

Consulate General of Ireland

Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

December 2018

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Frederick Douglass: A Bicentennial Tribute
(Event photo credits: Ann Watson, Emory Photo/Video)

A chairde,

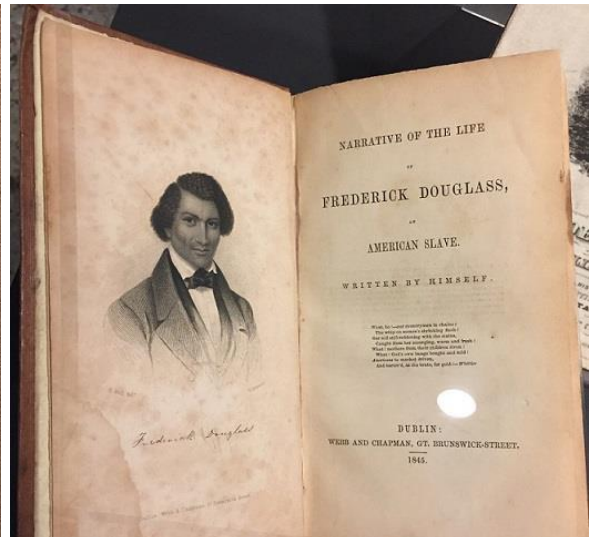
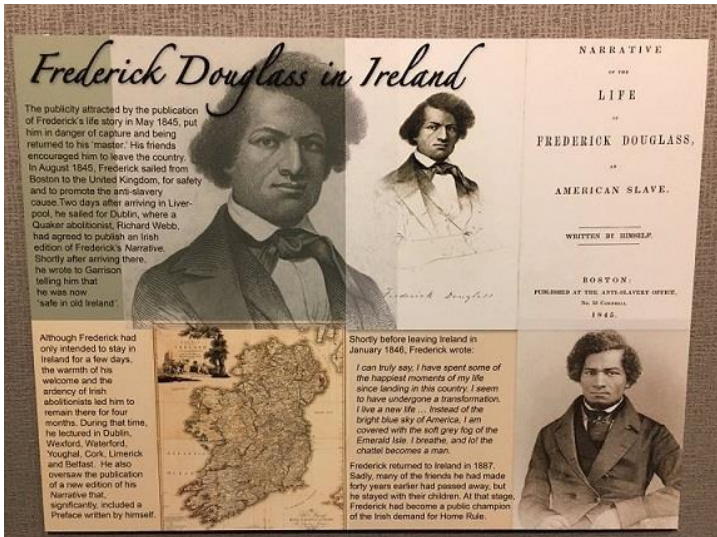
November's highlight was the Consulate's collaboration with Emory University's Rose Library on "Frederick Douglass: A Bicentennial Tribute". An audience of 400 joined us at Emory's beautiful Cannon Chapel for a programme of "community readings" from Douglass's most important speeches and to view an exhibition on Douglass and Ireland based on collaboration between Prof Christine Kinealy of Quinnipiac University and Emory curators. The exhibition included an 1845 Dublin edition of Douglass's 'Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave'. The programme began with remarks from the Rose Library leadership, Consul General Stephens and Christine Kinealy, and was bookended by a fiddle performance by Patrick Finley and a rendition of "C ad M ile F ailte to the Stranger" by Jeremy Hathcoat. This song was written for Douglass when he was leaving Cork and we believe this may have been the first time it was performed since 1845! The distinguished presenters included Douglass descendent Kenneth B Morris, the actor Louis Gossett, Jr. and prominent members of the Atlanta community. It was a reverend and fitting tribute to an extraordinary man.

As 2018 draws to a close, we are busy planning for 2019. We have some great ideas – so watch this space!

*Shane Stephens, Consul General
4 December 2018*

Frederick Douglass: A Bicentennial Tribute

Hosted by the Consulate General of Ireland Atlanta and the Stuart A Rose Manuscript, Archives & Rare Book Library at Emory University



Pellom McDaniels III (above right), Curator of African American Collections at Emory's Rose Library, and Kenneth B. Morris (right and below), Douglass' great great great grandson, and Emory's Randall K. Burkett set our event alight!





Speakers included Dr. Robert Michael Franklin, President Emeritus of Morehouse College, and Jennifer King, Director of the Rose Library.



Preview clips of this exceptional event can be viewed here: [A Prophet of Freedom.](#)

See the comprehensive review published by [Global Atlanta.](#)

Left with CG Stephens: Douglass descendent Kenneth B. Morris Jr., President of Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, and Christine Kinealy of Quinnipiac University and editor of 'Frederick Douglass & Ireland: In His Own Words'

Right: Be sure to catch [the NPR interview by Lois Reitzes](#) with CG Stephens and Emory's Dr Pellom McDaniels III.



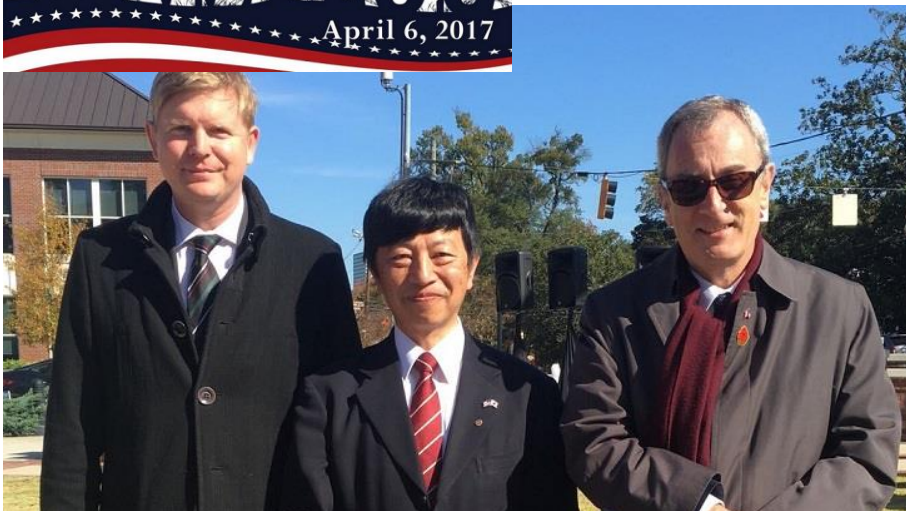
Relationship building with EU and Consular Corps Colleagues



A pleasure to join EU Consuls General for a meeting with Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms for a discussion on driving progress on equity and sustainability.

L-R: British CG Andrew Staunton, CG Shane Stephens, French CG Louis de Corail, Belgian CG William De Baets and Greek Consul Emmanouil Androulakis

On November 2nd, CG Stephens joined other members of the Atlanta diplomatic corps at The Temple in support of the nationwide #showupforshabbat campaign following the mass shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue. Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney T.D., extended Ireland's deepest sympathies to those directly impacted and said "we stand together with all decent thinking people against this kind of hatred and intolerance."



CG Stephens with Japanese CG Shinozuka and French CG de Corail at the Georgia WW1 Armistice Centennial Ceremony at Atlanta History Center. Taoiseach Leo Varadkar attended the Paris Armistice Day commemoration at the Arc de Triomphe with over 70 Heads of State and Government.

CG Stephens and British CG Andrew Staunton (R) kicked off opening night of Aris Theatre’s “Not About Heroes”, part of a series commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1.



Below: CG Stephens enjoys the Diwali Festival hosted by Indian CG Dr. Swati Kulkarni and the Indian American Association.



Left: Ireland’s Honorary Consul in Miami, Ian O’Flaherty (L), joined Romanian CG and Mrs. Catalin Ghenea for their festival commemorating the National Day of Romania and 100 years of the Great Union.

Business, Academic and Cultural Connections



Left: Emory Professor Geraldine Higgins relates the creative process that brought to life the National Library of Ireland exhibition '[Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again](#)' which you can see at the Bank of Ireland Cultural and Heritage Centre on your next trip to Dublin!

Right: Delegation to Ireland organized by North Carolina's Research Triangle Regional Partnership, building new collaborations on research and innovation.



Vice Consul Eilís O'Keeffe was pleased to address a Fort Lauderdale program focused on Ireland and to get acquainted with the South Florida Irish community. Pictured here with Seán Murray, President of South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce and Paula Svadlena of Aer Lingus. (Aer Lingus now operate a direct Miami-Dublin route).

Waterford Institute of Technology's Dept of Nursing and Healthcare was delighted to welcome staff from Columbus Technical College, testament to the continuing vitality of the partnership between WIT and the Technical College System of Georgia.



Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade: US Staff Training and Inspiration



Ambassador Mulhall hosted Ireland's DFAT leadership team from across the US, Canada and Mexico in November where they discussed an ambitious work agenda for the coming years. Try and spot our Consul General!

Vice Consul Eilis O'Keeffe also attended a training session in Dublin which was so jam-packed with advice on consular and administrative matters that she forgot to take a photo!

Below: Our Research and Communications Officer, Carol Jordan, participated in a great session with colleagues from across missions in the US and Canada at the Consulate in New York on communications, public diplomacy and social media in our work.



GAA



CG Stephens helped kick off Atlanta GAA's annual fundraising Golf Tournament



Raleigh GAA hosted casual American football and the world's first introduction to Ansel's "Interball" game last Sunday morning at Martin Middle School. [Contact](#) the team for a copy of Interball rules!



Irish News

Our [Online Passport Renewal Service](#) has expanded services to permit the online renewal of children's passports. We have also introduced a passport card for children, and expanded the cohort of adults eligible to renew online, 24/7 from anywhere in the world, provided your passport has expired in the last 5 years.

The US House of Representatives voted to add Ireland to the [E3 visa scheme](#) which could expand the opportunities for Irish nationals to work in the US. This legislation is now in the Senate.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar issued a [statement](#) following the negotiated draft Brexit Withdrawal Agreement. He reiterated regret at Britain's decision to leave but indicated a satisfactory outcome on Ireland's four national priorities, which were also outlined by Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney, on [NPR's Morning Edition](#).

Ambassador Dan Mulhall spoke on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) on the next steps regarding Brexit, remarking on the EU's "amazing capacity to overcome challenges and to find pragmatic solutions to problems." In a [Washington Post interview](#), he outlined the opportunities to enhance the US-Ireland relationship.

Georgia Agriculture Commissioner, Gary Black, welcomed visitors from Ireland participating in a food safety inspector [exchange program](#) with Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Tánaiste Coneney represented the Government at the Belfast Armistice Day commemorations, stating in a [Belfast Telegraph op-ed](#), "We owe it to lost generation to spend our lives working for perpetual peace".

November 20th marked the 100th anniversary since women got the right to vote in Ireland and to be elected to Parliament. The 32nd Dáil currently has the highest female representation in Ireland's history.

Former Irish President Mary Robinson was appointed to succeed the late Kofi Annan [as chair of The Elders](#), an international NGO founded by Nelson Mandela, in recognition of her work for international peace, justice and human rights.

Figures from the CSO's latest Labour Force Survey show that [employment is at its highest level ever](#), a 3% year on year increase in the 3rd quarter of 2018, with growth recorded in the last 25 consecutive quarters.

President Higgins presented the seventh annual [Presidential Distinguished Service Awards](#) for the Irish Abroad to ten recipients, including four from the US. The Award recognizes the contribution of members of the global Irish diaspora in six categories.

Minister David Stanton and Minister Paschal Donohoe congratulated [3,000 new Irish citizens](#), hailing from 120 different countries, during three citizenship ceremonies at the Convention Centre in Killarney.

Demonstrating our commitment to making Ireland a leader in responding to climate change, Government leaders announced the [first 7 projects](#) of the Climate Action Fund, an initiative under [Project Ireland 2040](#).

Josepha Madigan, Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, launched the public consultation for [Heritage Ireland 2030](#), which will guide the Government's heritage priorities and investment over the next decade and beyond.

[UNESCO has inscribed Hurling](#) on its [Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](#) adding the sport to its list of protected cultural activities around the world.

[Irish boxing teams](#) medaled at the Men's EU Elite and Women's World Elite Boxing Championships, Kurt Walker taking gold and Kieran Molloy bronze in Spain, and Kellie Harrington winning gold in India.

[AerLingus announced a major expansion](#) in North America. It expects to grow its North Atlantic fleet from 17 to 30 aircraft over the next five years.

For your Christmas shopping, check out the new [Design Ireland](#) website presented by the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland which promotes Irish designers and their products internationally.

International negotiators recently agreed on a [20% reduction in mackerel quotas](#) for 2019, reflecting scientific advice that stock has declined. Mackerel is Ireland's single most valuable fishery, and the reduction helps to ensure the species' long term sustainability.

Upcoming Events in the Southeast

Atlanta's 27th annual Celtic Christmas, a production of [The Celtic Company](#), will take place at the Rialto Center for the Arts at Georgia State University on Saturday, December 15th at 8:00pm and Sunday, December 16th at 3:00pm. The show will feature Irish singer/instrumentalist Dave Curley, Scottish fiddlers Suzanne Harner and Adam Bern, The Buddy O'Reilly Band, Ah Surely, Celtic harpist Kelly Stewart, raconteur/musician Joe Craven, Appalachian flat-foot dancer Jesse Edgerton, Arís Theatre, The Glencoe School of Scottish Highland Dance, The Isle of Skye School of Scottish Highland Dance, The Burke Connolly Academy of Irish Dance, The Celtic Christmas Dancers and Scottish Highland piper Neil Womelduff. [Get your tickets here!](#)

Knoxville Irish Society (KIS) invites you to their next monthly [social gathering](#) on December 8th, 3:00 - 5:00pm, at 3131 Morris Ave, with traditional Irish tea, music, snacks & camaraderie. Contact: info@knoxvilleirish.com.

Knoxville Irish Society also invites you to their [annual Yuletide party](#) at Calhoun's at Bearden Hill on Monday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m.

The Hibernian Pub in Raleigh will host the annual GAA Christmas Party and [fundraising raffle](#) on Saturday, December 8th from 7:30pm.

Sponsored by St. Baldrick's Foundation, the [11th Annual Celtic Kid's Christmas](#) will take place Sunday, December 9th 2:30-4:30 p.m. at [Rí Rá Atlanta](#). The event is free but there is a fee for [Santa Time](#).

The Miami-Dade Chapter of the South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce invites you to their Christmas Social on Thursday, December 13th, 6-8pm at Fado Irish Pub in Miami. Information and RSVP [here](#).

Charlotte Irish Connection and Charlotte GAA invite you to their annual [Christmas Party](#) on Sunday December 16th at Tyber Creek Pub, registration not required but a \$10 Donation is encouraged to benefit Toys for Tots.

Celtic Thunder's 75 City North American Tour includes December concerts in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. See schedule [here](#).

[Irish Traditions Atlanta](#) has provided the following information on recurring opportunities to participate in/enjoy live sessions of Irish music:

Sundays, Athens GA: 4-7 pm, Irish Music and Song Session at The Globe

Tuesdays:

7 - 10 pm, Sandy Springs: The Atlanta Open Celtic Session at Meehan's Irish Pub

7:30 - 10:30 pm, Decatur: The Marlay House pub. Irish, Old Time, Blues, Cajun, Gypsy swing... A world of roots music!

Wednesdays:

8 - 10:30 pm, Dunwoody: Open Irish trad session at O'Brian's Tavern

8 pm, Atlanta: Live Irish and Old Time music at The Wrecking Bar Brewpub in Little Five Points

Third Thursdays in Clayton, GA: 6 - 9 pm: "Traditional Irish Jam Session" at The Wicked Pig, 151 N. Main St.

Diaspora Heritage Series

MIDLANDS HERITAGE, by Kevin Conboy

My maternal grandfather, Edward Francis Conlon, was born in County Westmeath in the middle of Ireland in 1890. His birthplace was Tang, a tiny spot north of Glasson, which is north of Athlone, all along the shore of Lough Ree, Ireland's largest lake. In 1899, Poppa and his parents, John Conlon and Mary Connaughton Conlon, emigrated to New York through Ellis Island with their four oldest children (Poppa was the oldest); four more were born in New York City. This was several decades after the end of the Potato Famine, but times were still very difficult in Ireland, and the Conlon/ Connaughton family was joining other relatives in the New York area. (Photo: Old Tubberclair School where my grandfather studied to age nine).



One person who particularly recruited the family was Mary's older brother, Michael Connaughton. He had come to New York some years before and was successful as a street car conductor. So the Conlon family settled in, my great grandfather John made a living, among other things, as a policeman, my grandfather did well in school and had a career in banking.

In the meantime, family and friends from Ireland grew in number in New York. Michael, as the oldest and perhaps most prosperous, recruited other family members to come from Ireland to the New World.



(Photo: Wikipedia)

Finally, in 1912, it was time for him to come back to Ireland for his mother and father. He took some time off from work in New York and sailed back to Ireland, purchasing three tickets for the return trip to New York for himself and his parents. We don't know the exact circumstances or the substance of the discussion, but it became clear after a time that they chose not to join him. (They are still buried in Tang). Michael was disappointed but adventuresome and decided to trade in his three tickets and sail back on the greatest ship ever built, the Titanic. He was in steerage, and did not survive.

My mother, Kathryn Conlon Conboy, granddaughter of Michael Conlon and Mary Connaughton Conlon, joined my wife Maureen and me, and our three daughters, Meghan, Allison and Colleen, for a trip to Ireland (just our second at the time) in 2000. Mom had reached out to some of the Conlon and Connaughton family in Ireland, and connected with my grandfather's first cousin, Kathleen Connaughton Neary, who is the same age as my Mom and also, like Mom, has seven children. She continues to live near Tang in Lissaquil, County Westmeath, and all of her children remain with their families in Ireland - though some of the grandchildren are abroad in North America, mainland Europe, and Australia. We visit with them regularly and they have visited us several times. Should you get to County Westmeath, please look up my (second) cousin Bernie (Bernadette) Egan, at Egan's Pub in Mount Temple!

Kevin Conboy, a retired partner of the law firm Paul Hastings, headed the Irish Chamber of Atlanta for more than a dozen years. He and his wife of 43 years, Maureen, live in Atlanta. Kevin also coordinates this Heritage Series -- to submit your story, contact him [here](#).