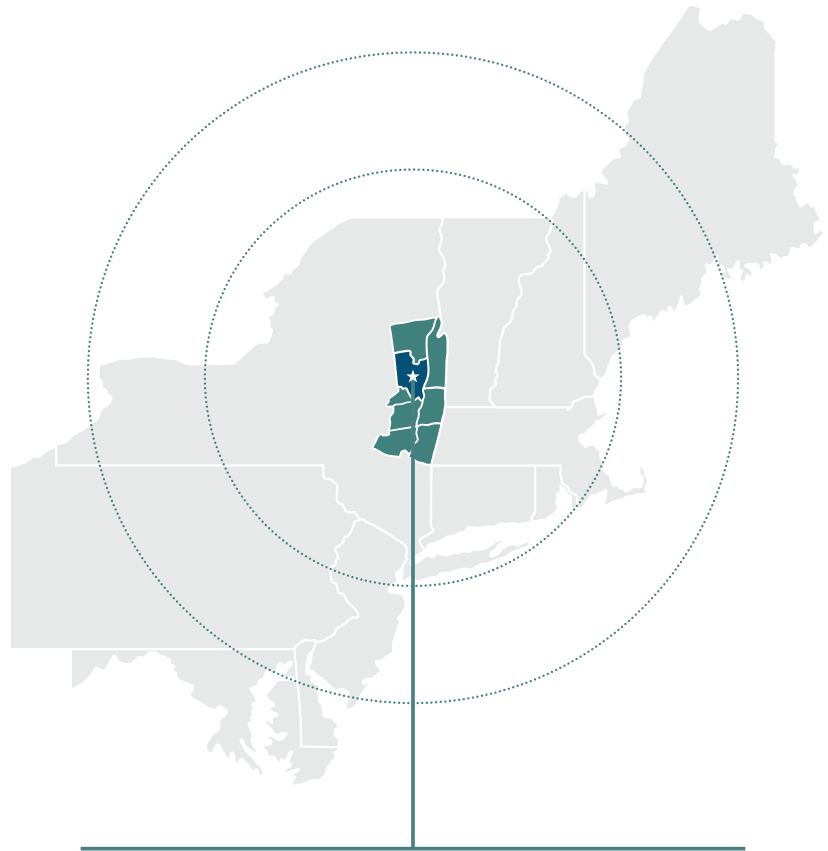
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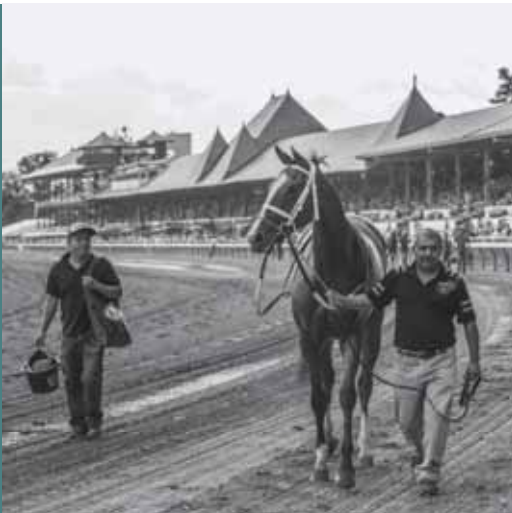
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Faoi réir Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta bunaíodh an Foras Teanga, Comhlacht Forfheidhmithe Thuaidh/Theas, chun an Ghaeilge agus an Ultais a chur chun cinn. Faoi choimirce an chomhlachta sin, déanfaidh Foras na Gaeilge na freagrachtaí go léir i dtaca leis an nGaeilge a chur i gcrích. I measc na bhfreagrachtaí sin tá labhairt agus scríobh na Gaeilge sa saol poiblí agus sa saol príobháideach i bPoblacht na hÉireann. Tá an fhreagracht chéanna ann i leith Thuaisceart Éireann, sa chás go mbíonn an t-éileamh cuí ann agus i gcomhthéacs Chuid III de Chairt Chomhairle na hEorpa um Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlaigh. Aistríodh foireann Bhord na Gaeilge, an Ghúm (Fóilsitheoirí) agus an Choiste Téarmaíochta (Forbairt Téarmaíochta) agus a ngníomhaíochtaí ar fad go dtí an comhlacht nua.

Tá Foras na Gaeilge bródúil as a ról i dtaca le comhairle a chur ar lucht rialtais, thuaidh agus theas, agus ar chomhlachtaí poiblí agus grúpaí eile sna hearnálacha príobháideacha agus deonacha i ngach gnó a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge, chomh maith leis na tionscadail tacaíochta a chuireann siad ar bun agus cúnaimh deontais a thugann siad do ghrúpaí agus do chomhlachtaí ar fud oileán na hÉireann.

Foras na Gaeilge, the body responsible for the promotion of the Irish language throughout the island of Ireland, was founded on the second day of December 1999.

In the Good Friday Agreement, it was stated that a North/South Implementation body be set up to promote both the Irish language and the Ulster Scots language. Under the auspices of this body, Foras na Gaeilge will carry out all the designated responsibilities regarding the Irish language. This entails facilitating and encouraging the speaking and writing of Irish in the public and private arena in the Republic of Ireland, and in Northern Ireland where there is appropriate demand, in the context of part three of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. The staff of Bord na Gaeilge, An Gúm (Publishers), and An Coiste Téarmaíochta (The Terminology Committee) and all their activities have been transferred to the new body.

Foras na Gaeilge is proud of its role in advising administrations, North and South, as well as public bodies and other groups in the private and voluntary sectors in all matters relating to the Irish language as well as the supportive projects it undertakes with grant-aiding bodies and groups throughout the island of Ireland. Ar an dara lá de mhí na Nollag 1999 bunaíodh Foras na Gaeilge, an comhlacht atá freagrach as an nGaeilge a chur chun cinn ar fud na hÉireann.

GRAND COUNCIL OF EMERALD SOCIETIES

It was during the 1950s that the movement for Emerald Societies took hold with the formation of the NYPD Emerald Society (Police Department, City of New York) on March 16, 1953, NYCD Emerald Society (Correction Department, City of New York) on November 17, 1955, and FDNY Emerald Society (Fire Department, City of New York) on March 17, 1956.

The movement led to the formation of Emerald Societies in New York City and across the country.

Reorganized in 1975, the Grand Council has over 20,000 members, serves as the political umbrella group for twenty-five affiliated Emerald Societies, and is the governing body selecting the Aide to the Grand Marshall representing the Emerald Societies in New York Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

The Grand Council has Affiliates in California, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Washington DC. The affiliated organizations serve in front-line professions such as Law Enforcement, Fire Service, EMS, Education, Waste Management, Mass Transit, and Public Utilities.

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SEDC is a private sector led, politically neutral, non-profit consulting firm established in 1978. We work to PROMOTE, RETAIN and GROW Saratoga County, New York. We are an indispensable contact and resource with impressive history of deliverables. In our 44+ year history, SEDC has been, and continues to be, a driving force for economic growth in Saratoga County and the Greater Capital Region of New York State. SEDC works as the ombudsman for our clients through incentive negotiation, infrastructure needs, site selection and local and state government. Having an experienced team committed to navigating you through the project has proven very valuable to both the business and the County.

We are your first point of contact for confidential business development and site selection in Saratoga County, NY. Our mission is to create jobs and diversify the tax base while improving the quality of life for the residents. We accomplish this through the retention of existing businesses, attraction of new, complementary industry and improving our product- Saratoga County, New York.

With a board of successful businesspeople and a staff of experts that understand what it takes to go into business and stay in business, SEDC brings a degree of experience that sets us apart from traditional, government agencies. We are recognized and reputable because we work confidentially, inclusively and at the speed of business. We have hundreds of professional service providers, manufacturers, business and community partners as stakeholders in SEDC and the continued success of Saratoga County, NY. SEDC collectively works with state and regional officials on economic development programs available to encourage continued growth of our existing industries while simultaneously attracting complementary operations. Through our connections and contracts, we coordinate available incentives and provide direction for your specific project.

SEDC has been the private-sector point-of-contact for more than 400 successful business attraction, retention and expansion projects, accounting for more than 18,500 new jobs, \$18 billion in investments and millions of dollars in annual tax revenue. Because of our ability to "navigate the landscape", SEDC advises clients through incentive negotiation, infrastructure needs, site selection and local and state government.

We invite you to reach out to us with inquiries and welcome you to visit our region and see for yourself. We have the right people in the right places with impeccable business acumen and the drive to sustain an economy that offers opportunity for industries to harmoniously co-exist and thrive.

THE PADDED WAGON

The Padded Wagon, owned by Dublin-native, Ed Dowling, is New York's premier moving and shipping company. The Padded Wagon is heavily rooted in the Irish community. According to Ed Dowling, "It was a culture shock when I first came here from Ireland - seeing these big, grand places on Park Avenue. But now those high-end moves are a big part of our business."

The drivers and crews at Padded Wagon have decades of experience delivering professional services you're looking for. Since 1952, our family-owned business has been entrusted to serve our valued clients.

We ship locally, nationally, and internationally, shipping to Northern and Southern Ireland and the UK. We provide door-to-door service for shipments of all sizes. We have experienced staff who are available to help and guide our customers through the shipping process. This includes Customs clearance for varying jurisdictions, ensuring our customers are aware of the relevant documentation required to enter their destination country.

Our mission is to provide our clients with quality service from beginning to end. From the moment we prepare your estimate until the last item is unloaded from our iconic bright blue trucks, we make sure every detail is completed with the utmost attention. We specialize in luxury moves, making sure that your fine art, antiques, and other priceless possessions are moved with the care they deserve. We're here to give you peace of mind with friendly service, and top-of-the-line care for your most valuable items, all from a family-owned business you can trust.

We offer exceptional nationwide services coast to coast and across the ocean. We are headquartered here in Manhattan, and we are proud to serve all your moving, storage, and installation needs in the five boroughs. We also have locations in New Jersey, Florida, California, and Ireland. We also offer crating, hoisting, and rigging services. Let us be the movers you trust for your piano, fine art, and antiques, or whatever precious items you need us to treat with our expert care and handling. Whether you're a residential or commercial customer, we want you to rest easy knowing the crews at The Padded Wagon have decades of experience delivering the moving and shipping services you're looking for.

We are so grateful to our loyal customers, who come back to us again and again, refer us to friends and family, and have great things to say. In business since 1952, our experience as an international moving company can be your peace of mind.

TOURISM IRELAND

Tourism Ireland is the organisation responsible for promoting the island of Ireland overseas as a leading holiday destination. It was established as one of the "six areas of co-operation" under the framework of the Belfast Agreement of Good Friday 1998. Tourism Ireland's remit is to increase tourism to the island of Ireland and to support Northern Ireland to realise its tourism potential.

Tourism Ireland delivers world-class marketing programmes in over 20 markets across the world. Targeted marketing activity includes TV advertising, outdoor media, print, digital advertising, social media, influencer marketing, overseas publicity, co-operative marketing with carriers and other partners, and promotions to the travel trade and consumers. In 2019, the island of Ireland welcomed almost 11.3 million overseas visitors to the island of Ireland, delivering revenue of over €5.8 billion which supported 325,000 vital jobs in communities across the island.

EVENT PARTNERS



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Foras na Gaeilge



Aer Lingus



Tourism Ireland



IONA UNIVERSITY

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Campfire Cara Medal Recipients and Speakers

Gerry Adams

www.leargas.blogspot.com
Gerry Adams is a former President of Sinn Féin and a former Teachta Dála (TD) for Louth and East Meath, and before that the MP and MLA for West Belfast.

He joined Sinn Féin when it was still a banned organisation in the mid-1960s and along with other republican activists became involved in campaigns around bad housing and equal rights and attended the inaugural meeting of the civil rights movement in 1967.

In 1972 he was interned without trial by the British and the same year he was released to participate in secret talks in London between Irish republicans and the British government.

Gerry Adams played a leading role in the campaign for political status and the campaign in support of the 1981 hunger strike. In June 1983 he was elected MP for West Belfast and in November of that year he was elected as (President) Uachtarán Shinn Féin.

In March 1984 was shot and seriously wounded. Later his home was also bombed. In 1986 Gerry Adams was instrumental in launching the party's current peace strategy. He privately met with John Hume and in the following year Sinn Féin launched Scenario for Peace. In 1993 it emerged that the Sinn Féin President had been holding private meetings with the leader of the SDLP, John Hume. In the first of six joint statements issued by the two party leaders they set out their hope for the future.

In August 1994 the IRA called a cessation of all military actions. In September 1997 Gerry Adams led Sinn Féin into all-party talks and in April 1998 the Good Friday Agreement was achieved.

In 2005 Gerry Adams appealed to the IRA to take decisive decisions that would save the peace process from imminent collapse. As a result the IRA formally ended its armed campaign and in conjunction with the International Independent Commission on Decommissioning it dealt decisively with the issue of arms.

In March 2007 Gerry Adams and the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party Ian Paisley agreed a deal which saw the political institutions restored.

In 2011 he resigned from Westminster and stood in the Louth constituency in the general election for the Dáil. He topped the poll and led a renewed and strong Sinn Féin team of 14 TDs and 3 Seanadóirí into the Dáil. In 2016 23 Sinn Féin TDs and 7 Seanadóirí were returned to the Oireachtas and in the Assembly elections and Westminster elections last year Sinn Féin secured its largest ever vote in the North and won 7 Westminster seats. In February 2018 Gerry Adams stood down as party leader.

Gerry Adams is also the author of 19 books, including Black Mountain and Other Stories which was published in August 2021 and publishes a weekly blog and podcast and is a regular contributor to Twitter.



She has advised health care systems and life sciences companies regarding the conduct of global trials for therapeutics and vaccines to address COVID-19.

Maureen advises clients on emerging regulatory issues affecting clinical research, including the utilization of social media in patient and physician recruitment, the development of virtual clinical trial and telemedicine and personalized medicine strategies implementing the use of biomarkers and companion diagnostics.

Maureen also represents clients in the structuring of complex outsourcing arrangements between life sciences companies and contract research organizations (CROs). She has advised entities in the establishment of compliant decentralized clinical trials.

She also represents clients in the assessment and mitigation of regulatory risks and the negotiation of liability allocation arrangements in M&A, licensing, and other commercial transactions.

Maureen is the life sciences co-leader for the Firm's Health Care & Life Sciences Practice and formerly served as co-chair of the Boston Bar Association's Health Care Section. She was honorary co-chair for the 8th Annual Boston-Northwest Ireland Golden Bridges Giant Step Conference 2020 and is a regular speaker at industry conferences. Maureen is co-chair of the Firm's LGBTQ affinity group.

Christian Bolden

Hailing from New Orleans, Louisiana, Christian Bolden now resides of Washington D.C. due to the catastrophic events of Hurricane Katrina.

Since his arrival, Christian has been involved with numerous efforts positively impacting the community; most notably the "Steel Sharpens Steel Summit"; a panel discussion committed to the enlightenment and enrichment of the Urban African American Male Teen. Other efforts include participation in



mentorship programs and volunteer efforts with various charities in the DC metro area. Notably, he organized the "Re-New Orleans" event which commemorated the 5-Year Hurricane Katrina Anniversary and raised funding and awareness for the Gulf Coast Oil Spill Relief effort. With art donated by renowned New Orleans artist J'Renee, proceeds from the event were donated to the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

Christian is an inaugural board member of the African-American Irish Diaspora Network (AAIDN) with a mission dedicated to fostering relationships between African Americans and Ireland through shared heritage and culture. AAIDN's programming is focused in 3 key areas: Art & Culture, Entrepreneurship, and Scholarship. Through these efforts, AAIDN supports the development and strengthening of Irish and African American leaders of tomorrow while also working to expand collaboration between the Irish and African Diasporas.

He is also a member of Washington, D.C.'s Urban League "Young Professionals" chapter, a graduate of the University of Mobile (AL), and obtained his Master's in Business Administration (MBA) at Syracuse University during which time he studied Dublin and Cork, Ireland as a student. A former Professional Staff Member

in the U.S. House of Representatives, Bolden is now Principal at The Bolden Group which offers IT, Program/Project Management, and DEI services.

Congressman

Brendan F. Boyle

Born and raised in a Philadelphia rowhome, Brendan Boyle worked hard to achieve the American Dream.

Brendan learned the value of hard work from his father, a SEPTA maintenance custodian who emigrated from Ireland at the age of 19, and his mother, a school crossing guard. Brendan was the first in his family to attend college and received a scholarship to attend the University of Notre Dame. Brendan would later earn his Master's Degree in public policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

In 2014, Brendan campaigned for and was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. In Congress, Brendan has never forgot where he's from or what he's fighting for. As a member of the House Budget Committee, Brendan is fighting to ensure that our budget expands opportunities for all Americans. As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, he is committed to ensuring a cohesive policy agenda that supports our communities and the priorities of working families.

In December 2016, Brendan co-founded the Blue Collar Caucus, whose goal is to facilitate legislative ideas focused on addressing wage stagnation, job insecurity, trade, offshoring, and reduced career opportunities for those in the manufacturing and building trades. Recognized for his leadership, he was appointed by the Democratic Caucus as the Co-Chair of the Jobs with Dignity task force to lead the party's development of a new economic agenda.

Prior to his service in Congress, Brendan served for six years in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. While serving Northeast Philadelphia and Montgomery County in Harrisburg, Brendan worked to support record public school funding under Governor Rendell, helped gather bipartisan support for Act 89, the first major transportation bill passed in Pennsylvania in 20 years, and fought against Republican led cuts to our public schools and attacks on organized labor.

He is married to Jennifer, a Montgomery County public school teacher, with whom he has one daughter, Abigail. They reside in Northeast Philadelphia.

Seamus Carey

President, Iona College
Company Website: www.iona.edu

A nationally recognized visionary, author and leader in Higher Education, Dr. Seamus Carey, serves as the ninth president of Iona College in New Rochelle, NY.

Dr. Carey joined Iona in July 2019 following a transformative presidency at Transylvania University in Kentucky, where he has been credited with leading diversity and inclusion efforts; establishing fiscal stability and growth; implementing strategies that increased enrollment, retention and graduation rates; and developing a mentorship program connecting students with alumni and the local business community, forging strong ties and creating career opportunities for students.

Prior to serving as President at Transylvania, Dr. Carey held leadership and



faculty positions at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut and Manhattan College in New York. His scholarly pursuits have focused on the intersection of philosophy, parenting and family life, and include the authorship of several books: "Growing Up with Your Children: 7 Turning Points in the Lives of Parents", "The Faithful Parent: Discovering the Spirit of Purposeful Parenting" and "The Whole Child: Restoring Wonder to the Art of Parenting".

A Bronx native and first-generation college student with a deep commitment to Catholic education and the liberal arts, Carey earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy and a Master of Arts from Fordham University, and a bachelor's degree in Economics from Vassar College.

Patrick J.

Carolyn M.D.

Patrick is a retired Orthopedic Surgeon who resides in Fairfield, CT. He graduated from Fairfield University and Seton Hall College of Medicine Ct and after spending a



period of time in the US Army, practiced Orthopedics in Bridgeport, CT finishing in 2019.

He has been active in many organizations and has served on the Board of Directors of Fairfield University and currently is on the Board of Directors at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.

In addition, he was a participant in the original meeting of the Irish American Orthopedic Society in Killarney in 1979 and served as its President from 1999 to 2002.

He has also been active with the Gaelic American Club in Fairfield, CT for many years. The GAC had been founded in 1948 in Bridgeport, CT by a group of Irish immigrants, including Pat's parents, and continues today in Fairfield. He has held various positions within the GAC and has been President for 3 separate terms for a total of 6 years.

Elizabeth Crabill

Elizabeth Crabill is CEO of CIE Tours, the largest Irish-owned tour operator in North America having sent

more than 3 million travelers to the island of Ireland since the company was founded. With more than 20 years' experience leading sales, marketing, and strategy for some of the travel industry's best brands, Elizabeth has been involved in general management, innovation, transformation, and customer-focused strategy for companies from start-ups to Fortune 500. She took the reins of the highly established tour operator in 2016, with a mission to grow the business, expand the digital footprint

of the brand, raise the visibility of Irish tourism, and introduce a new generation of travelers to the tour experience. She is a graduate of Smith College with an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.



Maureen Bennett

Maureen Bennett represents life sciences and health care clients conducting global clinical trials and research collaborations. For almost 20 years, Maureen has advised clients on the contractual, regulatory, and ethical issues associated with clinical research. She negotiates clinical trial agreements, reviews informed consents, provides advice regarding novel patient recruitment strategies, and assists with interactions with regulatory agencies, including the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA).





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Shape the Future of Irish America



CAMPFIRE AGENDA

18 August

6pm **Private Dinner for Speakers/Honorees**

19 August

8:30am: **Registration & Tea/Coffee**
Lynch Pavilion

Campfire Conference: Romita Auditorium

9am: **Official Opening**
Fáilte/Welcome: Séamus Carey,
President Iona University
Secretary of Labor Martin J. Walsh
Joan McDonald, Director of Operations,
Westchester County

9:15am: **The Great Reset: Repurposing Irish Networks for the 21st Century**
CHAIR: Jim Frawley, Executive Coach,
Founder Bellwetherhub.com, NY
PANEL: Thomas J. Ryan, 2nd Vice President,
Grand Council of United Emeralds Societies Inc.
Danny O'Connell, President AOH, Youngstown, Ohio
Tori J.E. Riley, VP Saratoga Economic Development
Corporation, representing Irish Business
Organisation of New York
Martina Curtin, President Irish Cultural Center
of Greater Boston

From 9:45 Discussion with Audience

9:55am **How To Defuse a Bomb –
the Project Children Story**
Catherine Flood, Project Children, Yonkers, NY

10am: **Best in Class: San Francisco's
\$60m Irish Center Plan**

10:15am: **Innovating for the Post-Pandemic Era:
Creating Sustainable Irish Community Centers
& Hubs at the Heart of Rejuvenated Communities**
CHAIR: Aileen Leonard Dibra, Executive Director
Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers
PANEL: Maureen Kennedy, Co-Founder
Irish Heritage Center of Cincinnati
Natalie O'Shea, Executive Director,
Celtic Junction Arts Center, St Paul, MN
Pat Carolan, Former President Gaelic American Club,
Fairfield, CT
Liam Reidy, President United Irish Cultural Center,
San Francisco, CA



From 10:45 Discussion with Audience

10:55am: **The Importance of Ireland's
Great Hunger
to Future Generations**
Joe McDonagh, Director Ireland's
Great Hunger Bord, New York, NY

11am: **Best in Class: The Transatlantic
Partnership between the Celtic
Junction Arts Center of St Paul,
MN and Aonach Mhacha in
Armagh, Co Armagh**

11:15am: **Campfire Chat: Update on Ireland:
Defending Progress, Preparing for Change**
MODERATOR: Maureen Bennett,
Partner Jones Day, Boston
GUESTS: Gerry Adams
Congressman Brendan Boyle, Washington D.C.

11:40am: **The Black Abolitionists in Ireland**
Prof Christine Kinealy, Director Ireland's
Great Hunger Institute, Quinnipiac University,
Hamden, CT

11:45am: **The Road Less-Travelled –
Building Bridges to a Diverse America**
CHAIR: Elizabeth Stack, Executive Director Irish
American Heritage Museum, Albany, NY
PANEL: Sonnie W. Hereford IV, Huntsville, AL,
Organizer Huntsville St Patrick's Day Parade, 1996-2011,
First African-American Pupil in Alabama School System
Honorable Lois Galgay Reckitt, Representative
Maine State Legislature, Vice-Chair Maine Irish
Heritage Center, Portland, ME
Christian J. Bolden, Board Member African
American Irish Diaspora Network (AAIDN),
Washington D.C.
Connor Martinez, Chief of Staff for Mayor Eric
Adams' Community Affairs Unit, New York, NY
Theresa Tobin, Chief of Interagency Operations, NYPD

#IrishCampfire

August 19, 2022

Iona University, New Rochelle, NY

EVENT PARTNERS



Shape the Future of Irish America

**12:20pm: 'Marketing Ireland' in the USA —
How To Press the Right Green Buttons**
CHAIR: Sara Stanton, Cara Tourism, Boston, MA
PANEL: Alison Metcalfe, Executive Vice-President
USA & Canada, Tourism Ireland
Michael Morris, International Sales Director,
Hinch Distillery, Co Down
Michael Meade, Group CEO Sullivan's
Brewing Company, New York, NY
Elizabeth Crabill, CEO CIE Tours, Morristown, NJ
Jeff Wright, Director of Corporate Sales,
Aer Lingus North America

12:50pm: Video message from Foras na Gaeilge

**12:55pm: The Importance of Ireland's Great Hunger
to Future Generations**
John Foley, President Ireland's Great Hunger
Museum of Fairfield, Inc.

1pm: BIG IRISH CAMPFIRE AWARDS LUNCHEON
Venue: Burke Lounge
Campfire Keynote:
SPEAKER: Séamus Carey, President Iona University
'Building a Bright Future for Irish America —
Challenges and Opportunities'
*Introduced by Assemblymember Amy Paulin,
Scarsdale, NY*

SPECIAL AWARDEES
**THE BLACK AND THE GREEN
BRIDGE-BUILDER AWARD**
Sonnie W. Hereford IV

SPIRIT OF IRELAND AWARD
GRADAM SPIORAD NA HÉIREANN
Theresa Tobin, Chief of Interagency Operations, NYPD

WINGS OF IRISH AMERICA AWARD
Jeff Wright, Director of Sales North America,
Aer Lingus

**PRESENTATION OF
CAMPFIRE CARA MEDALS**
Presented to Champions of Irish America

2:30pm: Rob Walsh Neighbourhood Tour
Iona University - New Rochelle Town & Gown

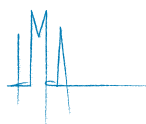
5pm: Big Irish Campfire Farewell Finale
Iona University Pipe Band
Vote of Thanks to Iona University: Brendan Cremins,
Business Development Executive Leader,
Gartner, Washington D.C.
Presentation of Irish Echo Person of the Year Award
to Christine Kinealy




The perfect fireside conversation starter

Irish artist Kevin McAleenan exhibits through select Irish galleries and further afield at leading international art fairs — he welcomes private commissions via enquiries@kevinmcaleenan.com

You can also browse and buy from a growing collection of Kevin's limited edition prints, featuring iconic Irish locations — from the Giant's Causeway to Dublin's Ha'penny Bridge (featured above). Each edition is strictly limited to 175 giclée prints, individually hand numbered, titled and signed by Kevin.




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Campfire Cara Medal Recipients and Speakers

Brendan Cremins

Brendan is a skilled Sales and Operations leader with over 11 years of commercial experience, working with two Fortune 500 organizations. As a proud Veteran, Brendan served nine years as a US Naval Flight Officer leading global operations as Mission Commander & Tactical Coordinator, Liaison Officer assigned to the Joint Special Operations Task Force – Philippines as well as the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá, Colombia, and White House Military Aide to the President and First Lady.

Upon separation from the military, Brendan joined ABM Industries as Regional Director of Operations. However, his desire to engage the military resound in his mind, so he accepted a position with Gartner, Inc. where his team provides research and advisory guidance to Federal and DOD Financial Managers who steward taxpayer funds and support the warfighters. As a strategic advisor and relationship manager, Brendan cultivates trusted partnerships across every level of an organization and strives to exemplify the Jesuit principle "men for others" in all that he does.

Brendan received his Bachelor of Science from the US Naval Academy and Master of Business Administration from Cornell University's Johnson Graduate School of Management. He is also honored to be a recipient of the 2016 Irish Echo 40-Under-40 Defending Freedom Award.



past twenty two years. Catherine's creative fundraising campaigns have been pivotal in developing and promoting many programs in New York for numerous charities, most prominently Project Children. She is a devoted volunteer with Project Children for over 25 years and an ardent promoter of the charity's documentary "How to Defuse a Bomb: A Project Children Story", an extraordinary

tale that celebrates the unsullied hard work and dedication of the Project Children Charity and one of its founding members, Denis Mulcahy, a retired and highly decorated NYPD Bomb Squad Officer.

The film documents the pursuit of reconciliation in Northern Ireland, whereby for 40 years, 24,000 children were offered a six-week summer reprieve from the sectarian violence of "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland.

Catherine is a founding member of Team Aisling New York and has run twelve marathons, primarily raising much needed funds for Special Needs Groups and the "Sláinte 2020" initiative in collaboration with the Team Aisling committee.

Catherine was recently presented with the "Community Spirit Award" by the New York GAA and has played a key role in the development of the Aisling Irish Community Center since it was founded twenty six years ago. Catherine continues to bring the NY Community creative and fun ideas and events, we look forward to whatever her next adventure might be.

John Foley

John is accepting this award on behalf of Ireland's Great Hunger Museum of Fairfield and the members of the Gaelic American Club of Fairfield. This volunteer group is leading the transition of

the Great Hunger Museum's collection from Quinnipiac University to Fairfield Connecticut, where a new facility will be opened that preserves and shares the history and lessons of Ireland's Great Hunger.



John is a native of Kerry, emigrating to New York City in the mid-nineties, where he was heavily involved in Irish culture through his passion for golf. He served as chairman of the Irish Open in Atlantic City for 15 years, making it the largest single Irish amateur golf event in the North-East, before moving to Easton, Connecticut in 2017. Here, he got involved with the Gaelic American Club in Fairfield and was elected its Vice President in 2021. The Gaelic American Club has a thriving, 6000 strong membership. The club was established in 1948 and has become a beacon of traditional Irish culture in Fairfield and beyond.

In 2022 Ireland's Great Hunger Museum of Fairfield was formed to coordinate the relocation of the world-famous Great Hunger Collection from Hamden to a new home in Fairfield adjacent to the Gaelic American Club. John was asked to serve as its inaugural President. He, along with many devoted fellow GAC members formed the board of the IGHMF and are working closely with representatives of Quinnipiac University to bring this collection to the heart of Fairfield County where the lessons and the stories from this seminal point in Irish history can be shared with a new, and even wider audience.



Catherine Flood

President of Catherine Flood Recruiting and Consulting Company (Eskra Personnel Inc.), Catherine's expertise in recruitment and special events has allowed her to work across a vast array of industries in New York for the

Jim Frawley

Executive Coach, Founder Bellwetherhub.com, NY and author of "Adapting in Motion: Finding Your Place in the New Economy" and Host of the Bellwether Hub Podcast, Jim is the Founder of Bellwether - a

company dedicated to helping organizations and people build resiliency, adapt to change and thrive in rapidly shifting contexts. He has worked with clients in eight countries and thirty-nine states to date to create and implement change management, corporate training, and strategic planning programs, as well as organizational redesigns.

Jim has a unique capability in getting people to do things they didn't think they could (as evidenced by convincing an Irish cousin to swim in the Hudson River.)

www.bellwetherhub.com



of Fame for her involvement in the Irish Community of Cleveland.

Connor Martinez

Connor Martinez is the current Chief of Staff for Mayor Eric Adams' Community Affairs Unit where he works to connect the communities of New York City directly to City Hall. Connor was the Citywide Field Director for Eric Adams' general election campaign after working as Field Manager during the primary election. He previously was a campaign associate at Red Horse Strategies, a lead political consulting firm based in Brooklyn, where he worked to elect candidates at the state, federal, and local level. Connor grew up in Queens, New York, graduated from Fordham University, and is a proud Irish-Cuban American.



Maureen A. Kennedy

Maureen A. Kennedy is co-founder and Vice President of the Irish Heritage Center of Cincinnati.

As such, her primary focus is program development. She contacts, negotiates and books musical, theatrical, literary, and visual artists performances, averaging some two dozen per annum. In addition, school trips to IHC, commemorations and celebrations of major Irish Historical events, the annual gala (the primary fundraiser for the Center), are her responsibility.

Maureen is the public face of the Cincinnati Irish Center, conducting radio and television interviews, videos on its YouTube channel, and editing the weekly email blast to members and friends of the IHC. Except during the pandemic, she traveled to Ireland scouting talent, visiting with key ministers and cultural ambassadors of the Republic and Northern Ireland one to three times each year.

Mentoring youth, Maureen has used her abilities to the first-ever Cincinnati area Ohio Rose of Tralee winner, promote a teen singer-songwriter to release a Nashville-produced CD, and helped two other young people achieve scholarships in music and education.

She has developed ties to all local Universities, availing of their capstone projects to improve the IHC and helped found the North American Irish Centers annual gathering. This girl is on fire.



Marilyn Madigan

Marilyn Madigan of Cleveland, Ohio is the National President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Inc. (LAOH) is the largest Irish American Catholic Women's Organization. (www.ladiesaoh.com) The LAOH is the Heart of Irish America demonstrated by their dedication and commitment to their local communities in promoting Irish history, culture and traditions. She is one of the Deputy Directors of the United Irish Societies of Cleveland whose responsibility is organizing the oldest St. Patrick's Day Parade in Ohio. As columnist to Irish, she shares her love of the LAOH and Irish History. In 2019, she was Inducted into the Cleveland International Hall



Joseph P. McDonagh CLU, ChFC

1971: Boston College, Bachelor of Arts, cum laude
Professional
2004-present: Independent broker
1990-2013: Financial Advisor, MML Investors Services, Inc.
2013-present: Financial Advisor, Waddell &

Reed/LPL Financial
1990-2004: Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company Insurance Agent
1987-1990: Chas. P. Young Company, financial printers
Sales
1982-1987: Renaissance Printing, financial printers, Sales Professional Designations
Chartered Life Underwriter, Chartered Financial Consultant
Community Service
2009-2011: Member, Board of Directors, Sustinet
2007-2010: Member, Connecticut State Insurance Commissioner's Consumer Council
2004-2012: Chair, Hamden Democratic Town Committee

2005-present: OSCE short-term election observer: Moldova, Kazakhstan (twice), Ukraine (twice), Armenia, Azerbaijan (twice), Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Russian Federation, Albania
1992-1998, 2000-present: Hamden Planning & Zoning Commission (chair, 1995-1998; 2006-2012)
2001-2004: Hamden, New Haven, West Haven Cable Television Advisory Council (secretary, 2001-2004)
2012-present: Member, Board of Directors, Hamden Chamber of Commerce
2002-2004: Chairman, Hamden Legislative Council Redistricting Committee
2012: Member, Hamden Legislative Council Redistricting Committee
2017-present: Docent, Ireland's Great Hunger Museum



Shape the Future of Irish America

Emerald Societies represent best of Irish wherever green is worn

by Brian John Sharkey

It was during the 1950s that the movement for Emerald Societies took hold with the formation of the NYPD Emerald Society (Police Department, City of New York) on March 16, 1953, NYCD Emerald Society (Correction Department, City of New York) on November 17, 1955, and FDNY Emerald Society (Fire Department, City of New York) on March 17, 1956.

The movement led to the formation of Emerald Societies in New York City and across the country.

The founders of the respective Emerald Societies, mindful of the fact that the average Irish organization is composed of Irish people from every walk of life, decided that the idea of occupational groups under the name of "Emerald Society" would provide a means of enabling Irish people by birth or ancestry, to meet their "Brother and Sister Emeralds" in the same agency, trade, or profession.

More importantly, it would be a new approach for people of Irish heritage to continue perpetuating their history, customs, traditions, and accomplishments.

HISTORY OF THE GRAND COUNCIL

It's often been said that the Irish stand together only during the Gospel in Church. That rule applied to Emerald Societies too. At one point, three Grand Councils existed, and an Emerald Society would leave one Grand Council and switch to another at the slightest notice.

The Grand Council of Irish Societies Inc was founded on June 29, 1956, in New York City, and William J. McGowan (NYPD ES) was elected as the first President. By 1958 the Council had 65,000 members in all Emerald Societies and Irish American societies in Federal, State, and City civil service.

The meetings were held at the Irish Institute of New York, 326 West 48 street NY, NY. In 1968 the Grand Council of Irish Societies Inc changed its name to The National Grand Council of Irish Emerald Societies Inc.

The Grand Council of Emerald Societies Inc was incorporated on May 29, 1958, and the Grand Council of Police Emerald Societies was formed in the 1970s.

In the early 1970s, the Grand Council was down to two groups. The Grand Council of Emerald Societies, headed by William J. McGowan (NYPD ES), had several Police Emerald Societies and The National Grand Council of Irish Emerald Societies, led by John P. Clark (NYCD ES), had Emerald Societies in the public service and private sector.

In the Spring of 1974, Frank Cull, legendary Irish Echo columnist "Round the Emerald Green," was approached to mediate a merger and was named Pro-Temp. Attorney Thomas McCarthy set out to



UNITING THE IRISH: Peter Whalen, President of the Grand Council of United Emerald Societies, addressing the Irishman of Year gala in Antun's, Queen's, New York

settle differences in constitutions, by-laws, treasuries, and other legal matters. Thomas Reilly of the PAPD ES suggested the delegate body overwhelmingly accepted the name, Grand Council of United Emerald Societies (emphasizing "United"), and Paul Cinder of the MAB-STOA ES designed the logo.

A constitution-formation committee was named, and the group consisted of Pat Heslin (PAPD ES), Ed Hazel (DSNY ES), Jack Clark (NYCD ES), and Matt Walsh (NYC TAPD ES). In December of 1974, the first elections were held at the Irish Institute in Manhattan, and Jack Clark (NYCD ES) was elected the first President with his term of office to commence on January 1, 1975. The Grand Council of United Emerald Societies (GCUES) became a reality.



HISTORICAL EMERALD MOMENTS IN TIME

The NYPD Emerald Society was organized on March 16, 1953. The first president was Henry Fitzgerald.

The NYCD Emerald Society was organized on November 17, 1955. The first president was James Mulvey.

The FDNY Emerald Society was organized on March 17, 1956. The first president was Eugene O'Kane.

The New York City Department of Sanitation Irish American Association (IAA) was organized in 1938. The organization's first president was William Nally Sr. The IAA officially changed its name to the DSNY Emerald Society in 1985.

The Postal Employees Sons of Erin (affiliated with the American Fraternity of Sons Erin), Inc was organized on June 7, 1939. The Postal Employees Sons of Erin changed their name to the Emerald Soci-



CELEBRATING IRISH HERITAGE: Fire chief Eddie Boles was honored by the Emerald Societies in New York.

ety of the New York Post Office, Inc on February 27, 1957.

The New York City Transit Authority Emerald Society comprises Subway engineers, conductors, tradespeople, and support staff organized in 1961. The first president of the organization was Gregory Perrin.

The Parade Delegates elected GCUES President James "Barney" Ferguson (NYPD ES) as the Grand Marshal of the 1978 New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

The Emerald Society of the Federal Law Enforcement Agencies (ESFLEA) was organized in New York City in 1995 by USINS Inspectors with common interests, heritage, and desire to improve their professional agency.

Rebuffed by their agency, the ESFLEA founders decided to expand the scope of their fraternal and social organization nationally by including all federal law enforcement agencies. Federal law enforcement officers such as Special Agents, Police Officers, and Customs and Border Protection officers of Irish/Gaelic descent are eligible to join.

The National Conference of Law En-

forcement Emerald Societies Inc (NCLEES) was organized in 1995 by native New Yorker Patrick J. O'Brien (PES Washington DC), who served as its first president. The main objective of the National Conference of Law Enforcement Emerald Societies is to unite all public safety Emerald Societies to develop fraternalism amongst its members, preserve the Irish culture, promote the contributions of our ancestors, and recognize the accomplishments of Irish Americans in Law Enforcement and other public safety professions.

Fifteen of the GCUES-affiliated organizations are members of the NCLEES.

GCUES TODAY

Reorganized in 1975, the Grand Council has over 20,000 members, serves as the political umbrella group of 25 Affiliated Emerald Societies, and is the governing body selecting the Aide to Grand Marshal representing the Emerald Societies in the New York Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

The Grand Council has Affiliates in California, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Washington DC. The affiliated organizations serve in front-line professions such as Law Enforcement, Fire Service, EMS, Education, Waste Management, Mass Transit, and Public Utilities.

The Grand Council meets on the first Wednesday of the month at a different location in NYC, Westchester, and Long Island. The Grand Council does not meet in July and August.

If you are interested in starting an Emerald Society or your Emerald Society wants to affiliate, please email us at info@gcues.org.

The Grand Council has a dedicated website at www.gcues.org and is extensively represented on social media. You can follow us at Facebook @gcuesinc, Instagram @gcuesinc and Twitter @gcuesinc.

The Grand Council of United Emerald Societies is a partner in the 2022 Big Irish Campfire which takes place in Iona University, New Rochelle, NY, on 19 August.

Campfire Cara Medal Recipients and Speakers

Joan McDonald

Joan McDonald is an experienced executive in public management, transportation, economic and community development, public finance and public policy.

On January 1, 2018, Westchester County Executive George Latimer appointed Joan Director of Operations for the County. As the Director of Operations, Joan is responsible for setting all public policies for the County; has direct supervision over the 12 County Departments and 4,500 employees. Joan has direct responsibility for overseeing the \$2 billion County budget. Since March 2020, Joan has led Westchester County's COVID response and vaccine effort.

In August 2020, Joan was appointed Chair of the New York State Bridge Authority Board of Commissioners. Joan served as Commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation from 2011 - 2015, overseeing 8,300 employees with an annual budget of \$4 billion. Under Joan's leadership NYSDOT implemented 30 design/build, best value contracts, including the \$550 million Kosciuszko Bridge, the Department's largest contract. As Commissioner, Joan chaired the Northeast Corridor Commission; served on the Tappan Zee Bridge Blue Ribbon Selection Panel; co-chaired the Tappan Zee Bridge Mass Transit Task Force and served on the Executive Committee of the Transportation Research Board.

As Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development from 2007 to 2010 Joan led CT's economic development efforts through the "Great Recession". During her tenure, Joan chaired Connecticut Innovations, investing funds in various start-up companies in the biotechnical, aviation and IT sectors. Under her leadership, the State developed its first ever strategic economic development plan; negotiated agreements with several Fortune 500 companies and initiated transit oriented development in all of Connecticut's major cities.

Joan has served in senior management positions for the City of New York, Metro-North Railroad and the New York State Assembly. From August 2015 through December 2019, Joan served on the National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC), where she participated in studies related to water resiliency and cyber security on a national level. From September 2016 through December 2020 she was on the TRB policy committee to evaluate the future of the Interstate Highway System, including the impact of climate change. Joan received her Bachelor of Arts from LeMoyne College and her Masters of Public Administration from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Michael Meade

Michael Meade is the Group CEO of Sullivan's Brewing Company. Michael is also the Founder and Co-Managing Partner of 1702 Irish Ales Group LLC, a vehicle which was formed to provide Sullivan's Brewing Company with its initial seed capital as well as additional ongoing investment.

Recently Michael co-founded and is Co-Managing Partner of Foraging Partners LLC, an entity for investing in start-up and early-stage companies. Michael spent twenty-five years on Wall Street, the



first half of which was in Institutional Fixed Income roles across the spectrum of credit products at Deutsche Bank and Morgan Stanley, primarily covering central banks, asset managers, public pensions, and state treasury clients.

Ultimately, Michael held Managing Director positions in Equity Finance at both Morgan Stanley and Citi, with his primary focus being on the hedge fund client base. Michael earned his double major in Political Science (elected to Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society) and Spanish Studies at Fordham University in the Bronx.



Alison Metcalfe

Alison Metcalfe, Head of North America, Australia, Tourism Ireland Based in New York, Alison was appointed Head of North America in June 2013, where she has responsibility for leading Tourism Ireland's Marketing Strategy and Operations in the USA and Canada. In June 2017, Alison also assumed responsibility for Tourism Ireland's operations in Australia/New Zealand.

Alison joined Tourism Ireland in 2002 and previously held the position of Vice President Marketing, USA. Prior to moving to New York, she was responsible for Tourism Ireland's operations in Canada based in Toronto.

Alison has extensive destination marketing experience and a record of achievement in building and leading high-performance teams. Her career has spanned strategy development, brand management, integrated consumer marketing, communications and stakeholder management. Alison has worked in the UK, Europe and North America.

Alison also serves as Chair of the European Travel Commission, USA Chapter.

Michael Morris

Married and Living in Belfast I am the International Sales Director for Hinch Distillery located in Co Down N Ireland. Educated at Queens University in Belfast and a past pupil of St Marys Christian Brothers Grammar School, I have worked in the drinks



business for over 30 years in the beer, wine and now spirit sectors - specifically involved in the dynamic growth of Irish Whisky for the last 20 years. Enjoy travelling the world in search of markets for our Irish Whiskey brand Hinch and our Gin brand The Ninth Wave and despite Covid we are exporting to over 28 countries around the world. Looking forward to the next five years when our own distillery spirit matures into the finest single Malt Whiskey.

Outside of work I have a large loving family and enjoy nothing more than getting back on track with our family gatherings that have suffered in the last 18 months. Love Celtic FC and hoping for a much better season this year and high hopes for the new manager and team.

www.hinchdistillery.com



Danny O'Connell

Daniel J O'Connell became the 49th president of The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America on July 24th, 2020 after serving 12 years as an elected officer. During his time on the

national board, he brought a keen focus to marketing, recruiting and retention of membership. Danny led the AOH Marketing and Promotions team which developed the first advertising program for the Order and created the current logo highlighting "Irish - Catholic - American".

Danny O as he is often titled developed the first ever AOH zoom webinar for the 2020 national convention which set a record attendance with over 600 delegates joining throughout the event. As the Covid President he hosted over 100 Zoom webinars and meetings and joined countless others. He created a bridge to Ireland for the Hibernians with numerous guests from the Republic and the North of Ireland.

As president, he continued to embrace the Zoom webinar tool hosting regular events with speakers from around Ireland north and south. He established four pillars of focus for the AOH which include 1) Hibernian Charity Appeal, 2) Freedom for All Ireland Christmas Appeal, 3) Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal, and 4) Membership growth and retention.

O'Connell was installed for his second term as national president of The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America on July 16, 2022.

Currently the Director of Support Services at Youngstown State University in Ohio, O'Connell was a small college all-American football player at Hiram College where he also began his 22-year rugby career. Today he is an avid cyclist.

Natalie O'Shea

Natalie is founder and Executive Director of the Celtic Junction Arts Center of Minnesota, and an active member of Irish Network, and the Midwest and National Irish Cultural Centers of North America (N I C C o N A), representing her region nationally and internationally.

She is an actor, speaker, and writer/ director of three annual productions with an international resume of theater work. Natalie has presented with Global MN, the Irish Echo National Campfire, on Irish Stew Podcasts, and founded and hosts a Social Justice Seminar Series. Natalie has been published in the Harp and Loon Anthology, contributes to MN's quarterly arts review CJAR; is an Advisory Editor for University of St. Thomas's New Hibernia Review; and contributes regularly to the Irish Echo and Irish Central.

She won a T.O.S.C.A. award for "Lighting the Way for Celtic Culture." Under her leadership, Celtic Junction Arts Center won the award for Best Irish Cultural Center with Irish Central in 2018. She was honored in NYC as one of the Irish Echo's "Arts & Culture Heroes", and as a "Rebuilder of Irish America" in 2021. She toured the world for three and a half years with Riverdance, The Show where she met her husband Cormac Ó Sé before moving to Dublin.

Irish Stew Podcast speaks with Natalie O'Shea: Minnesota Public Radio speaks with Natalie O'Shea.



"Get Up Your Irish" - a story of Irish immigration to Minnesota written by Natalie O'Shea, produced at Stepping Stone Theater International Connections - with Natalie O'Shea & Celtic Junction Arts Center.

"Finding Minnesota", a WCCO short on MN's Irish Cultural Center Irish Central: "Best Irish Cultural Center 2018" <https://celticjunction.org/outreach/social-justice-seminars/> - CJAC's Social Justice Seminars: This volume The Harp and the Loon Anthology: Natalie O'Shea; Literary Bridges Between Ireland and Minnesota

Lois Reckitt

Lois Galgay Reckitt graduated from Brandeis University in the midst of the turbulent 60's with a degree in biology. In 1968, she moved to Maine and took her first job at SMVTI teaching marine science.

In the 70's she rediscovered her passion for activism - both in the feminist - and then the LGBT movements. By the 80's she was director of Family Crisis Services where she served for 37 years abused women and their children. In this same period, she co-founded the Maine Women's Lobby, lobbied for passage of Maine's first civil rights law for the LGBT community. Nationally, she co-founded The Human Rights Campaign Fund and served two terms as Executive Vice President of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Now that she is purportedly retired, Lois represents the ocean end of South Portland in the Maine State House of Representatives and has since 2016.

In her so-called free time Lois has served as the Secretary, then Vice-Chair and now Treasurer of the Maine Irish Heritage Center in Portland, Maine - as well as working with many others to establish the Irish Caucus in the Maine Legislature. She knows her very Irish father would be very proud of her activism.



Liam Reidy

Originally from Bradford, in west Limerick, Liam has called San Francisco home since 1997. He joined the United Irish Cultural Center (UICC) board in the spring of 2019.

Since that time, he has led the expansion of Irish cultural programming at the Center.

Liam became President of the UICC in January, 2021 and since that time has developed an ambitious plan to rebuild the Irish Center, with a dedicated group of board and community members.

The plans will replace the existing two story 20,000 sq. foot structure with a state-of-the-art new community center encompassing 120,000 sq. feet of space - within an eight story structure.





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Campfire Cara Medal Recipients and Speakers

Tori J.E. Riley

Vice President, Saratoga Economic Development Corporation
Tori J.E. Riley is a longtime regional business advocate, economic development professional and a proud Irish colleen.

Mrs. Riley is the Vice President and Economic Development Specialist with the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation and is part of a team that helps attract and retain thousands of jobs and encourages millions of dollars in new capital investment; resulting in being the lowest taxed county in NY state and continuing course as one of the fastest growing.

Prior to that, she served five years as President/CEO of the Washington County Local Development Corp., preceded by years with the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce, as both the Program Director and then the President/CEO. Mrs. Riley is the first female President/CEO in the Chamber's 107-year history to date. Tori also has expertise in personnel and recruiting with over 14 years in the employment industry.

Saratoga's heritage has strong Irish roots with John Morrissey being instrumental in creating a beneficial economy that has been built upon to what we enjoy today. In her current role, she leads FDI efforts and works with Ireland based organizations to assist and support global ambitions in the US market. A native of the region, Mrs. Riley and her husband, Kevin, own and operate a boutique farm in Upstate NY. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Adirondack Economic Development Corporation and a 25+ year member of VFW Post 2475 in Glens Falls NY, spending time volunteering and advocating on behalf of veterans and senior citizen programming and services.



celebrations include the Irish Soda Bread Competition, 5k Sweat-er Run, and St. Patrick's Day Family Fest.

Elizabeth joined the museum from Fordham University, where she taught Irish and Irish American History and was an Associate Director of the Institute of Irish Studies. She completed her PhD at Fordham, writing about Irish and German immigrants in New York at the turn of the twentieth century, as they grappled with the immigration restriction movements of that time.

A native of Listowel, in Co. Kerry, Elizabeth sees a huge connection between her own experience as an immigrant, and the important mission of the museum to preserve and share Irish heritage and culture. The museum is a 501(c)3 nonprofit created by the New York State Legislature in 1986 and permanently chartered by the Board of Regents of New York as an educational institution in 1992. It explores the contributions, history, and culture of Irish people in America, and fosters dialogue and exchange between America and Ireland today. "By sharing our stories, we strive to create connections and community between all Americans, as we appreciate and study the universality of the immigrant story in American history." She is delighted to lead the museum in its cultural and educational initiatives.

Sara Stanton

Managing Director caragrouptravel.com
Sara Stanton grew up in County Mayo in the West of Ireland. After graduating with an honours degree in Hotel Management Business from GMIT in Galway, she emigrated to the U.S. on a Morrison Visa in 2003. After 10 years

working at Hyatt Hotels in Washington D.C. and Chicago, Sara moved to Boston, Massachusetts to work for Brian Moore



International Tours as a Group Travel Manager. Sara's success quickly accelerated and she became President of BMIT. In this role she was instrumental in growing the business and generating substantial travel numbers to Ireland.

In 2012, with the strong encouragement and support of her existing clients, Sara founded Cara Group Travel. Cara Group Travel sends over 3,500 travelers to Ireland and Northern Ireland every year. Her company has created countless memories, vivid experiences and

cherished stories for a wide range of clientele including academic, heritage, musical, professional, religious, sporting and touring groups. This includes sporting events such as the Belfast Friendship Four Ice Hockey Tournament, large incentive groups such as Domino's Pizza Franchise owners, trade missions with EO Boston, Belfast - Boston sister city group and the Cork County Economic Development Partnership with the City of Quincy.

Sara has developed a very dynamic, knowledgeable and creative team. Cara Group Travel prides itself on exceeding expectations and in particular identifying that distinctive event that changes a client's experience from a great one to an unforgettable one. Sara's hands on and personal approach has resulted in long lasting client relationships and a unique position for her company within the travel business.

Peter Whalen

Peter Whalen was born and raised in Bay Ridge. He is the youngest son of the late Patrick & Anna Whalen. Peter traces his Irish roots to his Father's parents, the late Michael & Catherine Whalen. His Grandfather Michael was born and raised in Renvyle, Co. Galway he emigrated to the U.S. in 1910. His Grandmother



Catherine (nee Coyne) was born and raised in Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo she emigrated to the U.S. in 1915. They married in 1920. They raised 5 children James, John, Mary, Patrick & Catherine. They lived in the Bronx and finally settled

in Brooklyn in the 1930's.

Peter's Mother Anna Pauline (nee Lane) was born and raised in Athleague, Co. Roscommon. She is youngest of 7 children born to the late Patrick & Abby Lane. She immigrated to England in 1943. She returned to Ireland in 1947 before emigrating to the U.S. She settled in Sunnyside Queens with her Aunt Marie Opault (Finneran) & her brother Andrew.

Peter's parents married in 1953, settled in Sunset Park, Brooklyn and in 1960 they moved to Bay Ridge, Brooklyn where they raised five children Thomas, Patrick Jr, Maureen, Joseph and the late Kevin. Peter attended Our Lady of Angels grammar school & Fort Hamilton High School. He started his Law Enforcement career with the New York City Transit Police in 1986. In 1995 he joined the NYPD with the merge of the 2 departments. He recently retired from the NYPD Emergency Service Unit. Peter is President of the Grand Council of United Emerald Societies. He is the Past President of the NYPD Emerald Society. He is also a member of the NYPD Holy Name Society, NYPD Honor Legion, & AOH Division #22. Peter is married to Madeline (Smith) and has 2 children Peter Jr. and Victoria Patricia. They live in Bay Ridge Brooklyn, New York.

Rob Walsh

Rob Walsh serves as Senior Advisor to the President of Manhattan College and is also an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University School of Public and International Affairs and at Baruch's School of Public and International Affairs.

His segment "The Bottom Line for Small Business" airs on 1010 WINS Radio where he is also the moderator of the Small Business Challenge which recognizes the work of entrepreneurs in New York Metropolitan area.

In January 2002, Mayor Michael Bloomberg appointed Walsh the Commissioner of the Department of Small Business Services (SBS). During his twelve years, SBS became one of the city's most innovative agencies in serving the needs of its 200,000 small businesses.

Walsh re-energized the City's business improvement districts and created an award-winning commercial revitalization and neighborhood leadership program in partnership with the Coro Foundation. Under his leadership, seven NYC Business Solutions Centers were established that secured more than \$200 million for small businesses in the last six years of his tenure. He introduced NYC Business Express an online tool for the license, permit, tax, and incentive information that businesses need to operate. He created a wide array of entrepreneurial courses and forged new partnerships with groups including the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Program, Interise, and the Kauffman Foundation. Walsh also built a new business-focused approach to the workforce system that placed nearly 200,000 people in jobs through 17 workforce career centers.



Prior to his service with the City, Walsh served as President of Charlotte Center City Partners in North Carolina, an organization dedicated to improving and growing Charlotte's central business district. He led the Center City 2010 Master Plan that laid the groundwork for significant private and public investments in the core of the city including more housing, retail development, an NBA basketball arena, a minor league baseball stadium, cultural facilities, a light rail line, and parks. He also initiated the recruitment efforts that attracted Johnson & Wales University to the Center City.

From 1989 to April 1997, he led the Union Square Partnership, where he played an instrumental role in the neighborhood's revitalization. During the 1980's, he worked in the administration of Mayor Edward I. Koch. He began his career in public service as a New York City Urban Fellow, a program he later directed.

Walsh holds a Bachelors in Political Science and Masters in Public Affairs from Fordham University. He also participated in the Senior Executive Program in State and Local Government at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Martin Cottingham

Martin Cottingham is a Principal specializing in transaction management in Avison Young's New York office. A real estate veteran with over 23 years of experience, Cottingham's success leading major initiatives at Avison Young is the product of his hard work, knowledge of the industry and unique background.

Cottingham is a preferred provider for national transactions for JPMorgan Chase, providing an array of services including office and retail leasing, consulting and sales in cities across the country.

His tireless efforts working with NYU Winthrop University Hospital's real estate task force reduced portfolio operating costs across the owned and leased facilities in the hospital's network, enabling the institution to identify over \$5 million in savings. Cottingham also worked with city officials to transform vacant lots on Brooklyn's Coney Island Boardwalk into the stunning 5,000-seat Ford Amphitheater.

Cottingham's accomplishments have been recognized by the Real Estate Board of New York, which named him a finalist for the Most Ingenious Deal of the Year Award for arranging the relocation of the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) headquarters from Harlem to 1133 Avenue of the Americas. The NBPA project also received the Design & Construction of a New Facility Award from the New York Chapter of the International Facility Management Association.

Previously, Cottingham was a Managing Director of the Corporate Services Group, for Grubb & Ellis (now Newmark Knight Frank), where he oversaw the firm's corporate services in the Northeast region. Prior to joining Grubb & Ellis, Cottingham was a Managing Director at Bear Stearns & Company, where he was responsible for all global facility management, property management, design, development, construction, facility planning, furniture procurement and corporate services units for a real estate portfolio totaling more than 4 million square feet. Prior to being named Managing Director, Cottingham oversaw all site activities for the development of Bear Stearns' 1.2 million-square-foot world headquarters at 383 Madison Avenue.



Thomas Ryan

Thomas Ryan is married to Rosemaria Ryan and has two children, son Jack (Age 3) and daughter Emma (Age 6 mo.) He was born 1983 in Breezy Point, NY. and currently resides in Long Beach, NY. Thomas is a graduate of Xavier H.S. Brooklyn, NY, and Manhattan College, Riverdale NY with a B.A. in Corporate Communications He is currently a Sergeant in the Emergency Service Unit/ Port Authority Police Department of NY/NJ, he is the President of the PAPD Emerald Society and the 2nd VP of Grand Council of United Emerald Societies.



Dr. Elizabeth Stack

Dr. Elizabeth Stack is responsible for operating the Irish American Heritage Museum, located at 21 Quackenbush Square. Through both a permanent collection and a series of changing exhibitions, the Museum displays artifacts, recounts first-person stories, and explores the history of a variety of Irish immigrants and individuals with Irish heritage, from U.S. presidents and cultural icons to nameless soldiers and factory workers. The IAHM's robust series of programming includes lectures, musical performances, cooking demonstrations and tastings, film screenings, plays and staged readings, and more. Most programs are available both in-person and virtually, which allows them to reach viewers across the entire United States and in Ireland. Annual in-person events and





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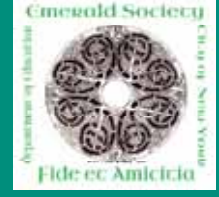
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and the Irish Echo staff*

*Fraternally,
Sean Rourke, President*



New York City Department of Education
Emerald Society
P.O. Box 604195
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Donna M. McGuire, President



The New York City Department of Education Emerald Society

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wishes to congratulate

Theresa Tobin

Chief of Interagency Operations, NYPD

as

The Emerald Special Awardee

and

Welcomes as Our Special Guest

from Ireland

Gerry Adams

on the occasion of

The 2022 Big Irish Campfire

Donna McGuire,

President

Campfire Cara Medal Recipients and Speakers

J. Kent Covey,

J. Kent Covey, IHCCF President, is former President and Chairman of the Board, Plas-Tanks Industries, Inc. Kent is a graduate of the US Naval Academy, a US Marine Corps helicopter pilot, serving in Vietnam, and as an instructor pilot in Pensacola, FL. during his tour of active duty. He has a BS in Engineering from USNA and an MBA from the University of W Florida. He has served as Operations Manager, Building Manager, CFO and CEO during his time at the Irish Center and is the primary grantwriter and fundraiser.



With his wife Maureen Kennedy, Kent Co-Founded the Cincinnati Irish Center in 2009. Charged with executing the programming established each year, and ensuring its financial stability, he has steered the ship through the shoals and dangers of shuttering the venue during the Covid pandemic while maintaining the finances in the black for the past ten years.

Kent has three children and nine grandchildren to whom he wants to transfer his passion for singing, theater, history and Irish heritage.

Christine Kinealy

Since completing her PhD at Trinity College in Dublin, Professor Christine Kinealy has worked in educational and research institutes in Ireland, England and, more recently, in the United States. In September 2013, Christine



was appointed the founding Director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut.

Christine has published extensively on modern Ireland, her books including This Great Calamity.

The Great Famine in Ireland, The Hidden Famine: Hunger, Poverty and Sectarianism in Belfast 1840-50 (with Gerard MacAtasney, 2002) and, with artist John Walsh, a graphic novel, The Bad Times or An Drochshaol (2016). Her more recent research is on the abolition movement in Ireland and her

publications include Frederick Douglass in Ireland. In his own words (2018) and Black Abolitionists in Ireland (2020). She is currently completing a second volume of Black Abolitionists. In May 2021, Christine launched the Frederick Douglass Walking Trails in Dublin, Belfast and Cork, which are part of a larger project to create a Frederick Douglass Way in Ireland.

In 2017, Christine received an Emmy for her contribution to the documentary, 'The Great Hunger and the Irish Diaspora'. In 2018, she was named an international ambassador for Belfast. She has frequently been included in the Top 100 Educators in Irish America. When not researching, writing or teaching, Christine likes to relax by watching soccer or walking her collie, Cú. Her proudest achievements are her children—Siobhán, who was born in Dublin, and Ciarán, who was born in Belfast.

THE BIG IRISH CAMPFIRE 2021

Last year's inaugural Irish Echo Campfire was a virtual affair due to Covid-19. This year's Campfire was a hybrid gathering with participants in the conference taking part virtually from afar and in person at Rosie O'Grady's in Manhattan. The conference was followed by a dinner at which the "Rebuilders" of Irish America were

honored. Participants in the conference and dinner traveled from all over the U.S. to discuss Irish American and Irish issues of culture and heritage, as well as current events and community priorities going forward. Photos by Nuala Purcell.



Professor Christine Kinealy.



Seamus Ó Fiannghusa SSG National Guard, Fighting 69th, Sandra Feeney-Charles, Aisling Center, and Rob Walsh, Manhattan College with Irish Echo Director of Business Development Paul Finnegan.



Peter Whalen, President of the Grand Council of United Emerald Societies, Seoirsín Ní Mheachair, VÍ Daltai na Gaeilge, Maura Clare, Irish Network USA and Shelly Ann Quilty-Lake of IBO.



Deputy Consul General Ireland Sean O'hAodha, Maudy Dooher, Irish Cultural Center of New England, Marilyn Madigan, VP Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Colonel Michael Shinnors (Ret.), and John Donovan.



Natalie Nugent-O'Shea, Celtic Junction Arts Center, St. Paul.



Eugene O'Flaherty of Ballard Partners, Grace Moran, Elizabeth Stack of the Irish American Heritage Museum, Albany, Eileen Scully, founder of The Rising Tides, and Brian Moran, CEO of Small Business Edge.



James Daugherty of the Irish Cultural Center & McClelland Library Arizona, Conor Hawkins, General Manager of the Curtiss Hotel in Buffalo, NY and Danny O'Connell, National President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.



NY State Assembly Member Michael Fitzpatrick, Professor Christine Kinealy of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute, Caoimhe Nic Giollarnáith, Irish language teacher at the Irish Arts Center, Caron McMahon of the Irish Heritage Club Seattle and Catherine Barry, director of Irish Culture Bay Area in San Francisco.



Catriona Clarke and Sandra Feeney-Charles.

THE BIG IRISH CAMPFIRE 2021



Francis Schott, Gwen Glazier, Jere Cole and Barbara Lyons.



Bernadette Foley of the Irish American Home Society, Bob Kearney of the Maine Irish Heritage Center, NY State Senator Tim Kennedy, Brendan Costello, Jr. Irish American Writers and Artists and singer, songwriter Andy Cooney.



Peter Whalen, Eileen Scully and Danny O'Connell.



Ciara Archer, Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library Arizona, Leo McGuire, LPM Strategies, LLC, Kieran McGil, The NY Great Irish Fair, and Gwen Glazier, the Women of Irish Heritage Inc., NJ.



Caron McMahon and Catherine Barry.



Elizabeth Stack and Maudy Doohar.



Members of the New York and New Jersey Ancient Order of Hibernians and Irish Echo Publisher Mairtin O'Muilleoir.



Caoimhe Nic Giollarnáith.



NY State Senator Tim Kennedy and Conor Hawkins.



Sean O'Dowd, Nick Malito, and Sean O'hAodha.



Mark Guilfoyle, Leo and Wendy McGuire.



NY State Senator Tim Kennedy.

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