

# Consulate General of Ireland

## Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

October 2018

[www.dfa.ie/irish-consulate/atlanta](http://www.dfa.ie/irish-consulate/atlanta)



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It was a pleasure to welcome a Northern Ireland delegation to Atlanta for a visit that emphasised civil rights, cooperation and business opportunity. Above, a warm reception from the Rotary Club of Atlanta.

### Message from the Consul General

A chairde,

It was a pleasure to support, in co-operation with the Northern Ireland Bureau and the British Consulate General, a successful visit by three politicians from Northern Ireland: Colum Eastwood, leader of the SDLP; Mike Nesbitt, former leader of the UUP and Patricia O'Lynn of the Alliance Party. The focal point of their visit was a full house screening of "John Hume in America" followed by a panel discussion at the Oxford College of Emory University. Other highlights included a meeting with the Commander for Community Policing in Atlanta and a tour of the Martin Luther King Center.

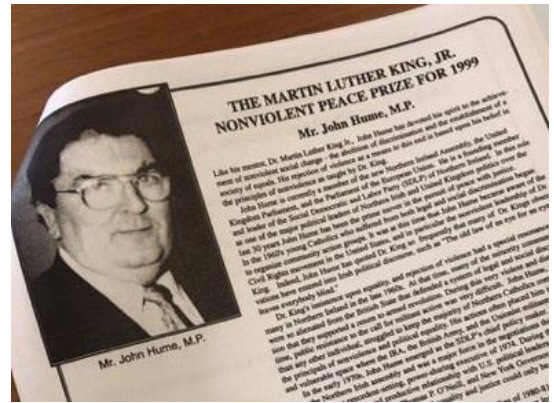
October will be a busy month for the Consulate. We look forward to participating in the Atlanta Pride Parade on October 14<sup>th</sup> and hope that you can join us in demonstrating Ireland's commitment to LGBT+ rights.

We also welcome another visitor from Northern Ireland, renowned Scots-Irish historian Billy Kennedy, who will visit Knoxville, the Stone Mountain Highland games and give a lecture at the Consulate.

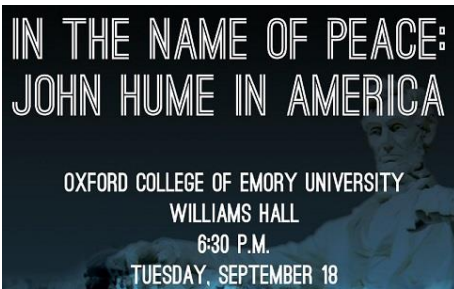
This year marks the bicentenary of the birth of Frederick Douglass, who travelled to Ireland in 1845. He travelled the length of Ireland, meeting individuals who made deep impressions on him including Daniel O'Connell and Cork's temperance movement leader, Father Matthew. In celebration of the life and work of Frederick Douglass, and his connection with Ireland, the Consulate will host two events – one on October 18 at Morehouse College and another on November 27 at Emory University. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Shane Stephens, 5 October 2018*

## Northern Ireland and the politics of peace



Column Eastwood, Mike Nesbitt and Patricia O'Lynn visited the MLK Jr National Historic Park and the King Center, interested to mark the civil rights links between the US and the island of Ireland. Above: copy of the programme for the presentation of the MLK Peace Prize to John Hume in 1999.



Film director Maurice Fitzpatrick was on hand for a full house at the special screening of John Hume in America and panel discussion at Emory's Oxford College, which discussed the importance of securing a sustainable peace in Northern Ireland.



Sharing best practices in community policing with the Atlanta Police Department

## Business and Culture Promotion in Upstate South Carolina



CG Stephens with the team at Irish company TireCheck in Greenville which uses technology to maximize tire safety and economy for bus and truck fleets



Left: Good discussion with engineering firm Mergon on workforce development and trade

Right: Marty Flynn has preparations well underway for 24<sup>th</sup> annual 'Return to the Green' Irish festival in downtown Greenville on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2019.



## Supporting Irish interests in North Carolina



Left: a very warm welcome for Vice Consul O'Keeffe by the Charlotte Chamber on her visit to Charlotte. Great to speak with Chuck McShane & Sven Gerzer on Brexit and the links between Ireland & Charlotte, accompanied by Ireland's Honorary Consul in NC, John Young

Right: the Vice Consul was delighted to meet representatives of the Charlotte Regional Partnership with Hon Con Young to discuss mutual trade and investment priorities and cooperative opportunities.



Below: Terrific afternoon meeting the Irish community at Charlotte Irish Fest





[Shorla Pharma](#) co-founders Orlaith O'Brien and Sharon Cunningham in Raleigh during their search for a US headquarters location

Right: discussing the rich diversity of Irish American culture with Rachel Seidman & Patrick Horn at UNC's Center for the Study of the American South



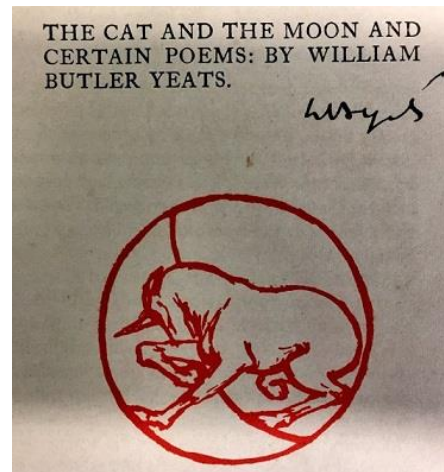
Great to hear JigJam again during their visit to North Carolina for the World of Bluegrass Convention and other local performances



Below: CG Stephens was pleased to support Horse Sport Ireland at the Opening Ceremony of the FEI World Equestrian Games with Honorary Consul John Young. He visited Irish company vendors during the show and met (below right) the organization's president, Dubliner Michael Stone.



# Irish studies and interest at the University of South Florida in Tampa



Many thanks to Dr. Jennifer Knight, Mr. Matthew Knight (both at left) and Dr. Susan Mooney for an engaging trip to USF where CG Stephens spoke on 'Ireland & America: Transatlantic Connections Then & Now'

Above: one of the treasures from USF Library's Irish collection, signed by WB Yeats



Left: USF's Irish Studies program is flourishing, with 90 enrolled in A History of Ireland course

A great turnout for the Consul General's programme by the leadership of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Florida State Board



## ...and in Atlanta...

new Vice Consul, Eilís O’Keeffe, quickly acclimates to the local business and cultural communities



Left: Bill Caylor and Bill Widis of Worldnet, Ireland’s newest fintech firm in Atlanta, briefed us on their plans for growth in the US.

Below: with Tara Shariff of the Carter Center to hear about their partnership with Ireland in relation to Liberia.



Left: fascinating lecture by University of Alabama Prof James McNaughton on his new book “Beckett and the Politics of Aftermath”, with Georgia State host, Prof Marilyn Richarik



Vice Consul O’Keeffe was honoured to be made an honorary member of the Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta during her inaugural visit with them.





Planning for Atlanta's PRIDE Parade! Come walk with Consul General Stephens & friends to represent Ireland on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Information in Events section below



...wrapping up in South Florida

Where the Emerald Society had great fun on their September pub crawl





## Irish News

The following candidates have been officially nominated for [the election of the President of Ireland](#) taking place on 26 October: Peter Joseph Casey, Gavin Duffy, Joan Freeman, Seán Gallagher, Michael D. Higgins and Liadh Ní Riada. Information on the election is available on the [Presidential Website](#).

An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar delivered [a speech at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit](#) held during the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, invoking Mandela's living legacy "entrusted to us so we can be the torch-bearers for peace and reconciliation, for this and future generations."

Also at UNGA, the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney T.D., delivered [Ireland's national statement](#), highlighting Ireland's strong support for multilateralism, its role in UN peace-keeping, disarmament and humanitarian assistance, concerns regarding the Middle East, and making the case for Ireland's candidature for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2021-2022 term.

In a meeting in Dublin, Tánaiste Coveney and the [Secretary of State for Northern Ireland](#), Karen Bradley MP, affirmed the determination of both Governments to get the devolved institutions in Northern Ireland up and running again. The Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe, visited Belfast to engage with [stakeholders in Northern Ireland](#) in relation to their concerns on Brexit.

Watch the [Tánaiste's remarks on BBC](#) about the importance of the relationship between Ireland and the UK, and visit [www.dfa.ie/Brexit](http://www.dfa.ie/Brexit) to see how Ireland is getting Brexit ready.

On the occasion of the visit of President Mahmoud Abbas, Tánaiste Coveney announced additional [funding to the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees](#), supporting the Agency in delivering core services, especially in education & healthcare.

The Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure & Reform, [Paschal Donohoe T.D.](#), published [Ireland's Corporation Tax Roadmap](#), which takes stock of the changing international tax environment, outlines the actions Ireland has taken to date and further actions planned for the coming years.

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed TD, launched the [Annual Review and Outlook for Agriculture, Food and the Marine 2018](#), stating: "Agriculture is Ireland's most important indigenous industry, with the agri-food sector continuing to play a vital role in Ireland's economy, with a turnover of €26 billion, contributing 7.8% of GNI\* and generating over 11% of total exports in 2017. "

Data from the Central Statistics Office indicated a [9% average annual growth](#) of the Irish economy in the second quarter of 2018 relative to the same period in 2017. The CSO also reported an 8.5% increase in [spending in Ireland by overseas visitors](#) in the first half of 2018 over the same period last year.

The history and culture of the [Irish Traveller community](#) is being added to the Irish school curriculum as a result of the Government's 2017 decision to recognise the ethnicity of the Traveller community. The largest known US Irish Traveller community is in Murphy Village, South Carolina, with which the Atlanta Consulate is in regular communication.

We congratulate [Sanita Puspure](#) and brothers [Paul and Gary O'Donovan](#) on their gold medal performances in the World Rowing Championships in Bulgaria. Ireland also made history at the World Equestrian Games in North Carolina with a Team Silver and with [Padraig McCarthy](#) taking Individual Silver. And congratulations also to [Cork Native Denise O'Sullivan](#), on her North Carolina Courage team win in the US National Women's Soccer League championship.

The Football Association of Ireland announced that they will join England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in a feasibility study on a bid to host the [2030 FIFA World Cup](#).

## Upcoming Events in the Southeast

Join Irish Traditions Atlanta for an evening with folk singer and author of the *The Irish DADGAD Guitar Book*, Sarah McQuaid, on Sunday, Oct 7 at 6pm for potluck dinner and concert, with 4pm workshop option. For more information, email [koko4note@yahoo.com](mailto:koko4note@yahoo.com). Sign up for the Irish Traditions Atlanta [Newsletter](#) for the latest on special performances and recurring regular meet-ups to enjoy Irish music and friends.

Knoxville Irish Society (KIS) invites you to their next monthly [social gathering](#) on October 13th 3:00 - 5:00pm, at 3131 Morris Ave, with traditional Irish tea, music, snacks & camaraderie. Contact: [info@knoxvilleirish.com](mailto:info@knoxvilleirish.com)

Don an Irish Pride tshirt provided by the Consulate and come join Consul General Stephens and friends as we march in the Atlanta PRIDE parade for the first time on October 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be an opportunity to show our commitment to the protection of the rights of LGBTQ individuals. Contact [Sondra.Reed@dfa.ie](mailto:Sondra.Reed@dfa.ie) for details.

The prestigious annual [Shamrock Open Golf Tournament](#) will take place on October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Peachtree Golf Club. The Shamrock Open is the fundraiser for the Atlanta St Patrick's Day Parade. It also supports the work of the St. Baldrick's Foundation to fight childhood cancer.

Author Billy Kennedy from Northern Ireland will speak on the "300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the early movement of the Scots-Irish to America, their lasting legacy", in Knoxville on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm at First Presbyterian Church, 620 State Street, and at a number of venues in Atlanta, including at the [46<sup>th</sup> Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games](#) (see the Tourism Ireland stand) and at the Consulate General of Ireland on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Contact the [Consulate](#) for additional information.

The Consulate is co-sponsoring two celebrations of the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Frederick Douglass in Atlanta that will showcase his life and legacy as an orator, author and abolitionist, and his time in Ireland. The first is a panel discussion at Morehouse College on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m., Martin Luther King International Chapel, with his descendent Nettie Washington Douglass, Dr. Samuel Livingston, Director of African American Studies Program at Morehouse, Christine Kinealy, Director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University, and Consul General Shane Stephens. The second is at Emory University's Cannon Chapel on November 27<sup>th</sup>, with selected readings from Douglass's works. More details forthcoming. Contact the [Consulate](#) for additional information.

The [South Florida Emerald Society](#) invites you to their October 24<sup>th</sup> Social at Scully's Tavern, Miami, 6:30pm. Contact for more information: [info@stpatrickssf@gmail.com](mailto:info@stpatrickssf@gmail.com)

On October 26-27 [IrishFest Atlanta](#) will celebrate the best of Traditional Irish Music, Dance, and Culture. This year's headline guest acts will include Téada, The Green Fields of America (40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour) and the Pride of Moyvane Ceili Band in a lively ceili (dance). Other highlights will include a lecture by renowned Irish academic Mick Moloney of NYU on "Two Roads Diverged: A talk of Irish & Black Contributions to American Music and Dance" and the annual "Tea with the Consul General Event". The action will all take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 4386 Chamblee Dunwoody Road. Tickets and schedule at the link above.

Join Irish Network Atlanta at IrishFest for their Annual Brunch on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> 10:00am-Noon. They will recap 2018 and introduce exciting new initiatives, including a new mentorship program. [Tickets here](#).

The Belfast band [Protex](#), one of the pioneers of the Belfast Punk Movement, will play in Atlanta on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 8pm at [the Earl](#) as part of a rock festival called [Atlanta Mess-Around](#).

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Irish Georgian Society and the Charleston Library Society present a [lecture by author James P. MacGuire](#), author of *Real Lace Revisited: Inside the Hidden World of America's Irish Aristocracy*, 6:00-7:00pm, The Charleston Society Library Society, 164 King Street, Charleston. [RSVP here](#).

*Be sure to send in your public event notices to [carol.jordan@dfa.ie](mailto:carol.jordan@dfa.ie). The next edition of our Heritage Series follows. To submit your story, contact [Kevin Conboy](#).*

## The Fitzgeralds from County Kerry

By Dave Fitzgerald

*Editor's Note: Dave is chairman and founder of Atlanta ad agency, Fitzco. He has served as president of the Atlanta Ad Club and in multiple leadership positions with American Association of Advertising Agencies (4As). He currently chairs the board of the St. Joseph's Health System. He is chair-elect of Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School, and he is a board member of the Buckhead Coalition, Atlanta Speech School, Emory St. Joseph's Hospital, and the National Advertising Review Board.*



My grandfather, John Thomas Fitzgerald, was born in 1870 on the family dairy farm in Castlegregory, County Kerry. When his brother took over the farm in 1888, John Thomas sailed from Cobh to Boston – alone. Uneducated and penniless he landed a job digging ditches along the roads of Boston. A year later he moved to Providence, Rhode Island for a job as a factory machinist - a big step up in those days. In Providence, he met and married Mary Welsh from Charlestown, County Mayo. They immediately had four children, including my father, John Francis Fitzgerald, who was born in 1903.

Education was drilled into my father by his parents – as neither had any formal education. My father never missed a day of school from first grade through 12<sup>th</sup> (I have his perfect attendance medal framed in my living room!)

He received a full ride academic scholarship to Providence College – which was 200 yards from his front door on River Avenue. From Providence College, he went to Harvard Business School – becoming one of the first (if not the first) Irish Catholics to receive a Harvard MBA. Upon graduating, he was recruited by City Bank Farmers Trust Company, later named First National City Bank – and now called Citibank. He retired in 1968 as Executive Vice President in charge of the Trust Division. Along the way he married my mother, Katherine Crosby, and settled in Brooklyn. After my oldest sibling was born, the small family moved to Long Island and had 5 more children – my twin brother and I being the youngest.

After retirement they spent summers in the Hamptons and winters in Vero Beach. They died in Vero Beach 2 months and two days apart in 1994.

I followed my older brother to the University of Dayton where I received a BS and MBA. I came to Atlanta to check it out for one year in 1975, presuming I'd eventually settle in New York. And I haven't looked back!

Like my parents, I have 6 children – and like them, the last two are twins. The eldest lives in Sarajevo with his lovely wife and my 3 wonderful grandchildren. He's with the US State Department. Second son is in digital marketing in Manhattan. Oldest daughter is in LA – soon to be a famous actress! Next daughter is her roommate in LA in film and television production. My wife, Stacey, is part Irish. When she's not chasing around twin 5 year olds, she's a documentary filmmaker, currently working on a film about Ravensbruck, a women's concentration camp.