

Echo St. Patrick's Day

Mass. turns green this St. Patrick's Day

By **Michae P.I. Quinlin**
letters@irishecho.com

Governor Deval Patrick has declared March 2014 as Irish Heritage Month in Massachusetts, and everywhere you turn there are green events sprouting up through the snow and ice that lingers on the landscape.

Here is an overview of some of the best events taking place in Massachusetts and across the New England region.

MUSIC IN MASS.

The Dropkick Murphys, Boston's favorite punk-Irish band, is lifting the rafters at the House of Blues on Lansdowne Street, on March 13-17. Fans travel from all over the country to rock out with the hard-driving, rambunctious, fun-loving band in their home town.

St. Patrick's Celtic Sojourn concerts, hosted by Corkman Brian O'Donovan, whose popular radio show Celtic Sojourn runs Saturdays on WGBH. Now in its 9th year the lineup features two acts from Ireland - the Alan Kelly Gang and Irish trad duo Caitlin nic Gabhann and Ciaran o Maonaigh, plus Galician piping master Carlos Nunez.

The concerts take place at the Hanover Theatre in Worcester on March 14, then head over to the Sanders Theatre in Harvard Square for shows on March 15 & 16.

Master fiddler Seamus Connolly headlines the Reagle Theatre of Greater Boston's annual "A Bit of Ireland" concert on March 15-16 in Waltham, along with members of Boston's Comhaltas Chapter, led by the Reynolds brothers.

All-Ireland step dance

champion Liam Harney brings his award winning academy to perform.

The Irish Cultural Centre in Canton is offering a full schedule of Irish music, pub sessions and other family activities, from March 14-17.

The fun, retro-ballad singing, punk trad band Tin Can Hooley performs at the Canadian American Club in Watertown on March 14. On March 15, the JFK Library in Dorchester features a free performance by Maureen Green O'Leary School of Irish Dancing.

On March 17 Matt & Shannon Heaton perform traditional songs and tunes at the Beat Hotel in Harvard Square, and across town that night, Katie McD from Galway, a recent Berklee grad, performs at the Beehive jazz club in the South End.

In Worcester, Blackstone Cuil plays at the Hibernian Cultural Centre.

On March 19, singer/fiddler Sharon Corr plays at the hip Brighton Music Hall in Boston's Allston/Brighton neighborhood, and across the river in Somerville, Galway singer Sean Keane performs at the Burren Pub in Davis Square.

On March 23, the Irish Rovers from Dublin are giving their farewell Boston-area concert at Carey Hall in Lexington.

MUSIC AROUND NEW ENGLAND

On March 16, the Blackstone River Theatre in Cumberland, RI features the popular Celtic band Pendragon, and on March 16 they bring in three Celtic harpists, including Patrick Ball. On March 16 Irish band Gypsy



The Irish Rovers.



Katie McD.

Reel, led by Claudine Langille, performs at Killarney Irish Pub in Ludlow, VT.

On March 21, Yonkers fiddler Jimmy Devine and friends perform at the Irish Ceilidhe Club in Cranston RI, and the following night, March 22, fiddler Kevin Burke also performs there.

AUTHORS AND LECTURES

Irish famine scholar Christine Kinealy is speaking at the Lawrence Heritage State Park on March 23, as part of the city's Irish Heritage Month organized by the AOH.

Chris Klein, author of Strong Boy: the Life and Times of John L. Sullivan, is reading at the Falmouth Historical Society on Cape Cod, on March 18,

followed by a reading at the Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy on March 19.

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend appears at the JFK Library on March 21 to discuss the diplomatic trip to Japan President Kennedy planned to take in 1964. It's part of the JFK Forum series at the library.

Vicki Kennedy, head of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute and Olympia Snow, former U.S. Senator from Maine, have a conversation at the JFK Library on Bipartisanship and American Unity on March 26, part of the JFK Forum series.

FILM AND ARTS

On March 20, the annual Irish Film Festival Boston kicks off at the Somerville Theatre in Davis Square, and runs through March 23. The festival features some of Ireland's best short films, documentaries and feature films, along with engaging talks and workshops about the Irish film industry.

On March 29, an all-day Irish Film Festival, organized by AOH Division 8, runs at Lawrence Heritage State Park, featuring the best Hollywood favorites on the Irish.

IRISH HERITAGE TRAIL WALKING TOUR

The Boston Irish Tourism Association is offering guided tours of the Irish Heritage Trail

on March 15, 16, 17, led by experienced historical guide Ted Kulik. The 75 minute tour covers 300 years of Boston's illustrious Irish history. The tours start at the visitor center on Boston Common, and tickets can be purchased at the center. IrishHeritageTrail.com.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

The American Ireland Fund holds its Young Leaders celebration on March 13 at the Boston Harbor Hotel. The Irish Networking Society and the Irish Consulate host the annual St. Paddy's Day Party on March 14 at the Boston Society of Architects (BSA).

The Irish American Partnership annual breakfast takes place on March 17 at the Boston Harbor Hotel.

The Charitable Irish Society holds its 277th annual dinner on March 17 at the Algonquin Club in Boston's Back Bay.

PARADES

Lawrence: Saturday, March 15, 2014 @ 1:00 pm; Abington: Sunday, March 16, 2014 @ 1:00 pm; Boston: Sunday, March 16, 2014 @ 1:00 pm; Scituate: Sunday, March 16, 2014 @ 1:00 pm; Quebec, Canada: Saturday, March 22, 2014 @ Noon; Holyoke: Sunday, March 23, 2014 @ Noon; Manchester, NH: Sunday, March 30, 2014 @ Noon.

EXHIBITS

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood has a moving exhibit called, A Nation Remembers, a display of artifacts from the funeral of President John F. Kennedy, running until March 30.

The Lawrence Heritage State Park in Lawrence has an exhibit titled "The Reverend James T. O'Reilly OSA and his influence on Lawrence," organized by Frank Ford of AOH Division 8. It runs through March 30.

Find year round details on Irish activities in New England at IrishMassachusetts.com.

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