

Consulate General of Ireland

Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

March 2019

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Contact Us:

AtlantaCG@dfa.ie

Consulate General of Ireland
Monarch Plaza, Suite 260
3414 Peachtree Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30326
Tel: +1-404-554-4980
Fax: +1-678-235-2201

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Catherine Ann Sherlock, Jean Riley, Betty Joe Riley and Mary Gorman from the Irish Traveller community in North Augusta share their story with Consul General Stephens and guests during our St. Brigid's Day breakfast event

A chairde,

It was wonderful to welcome an enthusiastic and supportive crowd to the Consulate early on the morning of 1 February for what we hope will become an annual celebration of the lives, talents and creativity of women. I was particularly delighted to be able to welcome members of the Irish Traveller Community from North Augusta to Atlanta for the event.

Looking ahead, we have facilitated and organised some key engagements for this St. Patrick's Day period. A delegation from Cork, led by the Lord Mayor, will build new ties in Miami, a Flute Band from Ulster will participate in the Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade, Enterprise Ireland will lead a fin tech trade mission to Atlanta and, to cap it all, Ireland's Minister for Equality, Immigration and Integration, David Stanton, T.D., will represent the Government in Atlanta, Savannah and South Carolina.

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh go léir – wishing all our readers a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Shane Stephens, Consul General, March 2019

St. Brigid's Day: A Celebration of Women



Vice Consul Eilís O’Keeffe, Jessica Houghton (Irish Network Atlanta and Compass Real Estate) and Teresa Finley (Irish Fest Atlanta and formerly UPS) began the morning with a discussion of the challenges of balancing home, career and volunteer leadership roles



Sandra Hughes, Jerilynn Bedingfield & Kevin Taylor of Gateway Performance Productions enthralled all with tales of Grace O’Malley, the Pirate Queen of Connacht, and an extract from Ellice Pilkington’s 1911 essay, “The United Irishwomen: their work, place and ideals.”



Dublin-born artist Eilís Crean travelled from Carrollton early in the morning to display “Than You Can Understand” from her series “Remains: Drawings from the Sheeffry Pass.” Listen to Vice Consul O’Keeffe discuss the morning’s events [here](#)



Exciting developments in Florida



L: Consul General Stephens received an excellent briefing during his visit in February from Alice Ancona & Dan Tapia on Florida Chamber's Business Development & Trade Mission to Ireland last December

R: CG Stephens & Honorary Consul Ian O'Flaherty were delighted to meet Miami Dade Commissioner Eileen Higgins on 11 February



L: CG Stephens was delighted to discuss planning for a new Irish Consulate General in Miami with Commissioner Wilfredo Gort on 12 February.



R: Enterprise Ireland's Hannah Dobson, Animation Ireland's Ronan McCabe and CG Stephens at an event to highlight the strength of our animation sector at Kidscreen in Miami



L: Ambassador Mulhall enjoyed chatting with Susan Salisbury of The Palm Beach Post about the place of Florida in Ireland's Global Ireland strategy. Ambassador Mulhall was in Palm Beach to attend the Ireland-US Council Winter Meeting



Strengthening links in Savannah



Far Left: Vice Consul O'Keeffe with Angela Coleman at the Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade offices. L: CG Stephens with Parade Committee Chairman Lawrence Edgerly



Above: Regional businesses met with CG Stephens to learn more about doing business in Ireland and Tradebridge, a partnership between Coastal Georgia and the Southeast of Ireland.

Below and right: Some photos from Savannah's Irish Festival

L: CG Stephens with President Shelley C Nickel & Dr. Howard Keeley on Ireland's partnership with Georgia Southern University



Atlanta



L: President of the Atlanta Fed, Raphael Bostic, met the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar & the CEO of IDA Ireland at the European Financial Forum, which took place in Dublin in February

R: Vice Consul O’Keeffe was delighted to address the Sandy Springs Rotary Club on the history, current status and future of Ireland-US relations



L: Vice Consul O’Keeffe had a wonderful evening as a guest of the Burns Club of Atlanta on 6 February



Congratulations also due to Limerick-born chef Thomas McKeown on being picked as a Georgia Grown Executive Chef for 2019!



Congratulations to Mr. Edward Murphy who celebrated his 100th birthday with support from the Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta and the Metro Atlanta Police Emerald Society!



We met up with Dublin-based Bill Shipsey, founder of Art for Amnesty, at the opening of a wonderful exhibition “In Remembrance of King: Civil Rights Tapestries” at the Center for Civil and Human Rights. The three tapestries on display will be donated to the City of Atlanta and the Civil Rights Centers in Birmingham and Memphis



Wonderful to meet Francis Brennan and all the exceptional ambassadors for Ireland’s tourist industry at a Tourism Ireland organised showcase here in Atlanta #FillYourHeartWithIreland



Irish News

An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar T.D., and Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Simon Coveney T.D., co-hosted the fifth plenary session of the [All Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit](#) in Dublin Castle.

On 22 February, the Government published [legislation to prepare Ireland](#) for the possibility of a disorderly Brexit. This legislation focuses on protecting Irish citizens, supporting businesses and jobs and securing ongoing access to essential services and products. The Government's focus remains on the UK ratifying the Withdrawal Agreement and this legislation is designed to mitigate against some of the worst effects of a no deal Brexit.

Tánaiste Simon Coveney visited New York and Washington DC where [he addressed](#) the Friends of Ireland Congressional group and [launched Ireland's new Strategy](#) for the US and Canada, which will see Ireland doubling our impact across the US and Canada through to 2025, while opening a new diplomatic Consulate General and Ireland House trade mission in Miami, Florida.

The Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Affairs Ciarán Cannon launched "[A Better World](#)", Ireland's New Policy for International Development with a re-aligned focus on gender equality, climate action, good governance and combating poverty.

On behalf of the Government, Minister of Children and Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone T.D., [announced Ireland's commitment](#) to increase funding to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria through the Global Fund.

Minister of State Cannon announced the opening of the nominations process for the [2019 Presidential Distinguished Service Award](#) for the Irish Abroad. Nominations should be submitted through the Consulate before [Wednesday 3 April 2019](#).

Listen [here](#) to a podcast by Ambassador Daniel Mulhall with departing EU Ambassador to the US, David O'Sullivan on his career, the impact of EU membership on Ireland, the future of EU-US relations and Brexit.

[Irish start-up Raceix](#) has chosen Savannah as its US Headquarters as a result of the "Tradebridge" link between the Southeast US and Southeast of Ireland. Consul General Stephens pictured here with Aidan Foley & Stuart Walker during their recent visit to Savannah.



Atlanta-based transit software company [RouteMatch](#), with operations in Waterford, is one of the key movers behind the recently launched [Crystal Valley Tech](#), an industry-led group to promote development and growth in ICT in the Southeast of Ireland.

North Carolina-based health information technology firm IQVIA [announced the creation of 100 jobs in Dublin](#).

[Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#), which mails a high-quality age-appropriate book to registered children on a monthly basis, launched in Ireland in February.

Upcoming Events in the Southeast

In honour of International Women's Day we are hosting, with the Canadian Consulate General, Ismaili Community Center and Luxembourg's Honorary Consul, a reception, panel discussion & screening of [The Breadwinner](#) on 9 March. RSVP [here](#).

[Celtic Woman](#) will bring their [Ancient Land Tour](#) to several southeastern cities in March including Nashville, TN; Huntsville, AL; Augusta and Atlanta, GA; North Charleston, SC and multiple cities in Florida.

Elizabeth Molly will be performing Irish music in Atlanta on 4/27/19 at [Smith's Olde Bar](#). The tickets will go on sale on 2/27. Doors open at 6PM and Elizabeth begins at 6:30. She is titling it "Stories from Ireland in Song" and she will sing for about 45 minutes. Ticket prices are \$7 advance, \$10 day of the show.



Your Saint Patrick's Day 2019 Calendar of Events!

Greenings

We are delighted that several landmarks in the Southeast will go green for St. Patrick's Day: Atlanta City Hall, Metro Historic Courthouse Nashville, Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge Nashville, Hillsborough River Tampa and Ashley River Bridge Charleston. We hope to feature some photos of these Greenings in our next Newsletter. A full list of 2019 St. Patrick's Day Global Greenings can be found [here](#).

Alabama

March 16 [Huntsville St. Patrick's Day Parade](#)

Florida

- March 9 Coral Gables: 40th annual [St. Patrick's Day Festival](#) sponsored by the South Florida Emerald Society
- March 9-10 Fort Pierce: a civic ceremony (Mar 9) and St. Patrick's Day Party with Irish music, dancing and sports demonstration (Mar 10) to celebrate and further linkages between Cork and Fort Pierce, to be attended by Cork City's Lord Mayor, CEO and other Cork officials, local dignitaries and the [ForttoFort-Ireland-Florida Association](#). Click [here](#) to request information.
- March 15-16 Davie: Production of [The Weir](#) by Irish playwright Conor McPherson, Davie Pine Island Multi-Purpose Center 8pm
- March 15-17 [Events in Orlando](#)
- March 16 Tampa: Mayor's [River O'Green Fest](#), 11:00a.m
Tampa (Ybor City): [Rough Riders St. Patrick's Day Parade](#) 7pm
- March 16 Fort Lauderdale: [St Patrick's Day Parade and Festival](#)

Georgia

Atlanta:

- March 9 Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta and Irish Network Atlanta [Black Tie Ball](#). Sponsorships are available and tickets selling fast so don't miss out!
- March 14 [St. Patrick's Day Mass](#), Christ the King 10:00a.m.
[Celtic Woman at the Fox Theatre](#), discount code IRISH

- March 15 Irish Chamber of Atlanta Breakfast, Capital City Club, 7:30a.m., with remarks by Minister David Stanton
[Father O'Reilly Wreath Laying](#) (City Hall) and Mass (Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception), beginning 10:00a.m., with guest of honour Minister David Stanton.
- March 16 [Atlanta Saint Patrick's Day Parade](#)
- March 17 [Gateway Performance](#) Productions presents *St. Patrick Saves the Day*, family friendly Irish comedy and culture at The Mask Center 2pm. Contact gatewaypp@masktheatre.org.
- March 18 Aris Theatre will present four "Celtic Shorts", each representing one of the four provinces of Ireland, at the Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern. Doors open at 6.15 and tickets are available [here](#)
- Savannah:
- March 8 [Greening of Forsyth Park Fountain](#) at 12
- March 9 [Irish Heritage Society Dance](#), Alee Temple at 8pm
[Tybee Island Irish Heritage Celebration Parade](#), 3pm
[Celtic Ceol Feis](#), Emmet Park, 11am – 6pm
- March 10 [Celtic Cross Mass](#) followed by procession and reception, Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 11.30am
- Mar 15-16 [Saint Patrick's Day Festival](#)
- March 15 [Sgt. William Jasper Ceremony](#) with remarks by Minister David Stanton and performance by the Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band from Northern Ireland, 4pm
- March 15 Exhibition and reception on the Scotch Irish in Savannah, hosted by the Consulate, Northern Ireland Bureau and Ulster Scots Agency. For details please contact Nejmia.Ahmed@dfa.ie
- March 16 [Mass of the Feast of St. Patrick](#), 8am Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
[Saint Patrick's Day Parade](#)
- Mississippi
- Mar 15-17 [St. Patrick's Day on the Gulf Coast](#)
- March 23 [Hal's St. Paddy's Parade & Festival](#), Jackson
- Mar 29-30 [CelticFest Mississippi](#), Jackson
- North Carolina
- March 16 [Charlotte Saint Patrick's Day Parade and Festival](#). Charlotte Irish Connection's President Peter Byrne will be Grand Marshal.
- March 16 [Raleigh St. Patrick's Day Parade](#)
- South Carolina
- March 9 [Charleston's LowCountry Irish Fest](#) – a musical and cultural festival celebrating all things Irish in the South Carolina Lowcountry, headlined by Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones
- March 16 [Charleston Saint Patrick's Day Parade](#)
- March 16 [St. Pat's in Five Points](#), Columbia
- Tennessee
- March 16 [Knoxville St. Patrick's Day Parade](#)

francophonie
Atlanta



Did you know that Ireland became an Observer at the International Organisation of the Francophonie last year? Ireland attaches great importance to the principles of the Francophonie – the French language and cultural diversity as well as the promotion of the

Organisation's values including peace, democracy and human rights. As such we are delighted to highlight some of the events taking place this month in Atlanta for the [Month of La Francophonie](#)

- March 11 Deadline for [Francophonie Drawing Contest](#)
- March 12-29 Belgian Comics Expo at Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport Centerpoint will feature the covers of 45 iconic Belgian comic books celebrating this long and rich tradition.
The exhibition begins with a 6pm reception on 12 March at the Alliance Française Auditorium
- March 12 Belgian Film [Les Barons](#), 7pm at Alliance Française Auditorium
- March 14 Swiss Film [Le Vent Tourne](#), 7pm at Alliance Française Auditorium
- March 17 Performance by Canadian artists "Trio Vishten", 6.30pm at Rialto Center for the Arts
- March 19 Film from Québec, [Pieds Nus dans L'aube](#), 7pm at Alliance Française Auditorium
- March 20 Acoustic Concert with Matthieu Clavé, French Flutists & Pianist, & Victor Pons, American Percussionist, 11.30-13.00 at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport Domestic Terminal Atrium
- March 21 [Aya de Yopougon](#), a Film from the Ivory Coast presented by the Alliance Française, 7pm at Alliance Française Auditorium
- March 24 Francophonie Brunch, 12pm at Waldorf Astoria, Buckhead

To include your event in our Newsletter, send a short description before month's end to Eilis.OKeefe@dfa.ie

Our Diaspora Heritage Series returns next month. To submit your story, contact [Kevin Conboy](#).

