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Fáilte

Consul General Claire McCarthy

A chairde,

Welcome to the second edition of our revamped newsletter. We really hope you enjoy it.

We love hearing news from around our region and in this edition you will read updates from Dallas, Kansas City and San Antonio—each at a different stage on the pandemic journey.

As we face into months of more uncertainty please be absolutely assured that your Consulate team are always there for you. If you need help with something practical or just want to arrange a time for a virtual cuppa we would be delighted to hear from you!

For now, stay safe (fan slán) and look after each other,

Claire, Paul, Laura and Cecilia

“Believe that a further shore is reachable from here.”

Séamus Heaney, whose 7th anniversary was this week.



(L-R) Consul General Claire McCarthy, Nancy Wormington Executive Director of the Kansas City Irish Center and Vice Consul Paul Breen at the 2019 Kansas City Irish Festival

Choctaw-Ireland Scholarship 2020/21



*Ciara O'Donnell
Choctaw-Ireland
Scholarship Recipient
2020-21*

The Consulate is delighted to announce that Ciara O'Donnell has been awarded the Choctaw-Ireland Scholarship for 2020-2021.

Ciara holds a Bachelor of Arts in Film Production from California State University and will soon be heading for University College Cork to undertake a Master of Arts in Film and Screen Media.

While in Ireland Ciara hopes to explore her Donegal roots, learn some Irish dancing and taste as much Irish cheese as possible!

Ciara will be following in the footsteps of Jessica Militante whose reflections on her experience in Ireland as the first Choctaw-Ireland scholar you can read [here](#).

The Choctaw-Ireland Scholarship was established in recognition of the act of generosity and humanitarianism shown by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma towards the people of Ireland during the Great Famine. The Scholarship is funded by the Government of Ireland and administered by the Chahta Foundation.

We wish Ciara all the best for her studies by the Lee in UCC.

Irish Centenarian in San Antonio



Sister Sheila Ruane celebrated her 100th birthday in San Antonio, Texas in July.

To mark the occasion, Sister Sheila received the [Centenarian Bounty](#) from the President Michael D. Higgins, a tradition by which Irish citizens who have reached their 100th birthday receive a gift from the State and a special message from the President of Ireland.

Originally from County Mayo, Sister Sheila came to the United States in 1935 to enter the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio.

Sister Sheila is now the third Irish centenarian at the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word along with Sister Mary Eustace Farrell (Longford) and Sister Margaret Mary Daly (Kerry).

Shades of Green



Throughout the summer, we have been working with the Irish Embassy in Washington on an online series called "[Shades of Green](#)" to celebrate the work of Irish and Irish American artists in the United States.

The artists from our region that featured in the series were: Kansas City-based band Hi-Lux Tim Braun & Julia Haile, Nick Carswell from the Kansas-based vintage rock band

Carswell & Hope, Austin-based composer and violinist Niamh Fahy and Austin-based singer songwriter Pat Byrne.

Also our Consul General Claire McCarthy interviewed the poet and writer LeAnne Howe, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

You can watch the 'Shades of Green' live show on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Beagánín Gaelge

Go raibh míle maith agat Prof. Jonathan O'Neill from University of St. Thomas in Houston, TX, for updating our Irish vocabulary for the times we live in.

pandemic : **paindéim**

face covering : **clúdach aghaidhe**

hand sanitizer : **díghalrán lámh**

lockdown : **dianghlásáil**

quarantine : **coraintín**

videocall : **físchomhrá**

health : **sláinte**

remote working: **cianobair**

What's Going on at Home?

Here are just some of the cultural highlights from Ireland that you can access online:

'Rave On, Van Morrison'

To celebrate the 75th birthday of Van Morrison, the Irish music magazine Hot Press asked 75 leading artists to film performances of many of his greatest songs from his six-decade career. Click [here](#) to watch the 'Rave On, Van Morrison' series on the Hot Press YouTube channel.

Galway – European Capital of Culture 2020



As the 2020 European Capital of Culture, Galway will deliver a very different programme of events than originally planned. The re-imagined programme based on the themes of *Language, Landscape and Migration* will now run from 1 September 2020 to the 31 March 2021 and will involve a blend of live and online events. Visit www.galway2020.ie for more information.

Museum at Home – Online Resources and Activities for Children

The National Museum of Ireland have lots of activity sheets for children available as part of the 'Museum from Home' section including an Autumn-themed word search. Click [here](#) for more.

Culture Night – Friday, September 18

Culture Night is an all-island public event that celebrates culture, creativity and the arts. This year's Culture Night will include many online events that we can take part in from this side of the Atlantic! For the full program, please visit: www.culturenight.ie. Here are a few of our picks:

- DIY Gaelge: Crash Course in the Best Online Irish Language Resources – click [here](#)
- Virtual Tour of Iveagh House (the headquarters of the Department of Foreign Affairs which was once the property of the Guinness Family) – click [here](#)
- Virtual Tour of Leinster House (the building where the parliament of Ireland sits which inspired the design for White House in Washington, DC) – click [here](#)
- Spoken Word and Stories with DeBarra's Folk Club of Clonakilty, Cork – click [here](#)

A Message from the Kansas City Irish Center By Nancy Wormington

The Kansas City Irish Center is facing the same challenges that all non-profit organizations have right now, but there have been a few silver linings during the past couple of months. We received a grant through the [Emigrant Support Programme](#) for much-needed renovations and because all events in our Drexel Hall event space were cancelled, we had time to get many of these projects completed. We now have a beautiful hall that we hope to use once again soon!

Pretty much everything else went virtual, including monthly genealogy programs and writing workshops, Irish language classes, and our Books, Brews, and Blarney Book Club. We plan to continue offering these [programs online](#), as well as most of our other Fall activities.

As restrictions began to loosen, we decided to use our courtyard to host an outdoor event with local musicians.

We limited the number of tickets to accommodate social distancing requirements and put special procedures in place to prioritize the health and safety of volunteers and guests. We have now safely held four such events, each of which sold out, and plan to continue them into September.



Restoration of Drexel Hall

A Message from the Harp and Shamrock Society of Texas By Joan Moody

The Harp and Shamrock Society of San Antonio, Texas like so many organizations, have had to cancel many of our activities. However, an outdoor event was held in June to honor our scholarship recipients and the new 2020/21 officers of the Harp and Shamrock Society.

Our next event will be a virtual 5k Run which competitors have from September 25 through October 4 to complete. For more information please contact Terry Peak at tpeak@UIW.edu. The Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Hooley scheduled for September 19 has been cancelled.

Further information on the Harp and Shamrock Society of Texas is on www.harpandshamrock.org or our Facebook page.



Elissa O'Brien, President of the Harp and Shamrock

A Message from The Ireland Funds in Dallas By Judy Curtis



The Ireland Funds has supported the Irish non-profit sector for more than 40 years and is active here in the Texas area with many supporters and friends. In the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic, many Irish non-profit organizations are facing unprecedented challenges in delivering their services to individuals and families across Ireland.

[The Ireland Funds COVID-19 Response Fund](#) is coming alongside the organizations with help to ensure food distribution, access to remote education, care for families in crisis, services for seniors and other vulnerable members of the community. Upcoming events include a [Remote Global 5K Run](#) on Saturday, September 19 with supporters around the world each running or walking their own 5K route. For more information contact Darina Padian, Texas Director, at 469-232-9601 or dpadian@irelandfunds.org.

News from Ireland

- **John Hume (1937-2020):** The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, led tributes to John Hume who passed away on August 3 in Derry at the age of 83. Hume was the co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998 for his many years of campaigning for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland. For more, click [here](#).
- **Ireland at the United Nations:** In June, Ireland was elected to the United Nations Security Council for the 2021/22 term. This will be Ireland's fourth time serving on the Security Council having previously served in 1962, 1981 and 2001.
- **New Government:** On June 27, Mr. Micheál Martin was elected by Dáil Éireann as Ireland's 15th Taoiseach (Prime Minister). Following the vote, President Michael D. Higgins presented An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD, with his Warrant of Appointment and Seal of Office, in accordance with Article 13 of the Constitution. A full list of Government Ministers can be found [here](#).



Got a suggestion?

Please contact us if you have an idea or a suggestion for the next edition of our newsletter! We would love to feature stories and news from around our region.



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Irish for Pride 2020

Although we couldn't proudly march down Congress Avenue waving our rainbow flags and banners in support of Austin's annual Pride parade this year, our community still came together (virtually). During Pride week this month, we received several beautiful drawings as well as numerous selfies of the community wearing their 'Irish for Pride' t-shirts from previous Pride marches.

Thank you to everyone for participating and for showing your support from home. We look forward to marching together in person next time! Until then, stay proud and stay home! Sláinte!

Fest Where You Are!

The [Kansas City Irish Fest](#) will take place on September 4-5 and will feature a series of small, Irish-themed, locally focused community experiences under the theme of "Fest Where You Are".

In an effort to continue to "bring the soul of Ireland to the heart of America" during these challenging times, a two-hour benefit concert will be live streamed for free so attendees can enjoy Irish Fest wherever they are on Saturday, September 5 at 7pm central.

The concert's line-up includes performances from Aoife Scott, Byrne and Kelly, Corner Boys, Gaelic Storm, Oscar Blue, Shane Hennessy, We Banjo 3 and many of Kansas City's local Irish musicians.

This year's fest is supported in part by the Government of Ireland's [Emigrant Support Programme](#). For more information on how you can watch online, visit: www.kcirishtfest.com.

KC
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2020

