Friday 28 August 2020

THE BIG IrishEcho CAMPFIRE
A VIRTUAL FORUM ACROSS AMERICA

Coming together to survive the Pandemic and emerge stronger and better
(while ensuring the bridge to Ireland remains open for better days ahead)

www.belfasthomecoming.com
#BelfastHome

irishecho.com/campfire
#IrishCampfire

--- OUR CAMPFIRE LEADERS ---
I suppose I should be feeling a little uncomfortable for saying this. But an upside of the Covid crisis is that it has enabled us to embrace Irish America — from Hilo to Hartford and points in between — in a way once thought impossible.

After all, given costs, logistics, distances and of course busy lives, only a person with a Star Trek transporter could ever suggest bringing the champions of Irish America together in one place and on one day. Never mind, invite them on a camping trip.

But as the world is upended, we have landed on top — in terms of our connections across Irish America — courtesy of Zoom, Skype, Google Teams and the wonder of broadband.

And that’s where the Campfire comes in.

As the name suggests, the Campfire will be more collegial than a conference, more fun than a forum, and more powwow than Powerpoint.

It’s founder Joseph A. Aquino, President, is recognized worldwide as an advisor to retailers, restauranteurs, hotels and property owners. The quintessential deal maker, he is recognized worldwide as an advisor to retailers, restauranteurs, hotels and property owners. The quintessential deal maker, he is recognized worldwide as an advisor to retailers, restauranteurs, hotels and property owners.

JAACRES has a team of experienced, knowledgeable professionals that were either previous business owners or heads of corporations.

Its president, Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, is Publisher of the Irish Echo.

IRISH AMERICA bridges the miles

By Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

Tourism Ireland is responsible for marketing the island of Ireland overseas as a leading vacation destination.

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Message from President Michael D. Higgins
Big Irish Echo Campfire

Is eis mhór áthais dom beannachtaí a chur chuig sa ghéine atá crúinntigh le chéile le haghaidh The Big Irish Echo Campfire.

May I send my best wishes to all those gathered together for the Big Irish Echo Campfire, and through you, to the broader Irish community throughout the United States.

As we joined one another in fighting the global health emergency presented by the Coronavirus pandemic we, in Ireland, remained greatly conscious of the profound link we share with our American Irish family despite the many thousands of kilometres that may separate us.

The depth of our connection is maintained and nurtured by the generous spirit of solidarity that has always defined the Irish community in the United States. The Irish Echo has played its own significant role in keeping that spirit alive by providing, for almost a century, an important voice and forum for our Irish community in the USA.

Today you continue that vital work, despite these socially distanced times, by gathering Irish American Associations from across the USA to discuss, together, how we might navigate our way safely towards a shared and brighter future.

I am greatly impressed by the breadth and depth of your programme for today, and by the wide range of experts who have agreed to participate. We know that the current Covid-19 crisis has had devastating consequences for so many across the globe, impacting on the worlds of trade, business, culture, health, education among the poorest and altering significantly how we may interact in our daily lives together.

Our response to these challenges will require moral courage, innovation and resolve as we work to craft a post-pandemic future, born out of crisis but built on a new understanding of the values that must lie at the heart of a truly functioning world.

Conversations such as the ones being initiated amongst you today will be critical to the construction of such a future.

The Irish story in the US is one of hard work, resilience and achievement at the highest level across so many areas of American society. It is inspiring to see that story continues to be written in a way that makes us, in Ireland, so very proud of our Irish American family.

Now, more than ever, is a time for unity and for us to work together, in solidarity and compassion, to come through this difficult period and craft a better and brighter future for both our nations. For generations of Irish people, cruthaitheacht and samhlaiocht, creativity and imagination, have been our greatest resource.

I thank you all for taking part in this important event and for supporting the Irish community in the United States to remain vibrant and connected to each other and to the country of their birth or forefathers.

I wish you a most fruitful gathering, and every success as you continue your important work.

Go raibh mile maith agaibh go léir.

Beir beannacht.

Michael D. Higgins
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland
Let’s get you connected!

ExportExplore is Europe’s most innovative economic development consultacy. We blend more than a decade of experience securing investment from some of the world’s leading brands, with supporting companies of all sizes to make connections, win contracts and create jobs. Contact us today at declan@exportexplore.com
Hinch whiskeys are inspired by the *distilling traditions* and skills exchanged *over the centuries* during the ebb and flow of *Gaelic* peoples across the *Irish Sea*. Informed by the past but looking to the future we create Irish whiskeys that are reassuringly smooth yet distinctively *richer* and *bolder* in *character*.

WWW.HINCHDISTILLERY.COM
THE POWER OF A NAME

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum shares the stories of Irish emigration.

When your ancestors left Ireland, they took something very important with them:

Something that would give them strength, their identity, their power to change the world and something they would pass on to you – their name.

 Honour their name in a permanent tribute at EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum in Dublin, Ireland.

Visit www.epicchq.com/names for details.
Is í ár dteanga féin í.
It's our language.
Established in 1955 when the State of Hawaii was still just the Territory of Hawaii, The Friends of St. Patrick. Since it’s founding, we’ve remained true to our cause as a benevolent and charitable organization. We distribute thousands each year as scholarship funds, and work to promote Irish culture and the study thereof.

Each year, we hold The Emerald Ball - an elegant and enjoyable fundraising event shortly before St. Patrick’s Day.

Speaking of, since 1956, we have organized and funded the Honolulu St. Patrick’s Day Parade, the last St. Patrick’s Day parade worldwide.

We hold meetings monthly, if you visit, don’t hesitate to drop by!

WWW.FRIENDSOFSPTPATRICKHAWAII.COM

CONNECTING THE GLOBAL IRISH

IrishCentral is a trusted source for all things related to Ireland and the Irish - be it news, history, food & drink travel, or cultural information.

Irish-ness is not something that can be defined by geographical location. It is a connection, a sense of belonging that never goes away. No matter where you are in the world, a connection to the island, the people, and its places is special.

IT’S OUR ISLAND, YOUR IRELAND, AND YOU CAN BE CERTAIN THAT IF IT’S IRISH, IT’S ON IRISHCENTRAL.
CAMPFIRE
PROGRAM

Hope and Humanity: What Can Irish America Bring to our Understanding of the Covid Pandemic?
8:15am PDT / 11:15am EDT

CHAIR: Professor Christine Kinealy
Chair Institute of Ireland’s Great Hunger,
Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT

PANEL:
Kevin Davis
Principal Davis Healthcare Consulting,
Norlina, NC

Ryushin Paul Haller
Zen Center of San Francisco,
San Francisco, CA

Professor LeAnne Howe
(Choctaw), University of Georgia,
GA

In This Together: Irish American Societies and Networks Leading the Coronavirus Fightback
8:50am PDT / 11:50am EDT

CHAIR: Eileen Scully
Founder, The Rising Tides,
New Haven, CT

PANEL:
Judge James McKay III
Immediate Past-President
Ancient Order of Hibernians,
New Orleans, LA

Joan Moody
Board Member Harp & Shamrock Society of Texas,
San Antonio, TX

Liam Frost
President Irish Cultural Societies of San Francisco, CA

Larry McCarthy
President-Elect GAA,
New York, NY

Dr Brett Carey
Friends of St Patrick,
Big Island, Hawaii
Leading from the Front: 10:10am PDT / 1:10pm EDT
Reimagining the role of our Irish Centers

CHAIR: Dr Elizabeth Stack
Executive Director, Irish American Heritage Museum, Albany, NY

PANEL:

Anne Cassidy Carew
President United Irish Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA

Cathy Ward
Executive Director, The Irish Outreach Center, San Diego, CA

Paul Finnegan
Executive Director, New York Irish Center, NY

Honorable Lois Galgay Reckitt, Representative Maine State Legislature, Vice Chair at the Maine Irish Heritage Center
Amid a Challenging Outlook, Promoting a Two-Way Street of Trade and Investment Across the Atlantic

**CHAIR:** Lisa Maloney
Senior VP, Berkadia Commercial Mortgage, VP Irish American Business Chamber & Network, Philadelphia, PA

**PANEL:**
- Shaun T. Kelly
  Board Member CRH, Deputy-Chair Ireland Funds, former Global Chief Operating Officer KPMG International, Naples, FL
- Ivan Houlihan
  Vice President, IDA Ireland, Boston
- Bill McKiernan
  Founder WSM Capital, Board Member Ireland Funds USA, San Francisco, CA
- Steve Harper
  Executive Director International Business, Invest NI, Belfast

For Entrepreneurs Timing is Everything — Challenges and Opportunities for Start-ups in a Pandemic

**CHAIR:** Séamus McAteer
Entrepreneur, San Francisco, CA

**PANEL:**
- Alison Darcy
  Founder Woebot, San Francisco, CA
- Colm Long
  Managing Director, Clairmar Consulting, Cork
- Dr Scott Fischaber
  COO and co-founder, Analytics Engines, Belfast

Campfire Chat. Film-Making Frozen: What Now For Those Who Tell Our Stories in Film — and For The Cinemas in Which We Watch Them?

**CHAIR:** Geraldine Hughes, NY

**PANEL:**
- Terry George
  Academy Award-Winning Director
- Denis Hamill
  Journalist/Screenwriter/Novelist New York, NY
The Importance of Diplomacy in the Age of COVID  
12:15pm PDT / 3:15pm EDT

PANEL:
Andrew Elliott  
Director, NI Bureau,  
Washington, D.C.  
Ambassador of Ireland to the USA,  
Dan Mulhall

The Show Must Go On: What will Irish Festivals of the Future Look Like?  
12:30pm PDT / 3:30pm EDT

CHAIR: Catherine Barry,  
VP Irish Literary and Historical Society, Founder Irish Culture Bay Area,  
San Francisco, CA

PANEL:  
Colleen Kennedy  
President, Milwaukee Irish Fest Foundation,  
Milwaukee, WI  
Martin Cottingham  
Chairman The Great Irish Fair of New York,  
New York, NY  
Frankie McCormick,  
Chair North American Province, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann,  
New York NY  
Cindy Lerick  
Irish Fair of Minnesota,  
St Paul, MN  
Alison LeRoy,  
Director, Irish Fest  
Dublin, OH

Digging Deep: Ramping up Irish American Philanthropy in a Changed World  
1:10pm PDT / 4:10pm EDT

CHAIR: Mary Sugrue  
CEO Irish American Partnership,  
Boston, MA

PANEL:  
Lori Gallagher  
Director William Flynn Center for Irish Studies,  
University of St Thomas, Houston, TX  
Susan Whoriskey  
Biotechnology Entrepreneur,  
Whoriskey Associates,  
Boston, MA  
Mike Clune  
Chairman, Clune Construction Inc,  
Chicago, IL  
Carol Wheeler  
Founder and Board Chair Washington Ireland Program, DC Co-ordinator Project Children, Washington, D.C.
Coming Back Stronger and Better with Labor at the Helm  
1:50pm PDT / 4:10pm EDT

**CHAIR:** Cathy Reinholdt  
President, Irish Railroad Workers Museum, Baltimore, MD

**PANEL:**
- **Robbie Hunter**  
  President State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, Sacramento, CA
- **Mike Monahan**  
  IBEW International Vice-President Second District, Boston, MA
- **Deirdre Feerick**  
  Senior Director, Legal Dept., Transport Workers Union, Local 100, New York, NY
- **James F. Coyne**  
  Business Manager, Plumbers Local 130 UA, Chicago, IL, Chair St Patrick’s Day Parade of Chicago

From Two Million Visitors to Zero — and Back Again.  
Reviving Tourism from the US to Ireland  
2:25pm PDT / 5:25pm EDT

**CHAIR:** Senator Tim Kennedy  
Chair of the Transport Committee, New York Legislature, Buffalo, NY

**PANEL:**
- **Alison Metcalfe**  
  Executive VP US & Canada, Tourism Ireland, New York, NY
- **Elizabeth Crabill**  
  CEO, CIE Tours International, Morristown, NJ
- **Dr J. Patrick Greene**  
  Director, EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, Dublin
- **Jim Lamb**  
  Director Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh, Honorary Consul General of Ireland, Pittsburgh, PA
- **Bill Byrne**  
  Director Global Sales/Sr. VP North America, Aer Lingus, Jericho, NY

Irish America at the Vanguard of the Irish Language Revival  
3:05pm PDT / 6:05pm EDT

**CHAIR:** Ray MacMánais  
Irish Department, Marino Institute of Education, Dublin

**PANEL:**
- **Jerry Sullivan**  
  Butte, Montana
- **Máirín Uí Chéide**  
  Cumann na Gaeilge, Boston, MA
- **Gerry O’Rahilly**  
  Director Gael Scoil, Yardley, PA
- **Pádraic Ó Raighne**  
  Head of Marketing, TG4
Ireland and the diaspora. We support a fair Free and United Ireland. We cooperate with groups for a fair American participation; We encourage an equitable Irish Culture; We encourage civic participation; We encourage an equitable U.S. immigration law for Ireland, and cooperate with groups for a fair American Immigration policy. We advance, without prejudice, the concept of Free expression of religious practice for the people of the world; We protect and defend all life, born and unborn.

IrishAmerican Chamber & Network is a membership organization, comprised of companies, universities, and individuals that focus on the development of economic and educational relationships between the Greater Philadelphia Region and Ireland.

The Irish Chamber facilitates business relationships and educational connections through virtual forums and monthly in-person events (when possible), including gathering networking forums for Irish and American executives, for the exchange of information and trade and investment, market research, and indigenous business. A hallmark of the Irish Chamber is the public private sector/municipal executives, government officials, and directors who share similar interests and goals.

Over the past twenty-one years, the Chamber’s growth has been driven by a dedicated board of directors comprised of executives representing major Irish and American companies and universities. Member companies range from large multi-national corporations to small private sector companies throughout the island of Ireland and the Greater Philadelphia Region. Learn more about membership and upcoming programs at iabcn.org.

The Irish American Business Chamber & Network maintains an active email list of members and prospective members. The Irish American Business Chamber & Network is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Founded in 1986, the Irish American Partnership is comprised of companies, universities, and individuals with a focus on connecting the Irish, and friends of Irish and American executives, for the exchange of information and trade and investment, market research, and indigenous business. A hallmark of the Irish American Partnership is the public private sector/municipal executives, government officials, and directors who share similar interests and goals.

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Currently we celebrate Celtic Days of Hawaii proclaimed by the Mayor and Governor annually from March 1, to April 30th. During this time period we feature the Emerald Ball, our annual dinner event and the last St. Patrick’s Day parade in the world within that Celtic Days period. Within this period we feature world famous Irish performers such as Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones, story tellers, Irish dance, a kilted golf tournament, and participation in the Scottish Festival in early April.

The Friends also support a full calendar of monthly events throughout the year, featuring Humor, Irish Dance, music, history and genealogy and of course pub crawls and whiskey tastings.

We also give charitable benefits toward the Irish in distress and provide college scholarships to the community of Hawaii. Find us at: www.friendsofstpatrickhawaii.com And should you visit Hawaii look us up through that site. Slainte

Irish language television channel is an independent statutory entity (Teilifís na Gaeltachta). The channel has been on-air since late 1996.

TG4 is a free-to-air channel, available across all the viewing platforms, with a strong viewer base throughout the island of Ireland. An average of 850,000 viewers a day watch TG4 in the Republic of Ireland. This daily figure exceeds 1 million people on major viewing days like Christmas Day and St. Patrick’s Day.

TG4 is the 5th most popular channel in Ireland with an average share of 2%. This is a very creditable performance in what is one of the most competitive national television markets, with a very high percentage of homes subscribing to satellite, cable or IP platforms that make available scores of TV channels and players that offer a wide choice of content.

TG4 invests over €20m annually in original Irish programming from the independent production sector in Ireland. This investment supports 350 posts in small private sector companies throughout the island of Ireland.

The Government is providing current funding of €32.79m to TG4 for 2017. TG4 also derives income from selling commercial airtime and programme sponsorship. TG4 is acknowledged as one of the most efficient and cost effective television stations in Europe.

The channel’s schedule – and its news service in particular – ensures a space for the non-centrist perspective and for emerging talent.

The channel’s signal covers the island of Ireland. It is receivable by aerial on Saorview (ROI) and Freeview. All Sky satellite and Virgin Media cable subscribers in Belfast as well as Eircom TV users. TG4 is also available worldwide via our Player, on the iOS App for iPhone and iPad and on the Smart TV App.
NI’s leading Venture Investor for over two decades
Our recommended reading for the Campfire is the new thriller from Boston Irish American author Kyle Darcy, 'Under the Impression'.

A sequel to his Boston Globe Bestseller 'Under Current Conditions', it is a transatlantic tale of intrigue and sedition.

UNDER THE IMPRESSION is the second novel from bestselling author, Kyle Darcy. The story begins in the waning days of World War II as a group of Nazi elite escapes to South America. The gripping and fast paced narrative weaves through decades and continents into the worlds of drug cartels, terror organizations and intelligence communities.

Once again, as in UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS, Boston plays a pivotal role.

You can get your copy of Under the Impression from amazon.com or from kyledarcy.com
CULTIVATING AND STRENGTHENING LINKS BETWEEN NORTHERN IRELAND AND NORTH AMERICA
Celebrating the life of Thomas Francis Meagher. To advance the life of Thomas Francis Meagher, a distinguished leader in Irish and Irish-American history and culture. Special emphasis on the contributions to history made by the Irish and Fenians in the United States.

Key Activities:
- The Black Rock Historical Society’s mission is to preserve, interpret, and make available significant historical materials to the public about the history of the communities of the area.
- In 2019, we were incorporated as an independent organization.

Key Activities:
- Our neighborhood planning and quality of life organization.
- The former Pratt Iron Works was the emer- gation. In 2019, we were incorporated as an indepen- dent, non-profit charity and is a home where the Irish and Fenians in history and culture.

Key Activities:
- To promote international knowledge of the Fenians and their contributions to history.
- Promote programs designed to introduce, educate, and promote the Fenians to individuals and groups.

Key Activities:
- The mission of the GAAA is to promote Gaelic Games to the local youth. The Fenians aim is to foster a fun, alternative experience - one that's safe, family friendly, and available to all. We encourage all our players, families, and friends to participate in our events.

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Proud Partner of The Big Irish Echo Campfire

Led by a dedicated Board of Directors, the Irish American Business Chamber & Network (IABCN) promotes the interests of our members and the development of commercial, financial, and educational relationships between the Greater Philadelphia Region & the Island of Ireland.

The Irish Chamber encourages and facilitates business relationships among its members by providing networking forums (both virtual and in-person) and extensive opportunities for the exchange of information and ideas, especially about import/export issues, customs regulations, investment opportunities, industry trends, and market research.

With a solid record of accomplishment and achievement over the past twenty-one years, the Irish Chamber’s trusted role in facilitating business development has been recognized on both sides of the Atlantic.

Join Us Online This Fall

17th of September: Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day
1st of October: Keeping The Show on the Road...And the Sea!
21st of October: Women in Leadership Program
12th of November: Annual Life Sciences Forum

www.iabcn.org

For event or membership information, email Alanna Barry McCloskey at abarry@iabcn.org.
Today the bell rings proudly over the Greater Portland area, a testament to the grit and determination of the Irish in Maine. The fall of 2008. The 4,100-pound bell fell from its moorings and now holds a place of honor in the state as the Center for Irish History and Culture. It was originally called the Irish Genealogical Society. The first meeting was attended by 63 people.

Mission: To promote and foster among its members the preservation, celebration, and promotion of Irish culture and history. It was originally called the Irish Genealogical Society. The first meeting was attended by 63 people.

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Key Activities: The committee’s mission is to bring the St. Louis community closer to the Irish American experience. Promoting the Irish heritage, the importance of education, and cultural diversity.

Key Activities: We are proud to say that we have had over 1,000 members in our organization. We have been tirelessly working to promote Irish culture and education. Our organization was established in 1966, with the intentions of: promoting the Irish culture, establishing a way for members to maintain their heritage and their unique contributions to everyone’s lives.

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Education is the gift passed down from one generation to the next, allowing Ireland's diaspora to thrive around the world.

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Founded in 1836 with membership in all 50 states, the Ancient Order of Hibernians is the largest Irish Organization in the United States, and the oldest and largest Irish-Catholic Organization in the United States.

We are the Ancient Order of Hibernians

We Promote Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity;
We aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for a complete and absolute independence, promoting peace and unity for all Ireland;
We foster the ideas and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish People;
We promote Irish Culture;
We encourage civic participation;
We encourage an equitable U.S. immigration law for Ireland, and cooperate with groups for a fair American Immigration Policy;
We accept and support, without prejudice, the concept of Free expression of religious practice for the people of the world;
We protect and defend all life, born and unborn.

We are the AOH

Men of Faith, Men of Charity, Men of Irish American Culture and History.
We support vocations through seminarian and religious scholarships.
We support a Free and United Ireland. We support Peace and Justice in the North of Ireland.
We perpetuate the bonds between Ireland and the diaspora.
We support a fair and equitable immigration system.

Working together with the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, we are supporting Vocations and Freedom For all Ireland initiatives in the North of Ireland.

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