

## Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers Newsletter

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**Dear Aileen,**

Welcome to the July 2012 edition of the CIIC Newsletter.

I am glad to be in contact with you again, and to be able to update you on the exciting happenings at CIIC, as well as in our regional Member Centers.

Please update me about your Member Center or organization, so we can share your news and achievements with the community. Please also feel free to forward this Newsletter onto friends and colleagues by using the link at the bottom of this page.

Best,

Aileen Leonard Dibra  
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Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers  
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### Ocean City Irish Outreach J1Program Receives Visit from the Embassy

The Ocean City Irish Outreach received a visit from Mr. Ralph Victory and Ms. Deirdre Bourke from the Irish Embassy in Washington, DC. Mrs. Geri Garvey, Administrator of the Irish Apostolate USA, joined the group for the day's visit. The Embassy Representatives met with some of the Irish students in Ocean City for the summer under the J-1 visa program.

This year the Ocean City Irish Outreach, coordinated by Pat and Rick Fairbend, has been able to open up and staff an office in the downtown area of Ocean City, making it very accessible to the Irish students. The office is the distribution center for household items, linens and towels. With such a heat wave, fans have been in demand!

One of the continuing issues in Ocean City is the lack of adequate housing for the students. The Embassy personnel did visit some of the student

housing and met with representatives from the police force and the Seasonal Workforce Committee. The meeting was positive, and both the Embassy and Irish City Irish Outreach look forward to continued collaboration.

For more information about the Ocean City Irish Outreach, [click here](#).

[Click here](#) to locate a regional Member Center that you can refer J1 students to for more information.

Please forward updates about your center's J1 experience this summer to Aileen Leonard Dibra at [aileen.dibra@ciic-usa.org](mailto:aileen.dibra@ciic-usa.org).

## CIIC Meets Washington Ireland Program Class of 2012

On July 13th, Aileen Leonard Dibra, CIIC National Coordinator, along with Patrick Collins, EIIC J1 Coordinator & Legal Intern, and Jane McCarter, Cultural & Arts Director at NYIC, participated in a panel discussion and Q&A with the distinguished Washington Ireland Program (WIP) Class of 2012. The forum occurred at New York University and was a great success.

For almost two decades, WIP has been dedicated to supporting the peace and reconciliation efforts in Northern Ireland and Ireland, and has done so through its support of youth. WIP identifies young people with a commitment to service and a track record of leadership, and builds their skills through work experience, educational opportunity, and hands-on citizenship both at home and in the US. Through these efforts, WIP is building the next generation of leaders that will achieve a peaceful, stable and prosperous future for Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Aileen Leonard Dibra indicated, "It was a wonderful and humbling experience to meet with such energetic and driven students. The CIIC is looking forward to continued collaboration with the Washington Ireland Program, as well as keeping up to date on the successes of the 2012 Class and future WIP interns."

The meeting allowed for a lively and thoughtful discussion on a variety of topics including, the J1 Summer Visa program, service provision and attainment for immigrants to the US, programming offered to Irish immigrants by regional immigration centers and how work life differs in the US and Ireland.

"We very much admire the work of CIIC, and it was a marvelous opportunity to be able to engage with this community in NYC. The Washington Ireland Program looks forward to continuing this dialog and strengthening our connections in the future," Bryan Patten, Executive Director at Washington-Ireland Program said.

"Future leaders of Ireland and Northern Ireland need to think about our role in the global economy, our cultural presence in the US and our

relationship with our diaspora - and there is no place better to reflect on these questions than in NYC," Patten added

For more information on the Washington Ireland Program, [click here](#).



## Seattle's Irish Community Welcomes Chaplain



Fr. John Madigan, a native of Co. Limerick who is Pastor of Holy Rosary Church in West Seattle, has been appointed Chaplain to the Irish Immigrant Community of Seattle, an appointment jointly made by the Archdiocese of Seattle and the Irish Bishops Episcopal Commission for Emigrants. Immigrant Chaplains strive to serve all emigrants, of all faiths or of none, whether it's providing a sympathetic ear and a helping hand, trying to help with immigration matters, employment, accommodation or legal advice. They are there where possible when accidents, unexpected illnesses or deaths occur, and also to join in the various celebrations. Fr. John can be contacted via telephone at 206-937-1488 (Ext 205), through the church office at 206-935-8353, or by calling 425-244-5147, or at [atsean@holyrosaryseattle.org](mailto:atsean@holyrosaryseattle.org).

*Originally written and published by John Keane*

For more information on happenings in the Seattle area, visit [Seattle Irish Immigrant Support](#).

## Seniors Trip from Philadelphia to New York: A Success!

As reported in last month's newsletter, on June 27th a group of twenty-five Seniors from the Irish Immigration Center (IIC) in Philadelphia made a day trip to visit the New York Irish Center (NYIC) in Long Island City. The two groups participated in NYIC's Senior Lunch & Social Club. They shared a meal, lively conversation and the event culminated in a beautiful rendering of Irish music and songs. The trip was a true success allowing the Senior groups to socialize, exchange ideas, forge friendships and participate in cultural activities.

"We had such a great day, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. On behalf of the group, I just want to thank the New York Irish Center again for having us and we hope to return the favor soon," stated Leslie Alcock, the Director of Community Programs at IIC Philadelphia.

The IIC group also made a visit to the Liberty State Park in New Jersey where they enjoyed an amazing view of the Manhattan Skyline, Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. This park is also home to the Historic Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal (CRRNJ). Large numbers of the Immigrants that passed through Ellis Island took their first step on American mainland and started their new lives via the CRRNJ Terminal.

For more information about the Irish Immigration Center in Philadelphia, [click here](#).

For more information about the New York Irish Center, [click here](#).



## **New Staff Member at the Aisling Irish Community Center**

Linda Croston is the newest staff member at the Aisling Irish Community Center in Yonkers, New York. Linda is originally from Skibbereen, County Cork. She always wanted to live and work in New York, and following her work visa approval she relocated to the U.S. and now resides in Woodlawn.

Linda has been brought on as the Program & Event Coordinator and one aspect of the position is to coordinate the Irish Volunteers for the Homeless program. The goal of the program is to feed the homeless on the streets of New York City on Monday nights. The center and its volunteers participate in all aspects of the program from preparing food on Monday afternoons, transporting it to various locations in the city and finally handing out the meals to approximately 300 homeless people living on the streets of New York per week. The program is funded in part by the Irish government, along with donations from private funders and Aisling Center fundraising events. The cost of the program exceeds \$16,000 annually. Linda is also responsible for coordination of the free weekly lunch program for seniors living in the local community where a free lunch is served up at the center every Tuesday at 1:00pm.

Linda and the Aisling Irish Community Center are always interested in getting people involved with the Volunteers for the Homeless Program, or other programming that the center supports. For more information about the Aisling Irish Community Center, its programming and ways to get involved, [click here](#).

## **Siobhan Lyons Inducted into the Delaware Valley Irish Hall of Fame**

Siobhan Lyons, Executive Director of the Irish Immigration Center (IIC) in Philadelphia was recently inducted into the Delaware Valley Irish Hall of Fame.

CIIC sends its congratulations to Siobhan on this honor, and is proud to recognize all the support that IIC provides to the Irish immigrant population, as well as immigrants of other nationalities in the Philadelphia area.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the work of IIC.

## **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 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)