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**THE EIRE SOCIETY OF BOSTON**

866.560.1050 · www.eiresociety.org

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Barbara Smith Fitzgerald, *Corresponding Secretary*

September 16, 2016

Greetings, Members of The Eire Society of Boston,

First of all, let me thank you for your generous show of support and confidence in electing me to a second term as President of the Eire Society. I hope to be able to justify that confidence with yet another successful year of Society events, entertaining and educational, consistent with the mission of the Society. In that regard, I encourage you to visit frequently the Society's website (eiresociety.org) for upcoming events and programs. The website was significantly enhanced this past year through the tireless efforts of our First Vice President, Robin Tagliaferri.

Next, please join me in welcoming to the Board of the Eire Society our three new Board members: John Mara, Paul Doyle and Maire Concannon.

John is a recently retired business executive, who has already made a significant contribution to this year's Society calendar in arranging our October presentation. John is also a burgeoning playwright, whose work the Society one day will no doubt be interested in supporting.

Paul is a longtime friend and colleague. He is a savant of many things Irish, from the newest novel by up-and-coming Irish authors, to the most recent films of Irish significance, to the rumblings of local, on-the-ground, Irish politics back home. Last year Paul was instrumental in bringing acclaimed Irish playwright Ronan Noone to present at one of our Society events.

Maire is an accomplished Irish-language speaker and educator. She has served in many positions with the Cumman na Gaeilge of Boston, an organization devoted to the advancement and appreciation of Irish as a spoken language. In the Spring, the Society hopes, through Maire's leadership and efforts, to join with the Cumman to offer a program addressing the status of the Irish language as it is spoken today.

The calendar of programs for this coming year is rapidly beginning to fill. On Friday, September 30, we will be joining the Consul General of Ireland at a performance of Irish playwright, Sean O'Casey's, "The Plough and the Stars". You already should have received notice about ticket purchases to this wonderful presentation by the Abbey Theatre. It will be preceded by an afternoon address by accomplished scholar and Irish historian, Claire Willis, who will discuss "The Plough" in the context of the 1920s Irish independence movement. Immediately preceding the theater performance, we will attend a reception, generously hosted by the Consul General's office.

In October, Maine newspaper journalist Doug Rooks will deliver a presentation on his perspective on the public and private persona of former US Senator, George Mitchell. Doug will speak particularly to the Senator's role in facilitating the Northern Ireland Peace Accords, culminating in the Good Friday agreement of 1998.

There are other events and programs contemplated for later in the Fall and for the Spring. However, I must tell you of our plans for one very special event - our annual Gold Medal dinner.

We are delighted to honor acclaimed author, playwright, journalist and literary critic, Professor Colm Toibin as our Gold Medal awardee for 2017. Professor Toibin has advanced forthright positions on some of the more conflicted social issues of the day. The dinner will be held in late April, precise date to be determined, at an appropriate Boston hotel venue. I am very excited to have such a stalwart exemplar of international and Irish citizenship address us at our signature event.

There are also efforts underway to revive an old Society tradition, an educational and culturally oriented sojourn back to the "ould sod". We are currently targeting a shoulder season affair, probably at the end of March/beginning of April, for a period of about 10 days. However, to make this conception a reality, we need to generate sufficient interest to make the trip financially tenable. Your expression of interest would be much appreciated. Please contact Edris Kelley at Edris1@comcast.net.

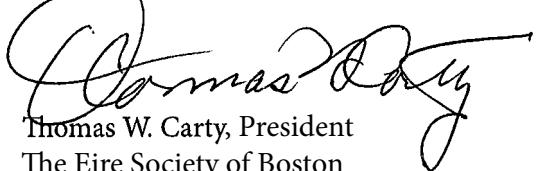
In addition to the events noted above, we will be keeping you apprised of other Irish cultural events occurring in the greater Boston area sponsored by sister Irish organizations.

We continue to encourage you to attend as many events as possible, and to bring with you from time to time guests you think might enjoy our programs, or even consider joining. Please do not be shy, make the "ask" of your guests. Remember our Society is only as strong as our members. They are our lifeblood.

Lastly, I will urge you to reaffirm your commitment to the Eire Society and its goals by renewing your own membership. A Membership Renewal form is enclosed. Please complete and return it along with your check as soon as possible to Membership Secretary, Mary Ellen Mulligan, Eire Society Membership, 1060 N. Main St., Randolph, MA 02368. For your formation the Board has recently voted to change the membership year to a calendar year basis - January 1 to December 31.

I look forward to seeing you all at our various events over the upcoming year, and I welcome at any time your constructive thoughts about how better we may be able to grow our organization and advance our mission.

Mise le meas,



Thomas W. Carty, President
The Eire Society of Boston
Tel. Off. 781-329-6655
Cell: 781-801-6316

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2017 Membership Information

The Eire Society provides the Boston community with events and resources that celebrate Irish heritage. We also host several annual events from September through June. Your membership dues and generous individual contributions help to support these events.

Attach Payment and Return Application (below) to:

Mary Ellen Mulligan
Eire Society Membership
1060 North Main Street
Randolph, MA 02368-3006

THE EIRE SOCIETY OF BOSTON
2017 Membership Application

Please check one: New _____ Renewal _____

Membership: Student \$20.00 _____ Individual \$50.00 _____ Couple \$75.00 _____ Sponser \$250.00 _____

Name/s: _____

(Home) Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____