

# Seirbhis Miosúil

A monthly newsletter of the Charitable Irish Society

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a busy year for the Charitable Irish Society. We held our annual Memorial Day reception honoring our first known president, William Hall, and laid a wreath at his grave as usual. On that morning, we also visited the grave of Patrick Carr, an Irishman, who was the last of the five victims of the Boston Massacre, whose dying declaration exonerating the soldiers from the 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment was one of the key pieces of evidence offered by John Adams in his famous defense of the soldiers. Carr's employer was a member of the Charitable Irish Society, as was John Adams, co-counsel in defense of the soldiers, Robert Achmuty. Indeed, Achmuty, a staunch Loyalist, was our second known president.

In October, Phil Coulter joined us for our Silver Key Reception and entertained us with words and music. We recognized three very deserving Silver Key recipients, Richard Gormley, Fr. Gerald Osterman and attorney Richard Campbell, whose contributions to the city have enriched all of our lives.

Most importantly, we continue to provide critical assistance to those immigrants most in need. Under the leadership of the Keeper of the Silver Key, Sandi Moody, we have provided funds for food, shelter and other necessities of life to people who have nowhere else to turn. We continue to help in countless ways, big and small, those who have arrived on our shores rich only in dreams for a better future – much like our own parents and grandparents. With your help, we will continue this compassionate work for generations to come.

You will note some changes, too. Our website has been completely revamped. If you have not looked recently, check it out at [www.CharitableIrishSociety.org](http://www.CharitableIrishSociety.org). In addition to seeing what your Society is doing, you will find a calendar of future events, a link to register for events (like our St. Patrick's Day Dinner, for example) and even pay your dues, which, this year will be \$75.00.

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## The Charitable Irish Society's 278th Annual Dinner

The Charitable Irish Society will host its 278th Anniversary Dinner on March 17, 2015 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston at 6:00 p.m. You will receive a formal invitation in the mail shortly. We have an exciting evening planned and hope will be able to join us.

**Peter Quinn**, Author of award-winning *The Banished Children of Eve*, which portrays the challenges in the lives of Irish immigrants in New York from the Famine era through the Civil War, is our featured speaker. His most recent work *Dry Bones*, concludes a trilogy of historical detective novels that have received rave reviews. As a journalist, he has contributed to *The New York Times*, *Commonweal*, *the Catholic Historical Review*, *American Heritage* and numerous other newspapers and journals. He has also been a consultant for, and participant in, various PBS documentaries and films, including *The Irish in America* and *The Road to the White House* for the Irish channel TG4. He will be giving the Toast to the Response to "The Day We Celebrate."

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"The Charitable Irish Society, founded in the town of Boston, A.D. 1737, was instituted for two purposes: First, to cultivate a spirit of unity and harmony among all resident Irishmen and their descendants in the Massachusetts Colony ... [and] Second, to alleviate suffering, and to aid such of its members as by the vicissitudes of fortune might be deserving of its charity."

- Preamble, 1809

## The Silver Key Reception

The Charitable Irish Society's Silver Key Awards Reception is its primary annual fundraising event. A reception is held each year, usually in October, to recognize individuals who have demonstrated a high level of commitment and dedication to helping new immigrants to assimilate into the American culture. Past honorees have included Richard Gormley, Seamus Mulligan, David Greaney, Sr. Lena Deevy to name a few.

Since its beginning, the Charitable Irish Society has adhered to its motto of "providing help where the need is the greatest" and has assisted numerous individuals, families and organization who have real financial, education, legal, medical, employment or other needs.

There are many ways you can help. We are currently offering sponsorship opportunities at various levels (see attached form to contribute). To learn more, please contact Christopher Duggan at 617-228-4444 or go to our website at [CharitableIrishSociety.org](http://CharitableIrishSociety.org) to make your tax deductible donation. With your generous contributions, the Charitable Irish Society will be able to continue to assist immigrants in need.

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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The Charitable Irish Society is the oldest Irish Society in the western hemisphere. Our members have included presidents, governors mayors, famous physicians and scientists, but mostly those who believe that America should be a place of hope and compassion for all of God's children. We believe that this tradition, of extending a helping hand to those who most need it, is important to pass along to the next generation. We are actively recruiting new members, and encourage you to invite new members to join our ranks. We have some new tools to help in this endeavor.

Thanks largely to Board Member Connell Gallagher, we have a new brochure that outlines the long and proud history of our society. A copy of that brochure is enclosed with this Newsletter. Board member, and Past President Dr. Catherine Shannon (the indefatigable Catherine Shannon) is putting the final touches on a lengthy article that reviews in depth the Society's history. This will be available soon. And finally, this Newsletter, which we will publish regularly, will keep our members and friends current on what our Society is doing and inform you of events in the broader community.

If you have any suggestions for how we can make our Society better, or better serve those most in need, we would love to hear them. Contact me by email or telephone anytime.

Finally, I do hope to see you all at our St. Patrick's Day party at the Fairmont Copley Plaza on March 17. Details are included in this Newsletter, but allow me to highlight two of our special guests. Renowned author Peter Quinn, who wrote the brilliant novel *Banished Children of Eve*, and who most recently completed *Dry Bones*, the third in a trilogy, will respond to the Toast to the Day and give the keynote address. Boston Mayor Marty Walsh will be there to respond to the Toast to the City.

We hope all of our members will join them and us on our 278<sup>th</sup> anniversary party.

**Christopher A. Duggan**

**President**

## The Charitable Irish Society's 278th Annual Dinner

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**The Honorable Martin J. Walsh**, Mayor of the City of Boston has graciously accepted our invitation to give the Response to the Toast "To the City of Boston."

Tickets are \$175 per person and we are offering the option of reserving a table for eight or a table for ten. Please let us know if you would like us to reserve you a table by calling 617-330-1737. Registration for this event is also available on our website at [www.CharitableIrishSociety.org](http://www.CharitableIrishSociety.org) by clicking on the Events tab. Payment method is either by credit card or PayPal if you register online.

Please see below if you wish to stay at the Fairmont Copley the evening of March 17th.

## Fairmont Copley Reservations



Ten rooms have been reserved at the Fairmont Copley Plaza for Charitable Irish Society Guests who wish to stay at the hotel on the evening of March 17th.

The discounted rates of \$249 and \$279 are available respectively for the Fairmont Rooms (one queen bed) and Deluxe Rooms (two double beds). Rooms must be reserved by March 5th and reservations can be made by calling the Fairmont Copley Reservations at 866-540-4417. You must mention the Charitable Irish Society affiliation to receive the discounted rate.

## Membership Dues

Annual Membership dues have increased to \$75 this year in order to insure the efficient administration of our organization and its communication with the membership. Dues are payable by March 17, 2015 and can be remitted by check made payable to the Charitable Irish Society in c/o Christopher Duggan, Smith Duggan Buell & Rufo LLP, 55 Old Bedford Road, Suite 300, Lincoln MA 01773 or directly on our website by credit card or PayPal. If you are paying by check, please indicate on the memo line "2015 Membership Dues." Thank you.

## The Charitable Irish Society's New Brochure

Thanks to the efforts of Connell Gallagher, the Charitable Irish Society has a beautiful new brochure we can now circulate to inform the public about our organization. It addresses the question of Who we are, What we do, Whom we Serve and Why You are needed. Along with this



issue of the newsletter, you are also receiving brochures which you can then circulate through family and friends to encourage others to join our organization. We have an adequate supply on hand, so if you need more, please call 617-228-4445 and we will gladly supply you with more copies.

## Irish Night at the Pops

The Charitable Irish Society and the Eire Society have joined to purchase floor seats for the May 28 performance of Irish Night at the Pops. The performance is at Symphony Hall.

Tickets are \$65 or \$85 each for the group rate, as long as we together purchase 25 tickets. Please put this on your calendar and plan to join us. Details to follow.



## Presentation of the USS Jamestown, by Catherine Shannon

Catherine Shannon, in collaboration with the Irish Cultural Center will present the 1847 Voyage of



the *USS Jamestown* from Boston to Cork. Ms. Shannon will narrate the incredible story of the voyage of the *USS Jamestown* which left Boston on March 28,

1847 carrying over 800 tons of provisions and supplies for the starving people of Ireland in the darkest months of "Black 47."

This event will take place on February 27, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. The Irish Cultural Center is located at 200 New Boston Drive, Canton, MA. Tickets are \$12 for Members and \$10 for Non-Members. For more information please call 781-821-8291 or visit [www.irishculture.org](http://www.irishculture.org)

# BECOME A SPONSOR

The Charitable Irish Society relies on the generosity of individuals, firms and other organization supporters to help carry out our mission to support those in need, where the need is the greatest. Please consider becoming a Sponsor. Collectively, we can provide the much needed support to assist immigrants who are struggling in their day-to-day lives and need our support to give them hope. 100% of the funds raised will go directly toward this worthy cause.

Names of Sponsors will appear prominently in our Annual Dinner Program if received by March 12, 2015.  
We greatly appreciate your support.



## SPONSORSHIP FORM

Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
Law Firm/Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum - \$2,000 4 Seats | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold - \$1,000 2 Seats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver - \$ 500 1 Seat     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze - \$ 250        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                      |   |

### Payment Information

Payment Enclosed (Payable to the Charitable Irish Society)

### Credit Card

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Visa     | <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discover | <input type="checkbox"/> American Express |

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Billing Address & Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please return form to:  
Christopher A. Duggan, President  
c/o Smith Duggan Buell & Rufo LLP  
55 Old Bedford Road, Suite 300  
Lincoln, MA 01773