

Consulate General of Ireland

Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

February 2018

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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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CG Stephens meeting with the Governor of Florida, Rick Scott

Message from the Consul General

A chairde,

Team Ireland is again intensifying its engagement with the great State of Florida, a land of Irish interests and huge potential. Irish firms employ well over 5000 people in Florida and within Florida's 20 million population there are 1.8 million people with Irish heritage and 800,000 Irish citizens.

In Tallahassee, I was warmly welcomed by Governor Scott, House Speaker Corcoran, Minority Leader Cruz and the Florida Chamber during Opening Day at the Florida Legislature for discussions on reciprocal investment, heritage ties and politics.

Back in Washington in January, Ambassador Mulhall hosted Congressman Tom Rooney and his wife at his Residence.

Perhaps even more powerfully, the Riverdance tour has delighted huge audiences along the length of Florida, welcoming in friends such as Tampa's Mayor Bob Buckhorn, and Ireland's Honorary Consuls for Florida, Terry Delahunty and Ian O'Flaherty.

[IDA Ireland](#) are now at the Florida Venture Forum in Ft Lauderdale, explaining Ireland's strengths as a base for European expansion.

This pattern will continue. Ambassador Mulhall will join the Ireland Funds, the U.S. Ireland Council, the South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce for community and business events in Palm Beach.

Shane Stephens January 31, 2018

Intensifying Ireland's Engagement in Florida

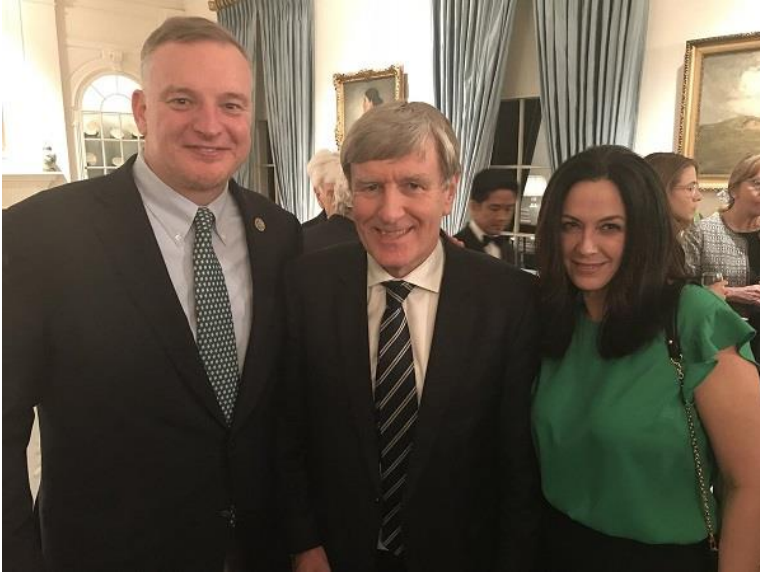
...In the Florida Legislature where CG Stephens attended opening session; on right with House Speaker Richard Corcoran and below with Minority Leader Janet Cruz and Representative Clay Ingram



...On the speaker panel hosted by the Florida Chamber's International Business Council, alongside Inmaculada Gutierrez, Trade Commissioner of Spain



...At Riverdance in Tampa: Mayor Bob Buckhorn and his family with the amazing dancers.



Ambassador Dan Mulhall welcomed Florida US Congressman Tom Rooney and his wife Tara to an IrelandFunds America programme at his residence.

And in Georgia...

CG Stephens was delighted to attend Georgia Governor Nathan Deal's final State of the State address, and Keisha Lance Bottoms' first speech as Atlanta's new Mayor.





CG Stephens caught up with the Metro Atlanta Police Emerald Society for a chat & some great piping.

He was also pleased to deliver keynote Ireland to the Brookhaven Rotary Club.



At the annual Burns Club dinner, CG Stephens delivered the toast to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, recalling her support for the Good Friday Agreement.

Remembering the Holocaust: the Taoiseach meets with Holocaust survivors in Dublin; CG Stephens attended this "Conscience and Action" remembrance programme in Atlanta



HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE EVENT
 Sunday, January 21, 2018

CONSCIENCE AND ACTION
"Whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world"

Keynote Speakers

Leo Melamed
 Holocaust Survivor, saved by Sugihara

Chihiro Sugihara
 Grandson of Chiune Sugihara

"Visas for Life" Exhibit

Connecting in Dublin



CG Stephens joined heads of Irish diplomatic missions from around the world for a Department of Foreign Affairs Trade Conference in Dublin. A highlight was the [speech](#) by Minister Simon Coveney (below) on Ireland's global engagement.



Visit with other Irish Ambassadors and CGs to Dublin's [Dogpatch Labs](#), the outstanding startup hub in the CHQ building owned by one of the ultimate global Irishmen, Neville Isdell

Enjoyed a great meeting at [Pavee Point](#) on building links between Irish Travellers in Dublin and the US.





Back in Atlanta, Consulate staff welcomed Irish Network Atlanta's board for their quarterly meeting.



We also hosted our annual lunch and coordination meeting with representatives of Atlanta's Irish business and cultural organizations.

L-R: Robert Radosta (Consulate intern), Jessica Houghton (Irish Network), Nancy Logue Woods (Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta), Ray Tracey (Atlanta GAA), CG Stephens, John Pucci (Metropolitan Atlanta Police Emerald Society), Kyle Crew (Arís Theatre), Teresa Finley (Irish Traditions), Breandan Mac Mathuna (Irish Network), Sandra Hughes (Gateway Productions) and Sondra Reed of the Consulate.

Irish News

Speaking to the European Parliament in the first of a series of debates on the Future of Europe, [the Taoiseach stressed the importance of our common values](#) and of remaining united to address the challenges of the 21st century.

He also delivered the [keynote speech on National Holocaust Memorial Day](#) to the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland, concluding “...we can never recover what was lost. All we can do is share a warning from history and send a message of hope that will resonate for all time.” See photograph above.

The Tánaiste, Simon Coveney, undertook a [4-day visit to Cairo, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Ramallah and Gaza](#) where he met with leaders on a range of bilateral and regional issues including the Peace Process.

Minister Coveney announced the “[Promote Ireland](#)” programme of international events over the St. Patrick’s Day period which will see Government representatives taking part in programmes to promote Ireland and Irish interests in almost 40 countries across the globe.

Minister of State for European Affairs, Helen McEntee TD kicked off our [Future of Europe Citizens' Dialogue](#).

Minister of State for Financial Services and Insurance Michael D’Arcy TD launched the Government’s 2018 [IFS2020 Action Plan](#) as part of its 5-year strategy to be the recognised global location of choice for specialist international financial services. He joined the Taoiseach today hosting the annual European Financial Forum in Dublin Castle.

2018 will be a year of intense activity in support of the Irish language. [Bliain na Gaeilge 2018](#), a year-long programme of events, and a social media initiative on Twitter, [#TrasnaNadTonnta](#), kicked off in style. Dublin City University has also developed a [free online Irish Language course](#) (“Irish 101”) for the global diaspora and new immigrants.

New data indicate [continuing strong employment growth](#) and that 4 out of 5 new jobs created since the Government was formed were outside Dublin. [IDA announced](#) that at year-end 2017 the agency had surpassed its five-year job creation target two years ahead of schedule.

Atlanta-headquartered [tech firm N3](#) announced it will create 100 new jobs, doubling its Irish workforce.

CSO statistics confirmed that [2017 was a record year for overseas visitors](#) to Ireland, up 3.6% over 2016 despite of a 5% decline from Great Britain. Visits from North America were up 16.2%.

We congratulate Irish Golden Globe Award Winners Saoirse Ronan and London Irish winner Martin McDonagh, and wish good luck to them and the other [Irish Academy Award Nominees](#) Daniel Day Lewis, Nora Twomey & Consolata Boyle.

Tributes were paid to singer Dolores O’Riordan and former Attorney General and EU Commissioner Peter Sutherland following their deaths in January.

[Consul General Stephens’ book review](#) of *The Supreme Court* by Ruadhán Mac Cormaic appears in Global Atlanta titled: “Books 2017: How the Irish and American Supreme Courts Grew Up Together.”

The College of Charleston (CofC) has launched an [oral history project](#) that will gather stories of local Irish and Irish Americans and archive them in the Irish Heritage Project at CofC’s Addlestone Library.

Do not miss great stories posted regularly by Miami Honorary Consul O’Flaherty on Twitter @IrelandMiami.

Upcoming Events in the Southeast

Seamus Heaney will be the focus of "[The Publishing Life of Seamus Heaney](#)," a lecture by scholar Rand Brandes, on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018 at 5 p.m. at Emory University, free and open to the public.

[Irish Network Atlanta](#) invites you to join them to watch Ireland's opening game in the 2018 6 Nations tournament on February 4, 11:45 a.m. Fado Irish Pub, Buckhead.

Agnes Scott College presents [a poetry reading by Eavan Boland](#)—one of the great Irish poets. February 8, 7:00pm, free and open to the public. This is a special opportunity.

Irish Traditions Atlanta is offering financial awards to students of Irish music and song to assist in advancing their skills. The current application deadline is February 11th. [Full information here.](#)

Don't miss the [Lowcountry Irish Fest](#), a musical and cultural event celebrating all things uniquely Irish in the South Carolina Lowcountry, Feb 10-11 at the Omar Shrine Convention Center in Mount Pleasant, SC.

Savannah's iconic [IrishFest](#) will take place February 17-18, the history, literature, music and dance of Ireland.

Ambassador Dan Mulhall will be a guest speaker at the [Ireland-US Council's Winter Business Lunch](#) in Palm Beach on February 16th. The event will be co-sponsored by The South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce.

[Kevin Barry](#), the award winning author of the novel *City of Bohane* will speak at Clemson University on February 19th and at University of Georgia's Willson Center on February 20th.



Countdown to Saint Patrick's Day – Save the Dates!

Florida

- March 7-10 Readings by Irish poets Eamonn Lynskey and Anne Fitzgerald, and participation by Irish publisher Jessie Lendennie, at the [Association of Writers & Writing Conference](#) in Tampa
- March 12 Readings by writer Colin Barrett, and poets Kathy D'Arcy and Niamh Prior as part of Contemporary Irish Voices in Literature at the University of Tampa
- March 3-18 [Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tone](#) entertain in Cape Coral (3-4) , Cocoa Beach (5), Tampa (16-17), and Sebastian (18)
- March 17 [St Patrick's Day Parade and Festival](#), Fort Lauderdale

Georgia

March 2 Irish chamber orchestra [Camerata Ireland](#) perform in concert in Thomasville

Atlanta:

- Mar7-Apr11 Yeats Scholar and Emory Professor Emeritus, James Flannery, will offer a course from Mar 7- Apr 11 through the Yale Alumni Association titled "[The Many Worlds of W.B. Yeats](#)"
- March 10 Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta and Irish Network Atlanta [Black Tie Ball](#)
- March 15 [Saint Patrick's Day Mass](#), Cathedral of Christ the King
- March 16 Irish Chamber of Atlanta Breakfast, Capital City Club, 7:30a.m.
[Father O'Reilly Mass and Wreath Laying](#)
- March 17 [Atlanta Saint Patrick's Day Parade](#)
Gateway/Mask Theatre's [St Patrick's Day Celebration](#) featuring Irish Mummies

Savannah:

- March 4 [Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh](#) will speak at the launch of the exhibition *Representations of the Jews in Irish Literature* at the historic [Congregation Mickve Israel synagogue](#). The exhibition is presented by Georgia Southern University and sponsored by his Consulate.
- March 16 Sergeant William Jasper Ceremony
- Mar 16-18 [Saint Patrick's Day Festival](#)
- March 17 [Saint Patrick's Day Parade](#)

Mississippi

- Mar 23-24 [CelticFest Mississippi](#), Jackson

North Carolina

- March 9 [Dervish](#) performs in [Asheville, NC](#)
- March 9 Irish band [Goitse](#) performs in [Tryon, NC](#)
- March 17 [Charlotte Saint Patrick's Day Parade and Festival](#)

South Carolina

- March 4 [Return to the Green Irish Cultural Festival](#) and GAA Tournament, Greenville
- March 8 Irish band [Goitse](#) performs at the [University of South Carolina](#), Aiken
- March 14-15 [Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tone](#) perform in Myrtle Beach (14th) & Charleston (15th)
- March 16 Irish Film *No Stone Unturned*, 9th annual [Terrace Charleston Film Festival](#)
- March 17 [Charleston Saint Patrick's Day Parade](#)

Tennessee

- March 17-18 [Music City Irish Fest](#), Nashville, including [The Willis Clan](#) on Mar 17 and [Lúnasa](#) and [We Banjo 3](#) on Mar 18th
- Mar 17-Apr 9 Irish bluegrass band [JigJam](#) performs at [Dollywood](#) in Pigeon Forge

**Be sure to send in your events for inclusion in the Newsletter! To: carol.jordan@dfa.ie*