

February 2014

Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers Newsletter

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Greetings!

*Welcome to the February 2014 edition of the CIIC
Newsletter!*



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The CIIC met in San Francisco January 29th - 31st 2014 to convene for our Annual Meeting and Training Event. Hosted by the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, the delegates in attendance represented Irish Immigrant front line services in centers based in Chicago, San Francisco, San Diego, Seattle, Maryland, New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Toronto.

The meeting was opened by Irish Consul General Philip Grant and Vice Consul Kevin Byrne as they welcomed the CIIC to San Francisco and joined in a developmental training on front line service preparation for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. The continued partnership between the Irish government and the CIIC to support Irish immigrants, especially the undocumented Irish community is a vital and respected partnership both in the US and Ireland.

The three day training included sessions on Comprehensive Immigration Reform, CIIC Goal and Strategy Development, QPR Suicide Prevention Training, Fundraising Strategies, J1 Summer Work/Travel Program, and the Irish Senior Connect Listening Line.

The Coalition was delighted to welcome both local and regional experts to facilitate sessions including: Kerry Slattery (Kerry Slattery Consulting, San Francisco), Adrienne Pon (Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs of the City and County of San Francisco), Phil Simon and Triona O'Connor (CIEE, Portland, Maine), Kevin McGowan (InterExchange, CA), Danielle Owen (Director of Wellness and Education Services, Irish International Immigrant Center, Boston), Celine Kennelly (Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, San Francisco), Geri Garvey (Irish Apostolate USA), Breandán Magee (Chicago Irish Immigrant Support), and Susan Doody (Irish Senior Connect, Boston).

The meeting was a great success with opportunity for delegates from member centers to collaborate and focus on a number of key issues impacting centers both locally and nationally. At a reception hosted by the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, Executive Director Celine Kennelly commented that "Having the ability to collaborate with our sister agencies from around the country is of such importance to the work that we do. Our workloads are heavy and it makes a phenomenal difference to meet face to face, work on common issues and have the opportunity to network and share best practices".

Please read on to see what else is happening around the country...you will quickly see we are all keeping busy! 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

National Coordinator
Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers
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CIIC Thanks Siobhan Dennehy for her Hard Work and Dedication as CIIC President



Pictured: Breandán Magee (Chicago Irish Immigrant Support) and Celine Kennelly (Irish Pastoral Center, San Francisco) with Siobhan Dennehy (Emerald Isle Immigration Center, New York)

January 30th 2014 - The CIIC held its annual AGM as part of its meeting and training event in San Francisco. Having served as CIIC President for over 5 years, Siobhan Dennehy decided not to seek re-election after some serious consideration. Siobhan will retain her CIIC Board seat in the NY region and will continue to support the Coalition through her Board role and participation in subcommittees, such as Finance and Fundraising, Outcome Measures, and Irish Senior Connect. Speaking about her time as President, Siobhan explained, "It's very hard to sum up the work of the past five years and give thanks to all who shared the CIIC work mantle. It has been a very rewarding experience to work so closely with some great staff, some phenomenal board members and colleagues, and our generous funders. I have particularly enjoyed the team aspect of commonality

and shared experiences of our joint work."

The CIIC has been very fortunate to have Siobhan as President for so many years. She has contributed a significant amount of her time and energy to the work of the Coalition. The CIIC wishes to thank Siobhan for all of her hard work and dedication. She is truly an inspiration to all of us and leads by example in the work that she does.

"Siobhan has given so selflessly of her time, knowledge and expertise as both a CIIC member and President to bring the Coalition to where it is today. We are extremely grateful for all that she has done and are delighted to have her continue as a member of the Board. She has laid a marvelous foundation upon which we can continue to build.",
Celine Kennelly, CIIC President

We wish Siobhan the best of luck in the future, and look forward to continued work and collaboration with the CIIC.

CIIC Elects New Officers

San Francisco, CA

January 30th, 2014 -- New officers were elected at the CIIC AGM. The CIIC would like to welcome President Celine Kennelly, Vice President Breandán Magee, Secretary Kathleen Rohan, and Treasurer Jim Cummins into their roles. The Coalition is honored to have Celine, Breandán, Kathleen and Jim as Officers, serving as chief volunteers of the CIIC and providing leadership to the Board of Directors and direct assistance to the National Coordinator.

Celine Kennelly, President

Originally from Moyvane, Co. Kerry, Celine arrived in San Francisco in 1999 and has been part of the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center team for 14 years, serving as Executive Director since 2003. She has been a member of the CIIC since 2000 and served as the Vice President since 2007. Celine also serves as a Board member of the Irish Apostolate USA and Vice Chair of the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission.

Breandán Magee, Vice President

A native of Belfast and 12 year resident of the USA, Breandán serves as Executive Director of Chicago Irish Immigrant Support, which offers a full range of immigration and social services to the Irish community. He also acts as Vice President of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers, having served previously as Board Secretary. He has been a member of the Coalition for over 8 years.

Kathleen Rohan, Secretary

Living in the US since 1989, Kathleen hails from Ballinspittle, Co.

Cork. Since 1997, Kathleen has been working for the Irish Pastoral Centre in Boston and is currently an Office Administrator/Housing & Employment Specialist at the Centre. This is Kathleen's first term as an Officer, she has served on the J1 Subcommittee for 2 years and has been on the CIIC Board of Directors for over 1 year.

Jim Cummins, Treasurer

Originally from Co. Offaly, Jim moved to Yakima, WA in 1963. Jim came into contact with the Coalition about 10 years ago. With the help of others, Jim assisted in forming the Seattle Irish Immigrant Support Group (SIISG). President for a number of years with SIISG, he is currently Vice President. This will be Jim's 2nd term as Treasurer.

Republican Congressman Adam Kinzinger Backs Immigration Reform in Chicago

By Breandán Magee

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

Last Tuesday saw another distinguished panel join the Illinois Business Immigrant Coalition (IBIC) at the Standard Club, Chicago to debate immigration reform. IBIC Chairman John Rowe, Chairman Emeritus of Exelon facilitated the open discussion between Mayor Rahm Emmanuel, Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Congressmen Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) and Adam Kinzinger (R-IL).

Congressman Kinzinger endorsed immigration reform and called for policies that not only secure the border but also help the economy by legalizing the undocumented and creating a path to citizenship for those already here. He is the latest in a series of high profile Republicans who have listened to the business community and have advocated for reform of a broken system that hinders rather than helps businesses today.

Mayor Emmanuel noted that the second highest revenue earner for the City of Chicago after Michigan Avenue's Magnificent Mile was the Pilsen neighborhood, where immigrants come from miles around to shop at the immigrant owned mom and pop stores that cover the main boulevards. Immigrants not only contribute to the fabric of life of Chicago, they start businesses and help the economy.

IBIC Board member and Chairman of the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform Billy Lawless added, "I came here as an immigrant 16 years ago and opened my own business, this is what we immigrants do".

Former Speaker Hastert Supports Immigration Reform in Chicago

By Breandán Magee

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

Chicago's De Paul University played host to a distinguished panel Tuesday, as former Republican Speaker of the House Denis Hastert joined the stage with Francis Cardinal George, John Rowe, Chairman Emeritus of the Exelon Corp. Dave Bender former aid to Governor Edgar and Billy Lawless, Chairman of the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform. The event organized by the Illinois Business Immigrant Coalition (IBIC) (a pro immigration reform group that focuses on educating the business community about the benefits of immigration reform) was significant for many reasons but none more so than the tacit nod of approval that Speaker Hastert gave to immigration reform.

The Speaker is considered by many rank and file Republicans to be the soul of the party and is responsible for the so-called Hastert Rule in Congress. This unwritten rule dictates that the Republican Speaker should not bring forth any bill that does not first have the support of the 'majority of the majority'; in other words a majority of the ruling Republican Party must support any piece of legislation before it comes to a vote on the House floor.

In recent years, despite there being enough Republicans and a majority of Democrats to pass an immigration bill in the House, no such bill has gotten past Speaker Boehner's desk as he invokes the Hastert Rule. Nothing happens in a vacuum I am told and we can only surmise that Hastert's support of immigration reform in Chicago this week follows knowingly in the heels of Speaker Boehner's newly released set of principles setting out his vision for immigration reform in 2014.

Former Speaker Hastert spoke about the need for securing the border but he also significantly expressed his support for a pathway to citizenship for the estimated 12 million undocumented living here adding "we have to find a way to take them out of the shadows". The former legislator teaches pro bono at his local community college in central Illinois and recounted how four out of seven of his Latino students openly admitted to him that they had at least one undocumented parent. By touching on this he highlighted the core of the immigration reform debate, which boils down to keeping families together.

Cardinal George also spoke about the impact of a broken immigration system on families and Billy Lawless, who came here 16 years ago from Galway spoke of his own immigrant success story.

"I started here with one Irish pub with ten workers and now I own three restaurants that employ over 250 people, with plans to open more. This is what we immigrants do: we build the economy, we create jobs".

The Republican Party leadership, which includes Kevin McCarthy, Eric Cantor, Paul Ryan and Cathy McMorris-Rogers (who just gave the Republican response to the State of the Union) has come out strongly in support of immigration reform this year. They understand the electoral significance of resisting reform and worry about its impact on the next presidential election, where Latinos are expected to be a significant voting block yet again. The problem for the Party elders is their raucous fifth column, the Tea Party members, who vehemently oppose any whiff of reform or 'amnesty' as they coin it.

The political maneuvering may be about to come to a head though as Speaker Boehner gets ready for a showdown with the rebellious immigration naysayers within his own party. His unprecedented and exasperated public rebuke of the Tea Party caucus after the government shutdown - an instance where he let them play their hand before finally reeling them back in - may be a sign that he will face down the far right and push immigration reform through in 2014.

He has also hired Rebecca Tallent, former top aide to Senator John McCain, who worked tirelessly on the Arizona senator's immigration bill that he cosponsored with Ted Kennedy. Tallent turned down a spot on Boehner's team once before, so one can only assume through the reading of the Beltway tealeaves that she feels that her talents really will be put to good use this time around.

In the one on ones that followed the panel discussion Chicago Celts Chairman Billy Lawless added "I'm hopeful that we will see real movement on immigration reform in 2014. With the support of the Bibles, Badges and Business (churches, law enforcement and chambers of commerce) here in Illinois and nationwide, we have forced the Republican Party to sit up and take note of the need for immigration reform."



Pictured L - R: Breandán Magee, Executive Director Chicago Irish Immigrant Support (CIIS), Cyril Regan, President CIIS, Former Speaker of the House, Denis Hastert, Billy Lawless, Chairman Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform

Irish Immigrant Connect Program

*Irish Immigration Pastoral Center
San Francisco, CA*

In 2012 the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center (IIPC) in San Francisco introduced a new program called Irish Immigrant Connect.

Irish Immigrant Connect (IIC) is designed to assist recently arrived immigrants to the United States in their search for employment, with a particular focus on the needs of the Irish Work and Travel participants. The 12 month Irish Work and Travel visa was introduced in 2009 and brings many young graduates to the Bay Area. One of the greatest challenges of the program is the requirement to find employment related to the graduate's field of study within 90 days. It is the aim of the IIPC to prepare them ready for the job market as quickly as possible.

Since the IIC began in November 2012 **94** Irish J1 graduates have received assistance from the IIPC with

finding employment related to their fields of study. In February 2013 the IIPC has hosted a 'Get Yourself Hired' seminar which included information about the US recruitment system, how to sell skills to a US employer, resume and cover letter best practices, interview techniques as well as guidance on visa options & selling sponsorship.

In both March and October 2013 the IIPC welcomed Kevin DuBay, LinkedIn Recruitment Product Consultant. Kevin has been at LinkedIn for the past 5 years and now consults with corporate recruiters to help them utilize LinkedIn to recruit the perfect candidate. As part of the IIPC Immigrant Program Kevin presented to the J1 graduates on leveraging the power of LinkedIn to establish a professional profile of record on the web and provided the graduates with tips and best practices to use in their job search.

In both February and November 2013 the IIPC also hosted a Networking Mixer which was attended by many business professionals in the Bay Area who have joined with the IIPC to offer advice and mentor-ship to young graduates. A diversity of industries was represented including engineering, law, non-profit, social policy, sales and marketing. The evening was a great success at which lots of professional knowledge and experience was shared. Many new business networking relationships were forged between the graduates and those established community members who were in attendance.

A Reflection on the J-1 Irish Work and Travel Program and Where It Has Taken Me

by Mark Fitzgerald

Irish International Immigrant Center

Boston, MA

As a J-1 IWT visa sponsor, the Irish International Immigrant Center has sponsored 692 Irish university students since 2008, and in the past two years has assisted 412 students find quality, 12 month internships in their area of study throughout the US. Demand for participation in this program increases each year. Supported by the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the American Ireland Fund, the program is making a positive impact on students as they develop leadership skills, greater confidence, entrepreneurship, work experience in a diverse workforce, and professional contacts. One student - Mark Fitzgerald - shares his story on the program.

Three years ago, I travelled to Boston on the J-1 Irish Work & Travel program to complete an 8-month internship with the Irish International Immigrant Center (IIPC) as my sponsor. I was in 3rd year of my Business and Marketing Degree in the University of

Limerick, and the internship was part of my university course. Because of that experience, today I am on the path to a successful career in international business.

Before I travelled to the US, the IIC was extremely helpful with my preparations. Not only did they outline the application process and clarify the rules governing the visa, the staff were extremely passionate about me making the most of the time on the visa. During the initial telephone interview, I was able to ask questions on accommodation, opening a bank account, buying a U.S. cell phone, and the sports and social clubs in Boston. It was things like this that made the IIC so personable and great to deal with. I always knew that I could contact them at any time if I had questions about the visa or if any issues arose.

During my 8 months on the program, I had some of the best times of my life. I met many new people and made friends easily, and I also matured and grew. It was the first time that I had interned in a professional environment and I learnt so much in such a short time. I enjoyed my internship and worked hard so that I could get the maximum benefit from the experience. When I compared my experiences with those of my classmates who stayed in Ireland for their work placement, I could tell that the professional and cultural experience I was getting in Boston would be so much more of an advantage over my peers once I left university. I was right!

As I was determined to make the most of my time in the US, every opportunity I got to explore American culture I got, I took. I attended baseball games with new friends I made, I took part in 4th of July celebrations, attended concerts, tasted some delicious "clam chowda" and I was able to visit six other states. The IIC also organized bi-weekly softball games in Boston Common for other participants on the J-1IWT visa. It was a great way to meet some of the other participants and to share our experiences.

Although sad to leave Boston and finish on the J-1IWT program, once I got back to Ireland I was much more focused and determined to finish my university course and achieve good grades. I studied hard and ended up with a First Class Honors Degree and one of the highest marks in my class. A key part to achieving my results was my experience in the US. Without the personal growth I experienced and the skills I developed while on the program I don't think that I would have achieved such high grades.

My experience from the J-1IWT visa was also a major benefit to me once I left university and started looking for a graduate position. Having work experience on your resume is one thing, but having international work experience really helped me stand out from the

crowd when I was applying for positions. Not only that, it was also a great talking point in interviews and I was able to highlight and describe how I worked hard and developed personally and professionally while on the program, two key traits employers are looking for in Ireland.

Today, I am a participant on a prestigious graduate program run by Enterprise Ireland, whose aim is to develop the next generation of Irish International Business Developers. Through the program, I am studying a Post Graduate Diploma in International Business, while working for a company called Gaeltec Utilities as a Market Research Analyst. Without the experience from the J-1 IWT visa, it would be very unlikely that I would now be on this fantastic program.



Pictured: IIIC J1 - IWT Participant Mark Fitzgerald and his family at his graduation

QPR Saves Lives - Be a Hero in your Community

by Danielle Owen

Irish International Immigrant Center

Boston, MA

We all know someone who has died by suicide; a friend, a neighbor, a family member. What if you met that person a few days or hours before they decided to take their own life? What would you do? This critical opportunity to help someone often strikes fear. We don't know how we would react and worry we might freeze or say the wrong thing. If we mention "suicide", will we be putting the idea into their head? Can we cause someone's suicide by trying to help them? The answer is "NO!" These are all questions that we at the Irish International Immigrant Center have explored in our QPR Workshops in Boston, MA since 2011. "I didn't want to tell people where I was going" some folks say when they arrive at the workshop. "I'm

worried my family/friends will think I have suicidal thoughts." None of us have the same worries when we go to learn CPR and First Aid? QPR is the same as CPR, we learn basic steps to help someone stay alive - except their injuries are invisible and harder to see. And you don't have to be a medical or counseling professional - we can all save lives. By the end of the 90 minute workshop, everyone is empowered and confident in their ability to save lives by doing three little steps:

1. Asking the **Q**uestion: "Are you thinking of Suicide?"
2. **P**ersuading the person to stay alive just long enough to get help
3. **R**eferring the person, by hand, car, bus or phone to the support they need to help them avoid this completely preventable death.

Does QPR really work? In Feb 2013, The QPR Institute, established by Dr. Paul Quinnett Ph.D, was listed as an evidence-based practice in the **National Register of Evidence-based Practices and Policies** is a US based searchable online registry of mental health and substance abuse interventions that have been reviewed and rated by independent reviewers. Evaluation surveys conducted before and after our workshops consistently show an increase in participants' confidence in responding to someone who appears to be contemplating suicide.

The IIC has trained over 100 "gatekeepers" from the Irish community here in MA and many others have been trained by organizations nationwide.

To learn more, call Danielle at 617-542-7654 ext.14 or email dowen@iicenter.org.

Hibernian Irish American Heritage Month/ Immigration Lapel Pin

Dan Dennehy

Ancient Order of Hibernians

Following unanimous consent from the National Board, The AOH National Immigration Committee have a new Initiative to promote the Irish Perspective on Comprehensive Immigration Reform and highlight March as Irish American Heritage Month.

Starting in March 2014, we will ask Congress to recognize the important historical role of the Irish throughout US history, and show its commitment to Comprehensive Immigration Reform by wearing an Irish American Heritage Month/Immigration Lapel Pin.

The pins will be presented to members of Congress along with a card stating:

"In March, designated Irish-American Heritage Month since 1991, we

honor the vast contributions and sacrifice of Irish immigrants and their descendants to our Nation since its inception.

Today, Irish men and women seek legal means to carry on that tradition, to live and work here, to share their technical expertise and rich culture, and as those who came before, freshen American diversity.

Please wear this pin to demonstrate appreciation for the Irish contributions to these United States and support those who still aspire to make America their home."

Dan Dennehy
Ancient Order of Hibernians in America Inc.
National Immigration Committee Chair
email: dandennehy@hotmail.com
Phone: (914)588-2710

The limited edition lapel pins can be purchased for \$5 each.
Place your Order and payment by mailing:
Dan Dennehy AOH Immigration
22 Andre Lane, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567
Make check to: AOH National Board

White House Meeting Attended by Chicago Celts

By Breandán Magee

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

February 7th - The White House Office of Public Engagement held a meeting in the Executive Building of the White House on Friday, February 7. The meeting was attended by Billy Lawless, Chairman of the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform, Breandán Magee, Executive Director of Chicago Irish Immigrant Support and a host of other Irish organizations including Ciaran Staunton from the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform and Dan Dennehy from the AOH. The meeting was attended by ethnic groups from across the country including the Polish and Ukrainian communities and touched on immigration, the Affordable Care Act and the economy.

Upcoming Events

News From the Irish Pastoral Centre

Boston, MA

St. Patrick's Day activities will involve Mass followed by a Luncheon for the Seniors' that are part of Café Eireann & the Cara Club. Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross were IPC Chaplain Fr. John McCarthy will be concelebrant.

March 4th - In Massachusetts, the Affordable Health Care Act will be implemented by April 1st; The IPC will host an evening where folks can drop in to have any questions answered with a Certified Application counselor. Tuesday March 4th from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Paper applications can be completed and/or complete the online applications. Free and confidential.

Staff at the IPC are delighted at the nomination of Kathleen Rohan to the CIIC as Board Secretary, a role no doubt she will take on with the highest level of professionalism.

Get Connected!

San Francisco, CA

Are you newly arrived in San Francisco or do you need a career change?

Do you need help to update your resume?

Do you need a new way of networking & making employment contacts?

Let us help you!!

Get Connected!

part of our Irish Immigrant Connect Program

March 19th, 2014

Irish Immigration Pastoral Center

5340 Geary Blvd. @ 18th Ave.

Join our new Irish Immigrant Connect Program and learn about:

- * Understanding the US recruitment system
- * Selling your skills to a US employer
- * Utilizing your skills and experience to your advantage
- * Resume and Cover Letter best practices
- * Interview Techniques
- * Networking 101 - how to sell your talents and skills
- * Get connected with a Mentor!

Register with Natasha at 415.752.6006 or natasha@s-fiipc.org

Irish Week in Seattle

by John Keane

Seattle, WA

March 1st - 22nd - Seattle's Irish community events celebrating St. Patrick's Day run from March 1 through March 22 and the theme for our 2014 celebrations is the 1000th anniversary of the Battle of Clontarf.

There are several large events in Seattle like the St. Patrick's Day Parade which has as the Grand Marshal Irish Senator Katherine Zappone who was born in Seattle and lived here until moving to Ireland in the 1980s. In addition to the Parade, we also have the Seattle Irish Festival which is expected to attract up to 15,000 in attendance. There will be the Mayor's Irish Week Proclamation Luncheon which also doubles as an Irish Seniors' Luncheon, a St. Patrick's Day Mass, a black-tie Dinner and Auction, a two-week run of performances of an Irish Play, a four-mile run involving about 15,000 runners, an Irish DNA Genealogy Workshop, an Irish Soda Bread Contest, and an event to paint a green stripe down the center of Seattle's main downtown street.

The culmination of the celebrations is a Céili Mór on March 22 in the grand hall of Tacoma's Museum of Glass to celebrate the Museum's ongoing exhibition of contemporary Irish glass. Among the performers and artists in attendance will be Liam Ó Maonlaí of Hothouse Flowers fame, and Irish glass artist Róisín de Buitléar. Because of the smaller numbers of Irish-born people in the Seattle area, our Irish links may not be as obvious as in larger US cities, but this is more than compensated for by the involvement and enthusiasm of those who are involved in maintaining and strengthening the links that do exist.

For more information on Irish Week in Seattle, visit www.IrishWeek.org.

Bachelor of the Year Fundraiser Aisling Irish Community Center

Gaelic Park, Bronx NY

March 8th - The Aisling Irish Community Center is excited to host the Bachelor of The Year 2014 Fundraiser on March 8th at Gaelic Park in the Bronx. Last year, this event was acclaimed one of the most successful and entertaining nights for the Irish and Irish American Community in New York.

Tickets are \$30 per person. The center is still taking entries, if you think you have what it takes to be the "Bachelor of the Year", or would like to get more information, please visit their website [here](#).

Irish Lobby Day on the Hill - Can you Attend?

Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform

March 12th- ILIR are hosting Irish National Lobby Day on the Hill. There will be a number of people from each State on the Hill to meet with their GOP Representatives to let Congress know that the Irish American community supports immigration reform and Congress should too.

The Irish have been effectively locked out of the US since the 1965 Immigration Reform Act, when the "**No Irish Need Apply**" language was added. As a result, it is next to impossible for the Irish to come to the US legally.

Ireland received less than 15,400 Green Card visas between 2002-2011, out of 10 Million issued Globally ! That's about 0.15% of the US visas issued globally during that period!

The Irish American community needs immigration reform and Irish America has an important role to play in the immigration debate so let your voice be heard, loud and proud, by joining us on the Hill.

Please let us know if you are available to attend the **IRISH Lobby Day on the Hill** and please feel free to invite others you feel would be interested in attending.

For more information contact Ciaran Staunton, President ILIR, 917-251-0739

Murphy's Unite!!

Toronto, Canada

Are you a Murphy? Come to Toronto for a "reunion of the Murphy Clan," which invites anyone with the last name Murphy to march in a section of the 2014 Toronto St. Pat's Parade. Any "Murphy" interested in participating should e-mail murphy@topatrick.com for further details.

With much thanks,
Cathy Murphy

Cathy Murphy
Executive Director
Irish Canadian Immigration Centre

Emerald Isle Immigration Center to Host 21st Annual Briscoe Awards

21 Club

Manhattan, NY

March 24th - The 21st Annual Robert Briscoe Awards hosted by the Emerald Isle Immigration Center will take place at the 21 club in Manhattan. The Briscoe Awards are bestowed each year on members of New York's Jewish community in appreciation of efforts to better the lives of Irish Immigrants. Robert Briscoe was the first Jewish Lord Mayor of Dublin, Ireland. He was elected to that Office in 1956, a time when New York had not yet seen its first Jewish Mayor. 2014 honorees are: Joanne Jaffe, Chief of Houseing; New York City Police Department; and Scott Stringer, Comptroller, City of New York.

Please contact Siobhan Dennehy, Executive Director at siobhand@eiic.org or 718-478-5502, ext. 206 for more details.

New York Irish Center's 9th Annual Fundraiser

Symphony Space

New York, NY

April 10th - Give back and have the craic! The New York Irish Center will be holding their 9th Annual Fundraiser with an All-Star Night of Comedy and Music featuring:

Irish Comedy Master, Brendan Grace

Roots Rockers "Enter the Haggis" presenting a mixture of the very best of favorite Irish music and original material

Master of Ceremonies Irish Comedian/Writer &
@Irishmammies Twitter sensation Colm O'Regan

Tickets can be found at the New York Irish Center's [website](#).

Irish Senior Connect

855.249.5146

Calls to Date - ISC volunteers have received 266 calls to date on the listening line, and have made 850 well-being check-in calls.

What's New - ISC volunteers and staff are continuing to develop the senior men's outreach project.

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

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