

April 2014

# Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers Newsletter

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## ***Welcome to the April 2014 edition of the CIIC Newsletter!***

Spring is officially in the air! CIIC Member Centers continue to keep up the good work through community engagement, volunteer recognition, fundraising, mental health awareness, immigration information and advocacy, and much more.

Read on to see the wonderful work being done to support our local Irish communities. As always, feel free to forward on this email by clicking on the link at the bottom of this page.

All the best,  
Sara McDermott

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## What's Happening at Irish Senior Connect

Irish Senior Connect

855.249.5146

As of April 18th, the ISC Listening Line has received 290 calls and over 1,098 Well-being Check in Calls have been made, providing critical support and referral to Irish and Irish American Seniors!

**May 1st** - Irish Senior Connect will host a Senior Home Services Providers Networking Meeting on Thursday, May 1st at the Irish Pastoral Centre in Dorchester.

Representatives of organizations that specialize in providing services to home bound and/or isolated seniors will participate, share their program materials and learn about ISC's listening line, resource referral and well-being check-in call services. Meeting discussion will focus on best ways to link home bound clients with these services.

**Give us a like!** We're on [Facebook](#)

**For more information** about the program, contact ISC Program Coordinator, Susan Doody, at [susan.doody@ciic-usa.org](mailto:susan.doody@ciic-usa.org)

*Irish Senior Connect is generously funded by The American Ireland Fund and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Emigrant Support Program.*

## Meet Two of Irish International Immigrant Center's J-1 IWT participants!

By Ann-Marie Byrne

*Irish International Immigrant Center, Boston MA*

*The Irish International Immigrant Center has successfully sponsored and supported over 700 Irish university students and graduates on the J-1 Irish Work and Travel program since 2008. We provide caring and professional support to interns throughout the program. Meet two J-1 IWT interns who we have helped place in rewarding internships in their fields of study.*

**Conor Kelly** from Galway is interning at the Irish American Partnership in **Boston**. Conor is loving his internship and one of his recent projects was designing a marketing letter for an upcoming golf tournament, "I am really excited that something I designed will reach such a large audience, it makes me proud." "Conor is a welcome addition to the Irish American Partnership and will be a great help particularly given his computer design skills," said president Joe Leary.

**Selina Maddock** from Dublin is interning at Neil A. Weinrib & Associates in New York, an established immigration and general practice law firm. Selina reports that she is getting invaluable experience in immigration law. She works very closely with her supervisor, Mr. Neil Weinrib, who cannot say enough good things about Selina, "She is terrific in every way - very bright, extremely energetic and enthusiastic. She comes to work every day with tremendous energy and a desire to assist our clients. She is a great ambassador from Ireland."

The IIC are always looking for internship opportunities all over the U.S. for incoming graduates from Ireland. Please contact Kim Jorgensen with any internship opportunities @ 1.617.542.7654 ex. 23 or via email to [kjorgensen@iicenter.org](mailto:kjorgensen@iicenter.org).



*Pictured:  
IIIC's J-1 IWT Participant Conor Kelly at work at the Irish American  
Partnership*

## **Immigration Reform Prepares for New Dawn**

*by Breandan G. Magee*

*Executive Director of Chicago Irish Immigrant Support*

After a particularly long and brutal Chicago winter, the end is in sight as spring makes a very welcome return to our polar blasted plains. As Easter rolls around once again and nature reawakens from its arctic slumber you cannot help but be reminded of the power of rebirth and of new beginnings. Unfortunately the immigration debate in Washington D.C. has been frozen in the tundra of internal Republican politics with Speaker Boehner refusing to call a vote in the House of Representatives but a resurrection of a bill, or multiple bills, in the House may be afoot.

The Irish Prime Minister Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. met with Speaker Boehner and the President in Washington during the annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations, where immigration reform was a hot button topic.

The Taoiseach went off script at a breakfast hosted by the Speaker and called for the Speaker to show true courage and lead on the issue and even got a standing ovation. John Boehner's recent announcement that he could see small and less controversial immigration bills such as the agricultural workers or DREAM-ers passing by summer, with a legalization bill following in the fall before the November elections, is seen by many as monumental. It can be easy to get discouraged in the rollercoaster fight for immigration reform, one minute chances are up, the next they are down but clearly the conversation in the last year has shifted from when not if reform passes. It is important to pause for a moment

and take stock of that fact and appreciate how far we have come as a movement.

When we were told that reform was not going to happen this year, as advocates we did not sit on our laurels and simply accept defeat. Instead we in Illinois, the Irish along with thousands of other immigrants of all hues, took to the streets, canvassed, campaigned, held rallies and demanded immigration reform now. In our state capital Springfield we lobbied legislators to pass monumental pro-immigrant legislation, such as the Temporary Visitors Drivers Licenses (TVDLs) and we formed new alliances with business leaders, chambers of commerce and forward thinking Republicans to champion immigration reform. All of that work has made an impact not only in Illinois but across the country. Illinois prides itself on being the most pro-immigrant state in the nation and Chicago as the city of big shoulders. We take on big things and the country watches and follows our lead.

As spring thaws the winter-weary streets of Chicago the immigration reform movement is preparing for its own new dawn. This is the year that advocates hope to see comprehensive immigration reform break free from the shackles of party politics bringing hope to 11 million people, who live in the shadows as undocumented workers. Let's make it happen. We ask you to join us in making this the year of new beginnings for our own 50,000 Irish undocumented.

**The Easter Bunny Drops by to the Mother 'N  
Toddler Group**  
*Irish Pastoral Centre*  
*Boston, MA*

The Easter Bunny made a special trip to the kids who participate in the Mother n' Toddler group at the Irish Pastoral Centre this past week. Most of the kids were bewildered with the bunny while some preferred to enjoy from a distance. Special thanks to the 'Easter Bunny' for showing up for such a special treat and to all the volunteers who help keep the group running so smoothly.



*The Easter Bunny Entertains the Mother N Toddler's Group at Irish Pastoral Centre, Boston*

**USCIS Reaches Fiscal Year 2015 H-1B Cap**  
*Emerald Isle Immigration Center*  
*New York*

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) [announced](#) on April 10th that it received approximately 172,500 FY 2015 H-1B cap petitions between April 1 and April 7, 2014, which was approximately 48,000 more petitions than they received during last year's filing period.

On April 10, 2014, USCIS completed a computer-generated random selection process, or lottery, to select enough petitions to meet the 65,000 general-category cap and 20,000 cap under the advanced degree exemption. Petitions had a roughly 42 percent chance of being chosen in the standard cap lottery.

Employers will not know which of their cases were selected in the lottery until USCIS completes initial

case data entry and issues filing receipts, which could take several days or weeks. Cases that were not chosen in the lotteries will be rejected and returned with their filing fees.

## **New N - 400 Naturalization Application**

*Emerald Isle Immigration Center  
New York*

Starting Monday, May 5, 2014 USCIS will only accept the the new N-400 Naturalization application (09/13/13 edition). Note that the eligibility requirements for naturalization have not changed.

Changes to the N - 400:

- The instructions for completing the application and the eligibility requirements have been made more clear.
- There are more stringent questions concerning good moral character and the security of the United States.
- The addition of a 2D barcode means that there is greater efficiency in processing the applications and that there is improved data quality.

For more information on the new N-400 application visit: [www.uscis.gov/n-400](http://www.uscis.gov/n-400)

### **Upcoming Events**

## **Dance for Dochas - Dance for Hope**

*Boston, MA*

**May 3rd** - Join us for a spectacular night of music with Boston's - Devri & direct from Ireland - Friends of Emmet

Saturday May 3rd, 2014, 7pm  
Irish Social Club  
119 Park Street  
W. Roxbury, MA 02132

Tickets: \$20.00

Net proceeds will go to Dochas Suicide Coalition & McLean Hospital

The Dóchas Suicide Prevention Coalition is a network established by the Massachusetts Irish community, local organizations and non-profits that offer education, support and referrals to assist members of the community who struggle with suicidal thoughts and to assist people who have been affected or bereaved by suicide.

Our aim is to support and encourage a community led approach for the prevention of suicide and self-harm in Massachusetts, especially in the Greater Boston Area.

**Dóchas means hope.**

<https://www.facebook.com/DochasCoalitionMass>

For more information contact:  
Ciara 617.542.7654 ext 32,  
Kathleen 617.265.5300 ext 11  
or Danielle 617.524.7654 ext 14

## **Pauline Boylan-Coll Memorial 5km Walk/Run**

*Aisling Irish Community Center*

*New York*

**May 11th** - Pauline Boylan-Coll was a great supporter and friend of the Aisling Irish Center while living in New York as well as many other causes in the New York Irish community, particularly GAA. She was instrumental in establishing underage football "Gaelic 4 Girls" here in New York. Pauline was married to Paul and had one son, Ethan. After battling cancer for a number of years, Pauline sadly passed away in June 2012.

This annual Memorial walk/run is a fitting tribute to Pauline, particularly on Mother's Day. It is an opportunity for her friends and the community to honor her happy spirit and bravery, to recall her laughter and friendly personality. Pauline was taken from this world too soon, but left an unforgettable legacy.

The funds raised will benefit programs and services provided by Aisling Irish Community Center as well as another non-profit organization nominated by Pauline's family. This is your opportunity to support and give back to your center and your community! Please encourage your friends to take part with you. Every dollar helps to keep the Aisling Center and the Irish Volunteers for the Homeless on its feet, so sign up today and put your own feet into gear for a very worthy cause!



Call the Aising Irish Community Center at 914-237-5121 for more information.

## **Volunteer Recognition Evening**

*Irish Pastoral Centre*

*Boston, MA*

**May 17th** - Dance to the Music of The Andy Healy Band

Irish Social Club

119 Park Street

West Roxbury, MA 02132

For ticket information call 617.265.5300

Tickets: \$15.00

Doors open at 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Cash bar/raffle prizes & door prize

Visit the IPC website for more details [www.ipcboston.org](http://www.ipcboston.org)

## **San Francisco Irish Open Golf Tournament**

*Irish Immigration Pastoral Center*

*San Francisco, CA*

**May 30th** - Support the programs and services of the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center and join us for the 16th Annual San Francisco Irish Open two person scramble. The tournament is one of our annual fundraisers through which we raise over 60% of our annual operating budget.

Friday, May 30th, 2014

Alameda Golf Course, Alameda, CA

Morning Shotgun: 7.45am

Afternoon Shotgun: 12.45pm

**\$125 Donation Per Person / \$500 Foursome**

Includes:

- \* 2 person scramble
- \* Round of Golf with cart
- \* Barbeque lunch
- \* \$10,000 Hole in One Competition
- \* Great Tee Prizes
- \* Evening Awards Dinner at Johnny Foley's Irish House (partners welcome)

**Sponsorship Opportunities:**

Green Sponsor - \$200

Tee Sponsor - \$100

**Sponsorship includes:**

A mention at one green or tee plus promotional mentions in our tournament program, on our website and in the Irish Herald in July.

You and your guest will also be invited to our Awards Dinner in Johnny Foley's Irish House.

To register your team or be a sponsor, please email Celine at [celine@sfipc.org](mailto:celine@sfipc.org) or call 415.752.6006.

**CIIS Annual Golf Outing**

*Chicago Irish Immigrant Support  
Chicago, IL*

**June 1st** - Every year CIIS hosts an annual Golf day out, a very successful fundraising event.

Sunday, June 1st, 2014

Shot Gun Start at Noon

St. Andrew's Golf and Country Club

3 N 441 Route 59 \* West Chicago, Illinois 60185 \* (630) 231- 3100

\$125 Donation Per Person Includes:

18 Hole Round of Golf \* Contests\* Golf Cart\* Dinner

Contests Include:

Nearest to the Pin \* Longest Drive

\$10,000 Hole In One Prize (Par 3 Hole)

Dinner Immediately After Golf

To Purchase Tickets Contact:

Breandán Magee: (773) 282-8445

Father Michael Leonard: (773) 677-5341

Or visit our website at [www.ci-is.org](http://www.ci-is.org) to purchase online

All proceeds benefit the Chicago Irish Immigrant Support, a registered 501(c) 3 organization.

# Upcoming Events in Seattle's Irish Community

Seattle, WA

**May 26th** - Memorial Day Mass at St. Patrick Cemetery in Kent is on Monday, May 26, at 10:30 am. Dating from 1880 when an Irish-born farmer set aside 4 ½ acres on his farm to be a cemetery for the Irish families in the area, this is the Seattle area's only Irish Pioneer Cemetery.

**June 7th** - Seattle Gaels Gaelic Games Tournament at Green Lake on Saturday, June 7, starting at 10 am and finishing around 5:30 pm. Free admission all day to watch the Hurling, Gaelic football and Camogie games.

**June 24th** - Tuesday, June 24, is Irish Night at the Seattle Mariners for the game vs. the Boston Red Sox at 7:10 pm. Irish stepdancers and the Seattle Police Pipes and Drums will perform in centerfield before the game. Reduced price tickets at [Mariners.com/Irish](http://Mariners.com/Irish).

**June 29th** - Sunday, June 29, 2 -6 pm is Irish Day the Races at Emerald Downs in Auburn. All the races will be named for Irish organizations including the Irish Immigrant Support Group. Free admission tickets are available through any of the Irish organizations.

**July 27th** - Seattle's Irish Community Picnic is at Lake Sammamish State Park on Sunday, July 27, from noon-dusk. Free admission and all are welcome to join in the fun and games.

**August 15th** - The annual Irish Headstone Ceremony in Sunnyside Cemetery in Coupeville on Whidbey Island is on Friday, August 15 at 5:30 pm. The headstone inscription is in the Irish language written in old Gaelic script and memorializes a Tipperary woman buried on Whidbey Island in 1861. See attached shot of part of the headstone or watch last year's ceremony on [YouTube](#).



## **The Cripple of Inishmaan Premieres on Broadway!**

*New York*

**Save up to 30% on Tickets**

The latest sold-out hit from Tony Award®-winning director MICHAEL GRANDAGE (*Red, Frost/Nixon*) arrives from London with the Broadway premiere of THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN - the biting comedy by the master of vicious fun, Academy Award® winner MARTIN McDONAGH (*The Pillowman, In Bruges*). When a Hollywood director visits the remote islands off the coast of Ireland, the feisty locals of Inishmaan plot to escape their rural doldrums for a glittery chance at movie stardom - none with more starry-eyed determination than perpetually teased Cripple Billy. DANIEL RADCLIFFE wowed London's critics as the frail Irish lad with big Hollywood dreams. Including the critically acclaimed original cast of nine, this award-winning production from the Michael Grandage Company's inaugural season brings a West End gem to Broadway.

### **SPECIAL OFFER FOR CIIC MEMBERS!**

**Save up to 30% on THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN**

#### **Performances April 12-30**

\$99 Orchestra/Front Mezz

\$49 Balcony

#### **Performances May 1 - June 8**

\$109 Orchestra/Front Mezz

\$59 Balcony

**To receive the special offer for CIIC members:**

**Visit [broadwayoffers.com](http://broadwayoffers.com) and use code CIIRISH3**

**Call 212-947-8844 and mention code CIIRISH3**

## **ABOUT THE COALITION OF IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTERS**

The Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers (CIIC) is a national umbrella group for all of the Irish Immigration Centers in the US. The CIIC was established in 1996 to promote the welfare of Irish immigrants in the US at a national level. The CIIC is funded by a grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Emigrant Support Program and by generous support from the American Ireland fund for its Irish Senior Connect Program.

The mission of the CIIC is to represent immigrant organizations throughout the United States who are committed to providing services to Irish immigrants. The Coalition provides support and assistance to the various centers in their work through advocacy, education and the exchange of information. CIIC member organizations are located in California, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Philadelphia, Washington and Wisconsin.

To learn more about CIIC visit, [www.ciic-usa.org](http://www.ciic-usa.org)