

NOLLAIG SHONA
HAPPY CHRISTMAS



Irish Community Newsletter

Arkansas | Colorado | Kansas | Kansas City, Missouri | Louisiana | New Mexico | Oklahoma | Texas

December 2020

New Diaspora Strategy Launched

A quote from Article 2 of Ireland's Constitution, Bunreacht na hÉireann, is printed in every Irish passport: *"the Irish nation cherishes its special affinity with people of Irish ancestry living abroad who share its cultural identity and heritage"*. This gives some indication of the continuing importance of the global Irish diaspora to modern Irish life.

The recent launch of [Global Ireland: Ireland's Diaspora Strategy 2020-2025](#) was an opportunity to reflect on how this diaspora is changing. Central to the new Strategy is a new, more inclusive understanding of who counts as 'Global Irish', that aims to reflect the diversity and complexity not just of modern Ireland, but of the contemporary diaspora as well. This is reflected in commitments to support those whose voices have traditionally been underrepresented in Irish diaspora policy, among them LGBTQ people, Irish people of mixed heritage and the Travelling community.

A central pillar of Ireland's diaspora policy was

and remains the Emigrant Support Programme. Since 2004, the ESP has disbursed over €180 million in funding to Irish community groups including groups in Louisiana, Colorado and Texas. As we move to the end of an unusual and challenging year, it is clear that Ireland's relationship with its diaspora matters more than ever.



Consulate General of Ireland - Austin

Latest Travel Advice

Questions about travel, passports, citizenship? Visit our website for more information!
www.dfa.ie/austin



Nollaig Shona Daoibh



(L-R) Happy Christmas from your Consulate Team: Consul General Claire McCarthy, Vice Consul Paul Breen, Consular Assistant Laura Ramsel and Research Assistant Cecilia Tirado

Upcoming events Irish Network Austin

Irish Network Austin will be hosting 'Craic agus Ceol,' a mental health awareness event, on Saturday, December 12 at 4:30pm - 6:00pm CST.

Click [here](#) to sign up for a virtual evening of music, culture and community spirit with Irish Network Austin and their partners, the Hi, How Are You? project.

You can also watch their '[Taste of Home](#)' video to learn how to make the perfect Irish coffee with thanks to our friends at BD Riley's in Mueller.

Irish Network Colorado

Irish Network Colorado is hosting a special Virtual Christmas Ceiliúradh event sharing how Irish members and friends celebrated the Christmas season with a demonstration on how to make some of the more popular holiday libations on Sunday, December 20 at 4:30pm - 5:30pm MST (5:30pm - 6:30pm CST).

Click [here](#) to register to the event.

The History of Irish in New Mexico

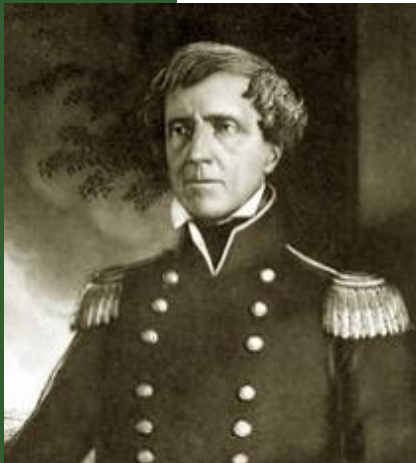
Ellen Dowling, President of the Irish-American Society of New Mexico

We welcome contributions from Irish community organizations to share the history of the Irish in their location. This piece comes from Ellen Dowling, President of the Irish-American Society of New Mexico.

These are just a few of the notable Irish who made their way west.. Acknowledging their Irish heritage does not equate to endorsing some of their actions but does help us understand more fully the Irish story in New Mexico and the US.

It's sometimes surprising to other US citizens to learn that New Mexico is actually IN the United States, and not still part of Mexico. (Stories abound of people being asked if they need a visa to travel here.) Definitely part of the US (it became a state in 1912), New Mexico saw its share of settlers from other countries, especially in the 1800s, when the Civil War brought the military (many of whom were newly arrived Irish soldiers) and when the railroad brought many workers (many of them Irish as well).

At the outset of the Mexican-American War in 1846, a general named Stephen Watts Kearney (1794-1848) marched to Santa Fe at the head of a force of 1,700. Kearney was born into a family whose ancestors primarily came from Ireland (where the name was O'Kearny). Kearney's troops easily took control of the area and he was named its military governor on August 18, 1846.



Stephen Watts Kearney



James S. Calhoun

Some years later, in 1851, James S. Calhoun, also of Irish ancestry, became the first Territorial Governor of New Mexico.



William Bonney, AKA Billy the Kid

A much more famous (or infamous) New Mexican of Irish heritage was of course, William Bonney, AKA Billy the Kid. There is general scholarly agreement that his parents were of Irish Catholic descent, although their names are in dispute: His mother was Catherine McCarty or perhaps Katherine McCarty Bonney and his father may have been William Bonney or Patrick Henry McCarty. Following the death of her husband Patrick, Catherine McCarty and her son (Billy had a brother, Joseph) moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, where she met William Henry Harrison Antrim. Catherine married Antrim on March 1, 1873, at the First Presbyterian Church in Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory. Shortly afterward, the family moved from Santa Fe to Silver City, New Mexico. Billy spent the rest of his notorious career in the southwest, most notably New Mexico, where he fought in the Lincoln County Wars. He was killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett on July 14, 1881 and is buried in Fort Sumner, NM.

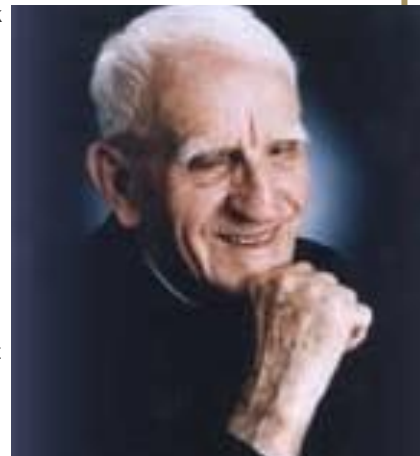


Georgia O'Keeffe

In the 19th century, New Mexico became a place attractive to artists, in particular Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986), whose

father was of Irish descent. In 1929, O'Keeffe travelled to Taos, NM, and fell in love with the light and the land, producing many of her most iconic art works there. You can visit her home and studio in Abiquiú, northern NM, and the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe.

In the 20th century, the city of Albuquerque was blessed with the presence of Brother Mathias Barrett (1900-1990), a Catholic brother born in Waterford, Ireland, who founded the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd in Albuquerque in 1951 and established the Good Shepherd Refuge, which opened its doors to the homeless and the poverty stricken. Every year (before his death at the age of 90 in 1990), the city celebrated St. Patrick's Day AND Brother Mathias' birthday two days before (March 15), with a gigantic Irish Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, where hundreds came to support the Good Shepherd, Brother Mathias, and the Irish. The annual dinner is still held every year (except for 2020).



Brother Mathias Barrett

Despite the fact that New Mexico is hot, dry, and mostly brown, while Ireland is cool, wet, and green, we Irish in NM cherish our Irish heritage with a few small modifications: Sometimes we add green chile to our Irish stew!

Autumn Events



Ambassador Mulhall enjoyed a fireside chat with the Flynn Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas.



Minister for Overseas Development and Diaspora, Colm Brophy, met with some of the Irish organisations in our region.



On 1 November, our Consulate hosted a Hallowe'en & Day of the Dead event for children together with the Mexican Consulate in Austin.



On 3 December, our Consulate co-hosted a book launch for 'Famine Pots: The Choctaw-Irish Gift Exchange' with the American Conference of Irish Studies.



Consul General, Claire McCarthy, had a great time visiting with the Irish-American Society of New Mexico.

'To be Irish at Christmas'

2020 has been the most unusual year in our collective memories, and Christmas 2020 will undoubtedly be a difficult period for many too.

In response to this challenge, the ['To Be Irish at Christmas' initiative](#) has been launched to support the many Irish who will not be able to return home due to COVID-19, as well as the wider Irish diaspora who want to celebrate Ireland and Irish culture this Christmas.

The ['To Be Irish at Christmas' initiative](#) is a space where you can share and swap your own special memories of



Irish Christmases and to celebrate the many things that we love about being Irish through an online programme of music, culture, community engagement and collective spirit from home and abroad.

The initiative is also looking for short (30-60 seconds) video submissions from families, friends, and individuals

around the world. 'To Be Irish at Christmas' would like to hear from Irish people across the globe about one thing that connects them to Ireland during the holiday season. From special objects, to songs, recipes, or films, why not share what reminds our global family of home at this special time of year.

Visit www.tobeirish.ie to get involved!

News from Ireland



- The live music series 'Other Voices' took place as a five-night digital festival (December 2-6), with performances by 20 Irish-based acts broadcast from Dingle Co. Kerry. Click [here](#) to stream the shows for free through Other Voices' YouTube, Twitter + Facebook and RTÉ.ie.
- The annual Christmas 'Late Late Toy Show' aired internationally two weeks ago and raised over €6 million for children's charities – click [here](#) to watch some of the best moments from this year's show.
- The RTÉ Radio 1 Folk Awards 2020 nominations were announced in November – click [here](#) to read more.
- Anna Burns won the 2020 International DUBLIN Literary Award for her novel 'Milkman', which also received the 2018 Man Booker Prize for Fiction. With prize money of €100,000, the International DUBLIN Literary Award is now the world's largest prize for an English language novel – click [here](#) to read more.

The 2020 Christmas Prize Quiz!

Test your knowledge of the past 12 months with these 10 questions and you could win a special Irish prize! Send your responses by email to eventsaustin@dfa.ie or by mail to Consulate General of Ireland, 515 Congress Avenue, Suite 1720, Austin, Texas 78701. All responses must be received by 21 December to be considered. In the event that there are multiple responses with 10 correct answers, a winner will be selected at random.

- In January, which Irish actor received an Oscar nomination for her performance as Jo March in Greta Gerwig's Little Women?
A. Ruth Negga
B. Saoirse Ronan
C. Seána Kerslake
D. Ruth Bradley
- In February, the Irish general election took place on a Saturday. When was the last time a general election was held on a Saturday in Ireland?
A. 1918
B. 1977
C. 1997
D. 2011
- In March, the poem 'Everything Is Going To Be Alright' brought some consolation to the people of Ireland in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. What is the name of the Irish poet who authored this verse?
A. Seamus Heaney
B. Eavan Boland
C. Michael Longley
D. Derek Mahon
- In May, the New York Times published an article entitled 'Irish Return an Old Favor, Helping Native Americans Battling the Virus' about an online fundraiser in Ireland to support people in the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Reservation affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. What is the name of the Native American tribe that supported the people of Ireland during the Great Famine in 1847?
A. Cherokee
B. Muscogee
C. Choctaw
D. Seminole
- In June, Ireland won a seat on the United Nations Security Council for the period 2021-2022. Which Irish singer-songwriter campaigned alongside President Michael D. Higgins and former President Mary Robinson to secure the seat for Ireland?
A. Bono
B. Hozier
C. Enya
D. Dermot Kennedy
- In July, an Irish drama TV series based on a novel by Sally Rooney received four Emmy Awards. What is the name of the TV series?
A. Conversations with Friends
B. Normal People
C. The Surface Breaks
D. Exciting Times
- "Through his words, his astute diplomacy and willingness to listen... he transformed and remodelled politics in Ireland and the search for peace, with personal bravery and leadership." Who was the President of Ireland paying tribute to following their passing in August?
A. Seamus Mallon
B. John Hume
C. Albert Reynolds
D. Garret FitzGerald
- In August, Sonia O'Sullivan's Irish record for the 1,000m running event was broken by which Irish middle distance runner?
A. Ciara Mageean
B. Derval O'Rourke
C. Fionnuala McCormack (née Britton)
D. Rhasidat Adeleke
- In September, the Irish professional cyclist Sam Bennett won the 'maillot vert' (green jersey) at which annual bicycle race?
A. Rás Tailteann
B. Tour de France
C. Giro d'Italia
D. Vuelta a España
- In November, President-elect Joe Biden responded to a BBC reporter 'I'm Irish'. What are the names of the two counties in Ireland where the President-elect's ancestors came from?
A. Dublin and Cork
B. Mayo and Louth
C. Kerry and Meath
D. Waterford and Monaghan



Got a suggestion?

Let us know if you have an idea or a suggestion for the next edition of our newsletter! We love to feature stories and news from around our region.



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Irish Christmas Word Search

Go raibh mile maith agat Prof. Jonathan O'Neill from University of St. Thomas in Houston, TX, for updating our Irish Christmas vocabulary for the season!

Translate the eleven words listed below into **Irish** and look for them on the word search chart. The first person who sends us a picture of their completed word search to eventsaustin@dfa.ie will get a prize!!

- December/Christmas**
- Happy Christmas**
- Christmas Eve**
- Present/Gift**
- Celebration**
- St Stephen's Day**
- Day of the Wren**
- New Year's Eve**
- Happy (prosperous) New Year**
- New Year's Day**
- Women's Christmas**



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