

Consulate General of Ireland

Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

October 2016

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Message from the Consul General

As fall settles in across the Southeast, we look forward to an outstanding programme of cultural activities over the next month or so. These will include our final events to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1916 rising and visits from some of Ireland's leading creative talents.

As you will see from listings below, this week we can look forward to a book signing event with Emma Donoghue (Author of Oscar winner Room) and a performance of [We Have Risen](#) as part of Art on the Atlanta BeltLine. We Have Risen is a powerful original telling of Ireland's independence struggle through dance, song and spoken word, which incorporates an African-American dimension.

Mid October will see lectures in Atlanta on the forgotten women of the Easter Rising and an AOH Robert Emmet event in Savannah, bringing us up to Atlanta Irish Fest 2016 and Samuel Beckett events at Emory with Barry McGovern at the start of November.

See you there.

Shane Stephens, Consul General of Ireland

Irish Business and Culture Around the Southeast



Wonderful celebration of Irish legacy at 40th wreath laying ceremony in Oakland Cemetery by the Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta. Consul General Stephens with HBSA President Elect Nancy Logue in front of the plaque explaining significance of the Irish burial plot



Honorary Consul of Ireland for North Carolina, John Young (center), joins George McEvoy and Eddie Foley at AOH Feis in the Forest, Wake Forest, North Carolina



2016 Denise L. Weldon & Charlotte Irish Connection

Diarmuid O'Sullivan, President of Charlotte Irish Connection, together with Consul General Stephens, opens special screening of 1916-The Irish Rebellion



2016 Denise L. Weldon & Charlotte Irish Connection



Visit with American Jewish Committee Atlanta on their "Diplomatic Marathon"



Consul General Stephens joins Gainesville Mayor Lauren Poe for lunch, and took in Gare St Lazare's production of Moby Dick with University of Florida professors at Squitieri Studio Theatre



Irish News

During the course of an extended U.S. visit programme, Charles Flanagan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, provided an [op-ed](#) titled "Ireland: Determined to Meet the Challenges of Brexit" for the The Huffington Post on September 18th. He also addressed [Fordham University](#) and the [UN General Assembly](#) in New York. In addition, the [Minister](#) outlined our position on Brexit and Apple decision on PBS.

In Dublin, the Minister held [bilateral talks](#) on Brexit with the UK Secretary of State for Exiting the UK, focusing on Ireland's priorities in relation to the Common Travel Area and a range of justice, security and immigration matters.

Minister Flanagan condemned the horrific [violence against Aleppo](#), underlining our concerns to the Russian authorities and outlining our ongoing humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people.

At an American Chamber of Commerce lunch in Cork attended by U.S. company executives, the Taoiseach [reaffirmed Ireland's commitment](#) to its 12.5% corporation tax rate, assuring no change in the wake of Brexit and the Apple ruling.

Former Taoiseach John Bruton wrote in an [op-ed in the Irish Independent](#) that the EU Commission's ruling that Ireland must collect €13bn in back taxes from Apple has created uncertainty for many companies and he affirmed Ireland's position that Apple was not given selective aid but "simply applying tax laws at the time."

Joe McHugh, Minister of State for the Diaspora and Overseas Aid, delivered the [keynote address](#) at [INUSA16](#) in San Francisco, the fourth annual conference of Irish Network USA which has 19 chapters across the U.S. including Atlanta and Mobile Bay in the Southeast. He emphasized the important role of the Irish Diaspora in meeting current challenges.

Over 2.5 million images of [historic records](#) of Births, Marriages and Deaths from the General Register Office (GRO) are now available online for the first time.

Ireland co-chaired the UN sessions that produced the [New York Declaration](#) which commits the Membership to collectively address the challenges of large movements of Refugees and Migrants.

Dublin is among the top 7 European [start-up cities](#) with venture capital investment funding quadrupling to €229m in the past year.

Ireland continues to attract U.S. technology companies at a rapid pace as a base for their European operations. September announcements included: South Carolina's [Ortec Inc.](#) (biomaterial and polymers) and Massachusetts-based [Fazzi Healthcare](#) (medical coding services) establishing in Limerick; California-based [Fitbit, Inc.](#) opening its European, Middle East and Africa headquarters in Dublin; Massachusetts software developer [MathWorks](#) establishing a sales and services centre in Galway; and [GE Healthcare](#) (Chicago hq) will invest €150 million in a new biopharmaceutical manufacturing campus in Cork.

On US shores, Ireland is the only EU country shipping beef commercially into the US, thanks to Bord Bia's [Origin Green programme](#) which puts sustainability at its heart.

The [President, Taoiseach](#) and [Minister Flanagan](#) expressed sympathy on the death of Shimon Perez, and Minister Flanagan traveled to Jerusalem to pay his respects and those of the Irish people to the family of Shimon Peres and to sympathize with the people of Israel.

President Higgins and Minister Humphreys officiated at the annual Famine Commemoration Ceremony at Glasnevin Cemetery where the President unveiled a [Famine Cross](#) as a memorial to those who perished during the years of An Gorta Mór.

Minister Flanagan paid tribute to [Thomas Kettle MP](#) at a State Ceremonial event marking the centenary of the renowned Irish poet, statesman and soldier who died during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. The ceremony was attended by many members of the extended Kettle family.

Congratulations to Team Ireland on achieving a total of 11 medals at the [2016 Paralympic Games](#), including 4 gold medals, 4 silver and 3 bronze!

Congratulations also to Irish golfer [Rory McIlroy](#) on his win at the PGA TOUR Championship in Atlanta.

The [Dublin GAA team](#) wins All Ireland final 1-15 to 1-14, claiming the first back-to-back All-Ireland win since the victorious sides of 1976-77.

Environment Minister Denis Naughten called on the public to keep up their [recycling efforts](#) ahead of an EU deadline at the end of this year requiring 45% of all batteries sold in Ireland to be recycled.

Upcoming Events in the Southeast

Emma Donoghue, author of international bestseller *Room* will be signing copies of her new book *The Wonder* on October 6 at 7PM, at [SCADshow](#) in Atlanta.

The Issakova/Campisi family will hold an evening of traditional Irish music and song at their home in Midtown Atlanta on October 8th featuring Beeswing and Turlach Boylan with Davey Mathias. [Reservation required.](#)

[We Have Risen](#) will be performed on October 9 as part of Atlanta's [Art on the Atlanta BeltLine](#) exhibition. Created for Ireland's 1916 Centenary commemorations, this original production by Atlanta's Sandra Hughes marks Ireland's journey to independence in drama, dance and song and incorporates an African-American dimension. Atlanta and Ireland share the Phoenix image and have had similar journeys from ashes to re-birth. The art installation, created for the BeltLine exhibition (which runs September-November), celebrates Atlanta's emergence as an international city and commemorates Ireland's journey to independence.

The College of Charleston Irish and Irish American Studies Program is hosting "[A Week of Irish Film](#)" October 11-13: *The Field, In the Name of the Father* and *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*. Free & open to public.

On October 12, Atlanta will host lectures on the [Women of 1916](#), sponsored by the Consulate and delivered by scholar Karen Steele, author of *Women, Press, and Politics during the Irish Revival*:

2.00pm: "Revolution in the Rearview Mirror: Irish Women's Memoirs of the Easter 1916 Rising"

Troy Moore Library, 25 Park Place 30303 (23rd floor), Georgia State University

7.30pm: "Forgotten Female Rebels of the Easter 1916 Rising"

Frannie Graves Auditorium, Campbell Hall (Room 128), Agnes Scott College

Celtic Thunder will perform at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta 7:30 pm on October 13 as part of their new North American tour. [Click link for tickets.](#)

On Saturday October 22nd at 11am, the Ancient Order of Hibernians will arrange a ceremony in Savannah to mark the instalment of a new Irish stone bench in Robert Emmett Square. The bench has been funded by local Irish community organisations, members of Savannah's Irish community and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Consul General Stephens will speak at the event.

The movie, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, set in the mountains of Connemara, runs at [Charleston's Pure Theatre](#) Oct 28-Nov 19.

From October-December 2016, Emory University is hosting many events [celebrating the launch](#) of the final volume of *The Letters of Samuel Beckett*. Note in particular the chamber reading on November 5th with outstanding Irish actor Barry McGovern, the evening co-hosted by the Consulate.

The full schedule of events is now available for the [fourth annual IrishFest](#) hosted by Irish Traditions Atlanta November 4-5 at the Holiday Inn 4386 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd, Atlanta, GA 30341. The family-friendly festival features wonderful music, dance and film.

On November 15, the College of Charleston's Irish and Irish American Studies Program will host a [lecture](#) titled: "'Being so Clever as That': The Power and Agency of Women during The Great Irish Famine (An Gorta Mór)", 7pm Addlestone Library.

The Tennessee Arts Commission is offering a grant to apprentice in Franklin, Tennessee with Éilís Crean, Teacher & Performer of the [East Galway Irish Music Tradition](#). Eilis@theirishgift.com, 615-239-5091.