



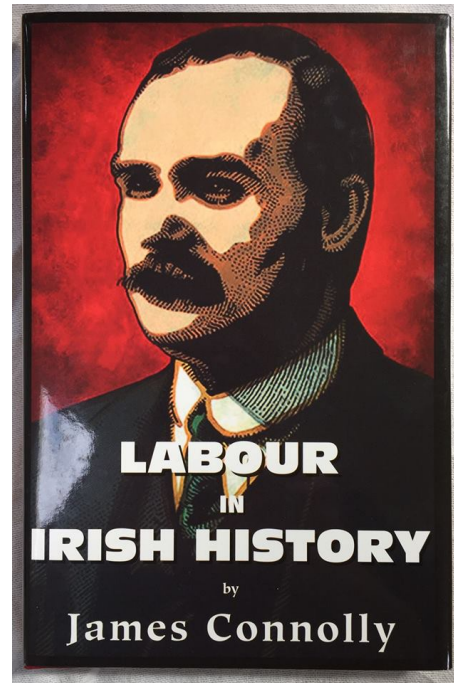
September 2017 Newsletter

American Book Launch of Republication of James Connolly's 1910 "Labour in Irish History" September 22 7:30PM

The Commemorating James Connolly in Troy group is hosting the American launch of the republication of "Labour in Irish History," by James Connolly at the Irish American Heritage Museum. This book was published originally in 1910, soon after Connolly's time in the United States.

The dust jacket is the brilliant portrait of Connolly done last year by Jim FitzPatrick. Books are just \$20 each.

This inspiring program will remember Connolly through his writings.



Hanna & Francis Sheehy Skeffington- feminists, pacifists, Irish September 25 6:30PM

Dr Micheline Sheehy

Skeffington will give an illustrated lecture on her grandparents, based on a family view of their lives and history and using illustrations from the family archives. She will trace the development of their thinking through their own family experiences and their education. They both became ardent suffragists and were highly principled regarding nationalism and pacifism, both being jailed for their various actions.

The 19th century in Ireland had left poverty in the cities and a tough and relentless rural life,

where evictions were a recent memory. These were the conditions that led to the formation of the Land League - and indeed the Ladies' Land League - to start a revolutionary campaign ...for tenants' rights. The Fenians were the active rebellion group of the late 19th century and Micheline's great-grandfather David Sheehy and his brother Fr Eugene Sheehy were imprisoned many times for Fenian activities. There was also a growing scholarly class. Women had been attending university for some years and were easily the match of their male colleagues in intellect and wit. Attending the then Royal University in Dublin, Micheline's grandmother Hanna Sheehy soon became appalled at her status. Not only had women to attend lectures separately from the men, but they were debarred from attending university events and society meetings in the evenings. Much worse, she soon learned that as a woman, she was ranked alongside convicts and infants in being denied the vote.

The young Francis Skeffington, educated entirely at home by his father, had a strong sense of the need for independence -and of the need for women to play an equal role in an emerging Irish state. He was a 'militant' pacifist and believed strongly in the need for dialogue to resolve differences.

It is no surprise that as students Francis and Hanna rapidly found common cause and consolidated their friendship. In 1903 they were married - taking the unusual step of acquiring each other's name, becoming the Sheehy Skeffingtons.

In 1908 Hanna co-founded the suffrage organization The Irish Women's Franchise League that stepped up suffrage activities through public speeches and heckling, culminating in direct action - window smashing - prison and hunger strike. Francis co-founded the feminist newspaper The Irish Citizen and it remained the main feminist and socialist -with nationalist leanings - mouthpiece until 1921.

Thus began the 20th century, with almost two decades of revolutionary debate, discussion and agitation leading up to the 1916 Easter Rising. Scholars such as Thomas MacDonagh and Francis Sheehy Skeffington enthusiastically joined in debate and developed ideas alongside working-class socialists such as James Connolly.

Francis, the pacifist, was outraged at the outbreak of war in 1914 and spoke publicly and vociferously against recruitment, making over 40 speeches, until the British arrested him, tried and sentenced him to 6 months' hard labour. Famously, he declared he would be out of prison much sooner 'dead or alive' and promptly went on hunger-strike; he was released after serving seven days.

When Francis was murdered in Easter Week 1916, Hanna refused £10,000 from British Prime Minister Asquith and escaped with her 7-year-old son, Owen (Micheline's father) under false passports to the USA to tell the truth about the 1916 Rising and British brutality. Their names are registered in Ellis Island as Mrs Mary and Master Eugene Gribben. John Devoy of Friends of Irish Freedom supported her for the next 18 months and later said she had "done more real good to the cause of Ireland ... than all the Irish orators and writers .. [over] the past twenty-five years".

Yet Hanna never got full recognition for this epic tour of 21 States, giving over 250 speeches. On her return in May 1918, she joined the Sinn Féin Executive, but when the elections came round - women had recently been granted the vote- she was offered an unwinnable (in her view) seat in North Antrim, which she turned down in disgust. She was to try to negotiate a ceasefire in the Civil War, despite being anti-Treaty herself and later travelled back to the US at De Valera's request to raise support for Ireland. Though active on many peace and justice committees and being elected a Dublin City Councilor, she never served in the parliament.

Micheline's tour, on the 100th anniversary of Hanna's tour, is partly to give Hanna true recognition for what she did, to honour her and, through addressing current feminist issues through her own experience, to link her grandparents' views and activities to the 21st century.

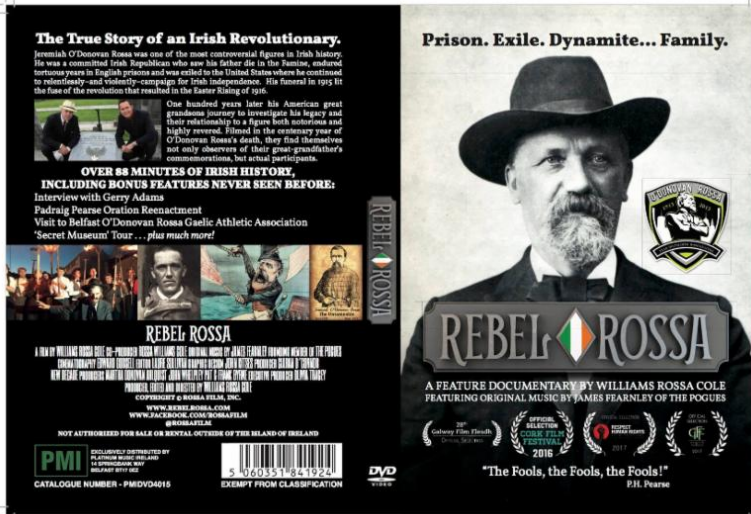
Biopic

Dr Micheline Sheehy Skeffington, a recently retired plant ecology lecturer at NUI Galway, Ireland is Hanna and Francis Sheehy Skeffington's granddaughter. An active feminist herself, Micheline has given countless illustrated talks on the role of her grandparents in Irish history, touring the US in 2001. She has also talked about her own case, as she has recently become newsworthy herself in following family tradition by taking a gender discrimination case against NUI Galway to the Equality Tribunal, which she won in November 2014.

Cost
Free to members
\$5 non members

Screening of Documentary "Rebel Rossa" September 28 7:00 PM

Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa was one of the most controversial figures in Irish history. A committed Republican, he created the concept of bombing campaigns against England in the 1800's. His funeral in 1915 lit the fuse to revolution resulting in the rebellion of Easter 1916. Today he is still revered in Republican circles. Banished as an exile to the United States he continued to relentlessly campaign for Irish independence becoming an influential figure in Irish America.



One hundred years after his death his great grandsons investigate Rossa's legacy and their relationship to their infamous relative. Directed by Williams Rossa Cole, this journey explores Irish American identity as descendents of one of the most notorious and revered figures in Irish history. Filmed in the centenary year of O'Donovan Rossa's death, the grandsons find themselves not only observers of their relative's commemorations, but actual participants.

With original music composed by James Fearnley of the Pogues

A question and answer period will follow the screening with the Director of the film, and great grandson of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, Williams Rossa Cole.

Cost \$5

Irish Theater Series is Back! Cattle Raid of Cooley @ Siena College September 29-October 1

The American premiere of John Dunne's Cattle Raid of Cooley will be performed on September 29 & 30 at 7:30 pm, and October 1 at 2:00 pm in the Beudoin Theater on the Siena College campus . The play is based on the Táin Bó Cúailnge tale from Ireland's epic Ulster Cycle.



The legend begins when Queen Maeve of Connaught wants the Brown Bull of Cooley to make her equal in wealth to her husband. When a peaceful attempt to obtain the bull fails, Maeve decides to mount a cattle raid which turns into a bloody war and pits her against Ireland's legendary hero, Cu Chulainn.

This production was made possible by a grant from Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs

Emigrant Support Program to the Irish American Heritage Museum.

The play is directed by Steven O'Connor and features local actors Janet Hurley (Maev), Jon South (Ailill), Devin Waters (Ferdia), Sheila O'Shea (The Morrigan), Shae Fitzgerald (Fedelm), Richard Angehr (Daire), and Carter Holmes as Cu Chulainn.

Playwright John Dunne is the Artistic Director of the Irish Theater in London. He has run a number of theatre companies, all sharing the same ethos as Irish Theatre presents...with a current artistic policy focusing on new Irish work.

John's most notable work includes his trilogy of Irish plays (Famine, Easter and Belfast) as well as a trilogy of plays set in the Cooley mountains (Long Woman's Grave, Cattle Raid of Cooley and The Curse of Macha). In addition to his own work, John has produced and directed a number of Irish plays written by new Irish writers. John also freelances as a script editor, director and stage manager. He says that the American premiere of Cattle Raid of Cooley is "wonderful"!

Non members- \$10
Museum Members - \$5
Students- \$2

Photos From August Events



Passengers on the top deck of the Dutch Apple during the 2017 Capital District Celtic Cruise



Our team of Irish American chefs prepping for Irish American Day at Saratoga Race Course



The Boland School of Irish Dance performing at Irish American Day at Saratoga Race Course



Golfers getting ready to participate in the 2017 Mostly Irish Classic

September 2017 Regional Irish Events

September 8-9 @- Syracuse Irish Festival- Clinton Square Syracuse, NY

September 8-9 @- Rochester Celtic Festival- MLK Park at Manhattan Square Rochester, NY

September 9- 11AM- 1/2 Way to St. Patrick's Day Fall Festival. O'Slattery's Irish Festival. 318 Delaware Ave. Delmar, NY 12054.

September 16 @ 11AM-11PM- Irish 2000 Music and Arts Festival. Saratoga County Fairgrounds. 162 Prospect St. Ballston Spa, NY 12020.

September 22- 7:30PM- James Connolly "Labour in Irish History" book re-launch. Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany NY 12207

September 25 @ 6:30PM- Hanna & Francis Sheehy Skeffington- feminists, pacifists, Irish. Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany NY 12207

September 27 @ 11AM-2PM- Open Genealogy Session. Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany NY 12207

September 28 @ 7:00PM- Screening of Rebel Rossa. Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany NY 12207

September 29 @ 7:30PM- Cattle Raid of Cooley. Beudoin Theater. Siena College. 515 Loudon Rd Loudonville, NY 12211

September 30 @ 7:30PM- Cattle Raid of Cooley. Beudoin Theater. Siena College. 515 Loudon Rd Loudonville, NY 12211

September 30- Troy Irish Festival- Division & Front Street at Sage Field Troy, NY

September 30 @ 11AM-7PM- Hudson Valley Irish Festival- Riverfront Green Park Peekskill, NY 10566

October 1 @ 2PM- Cattle Raid of Cooley. Beudoin Theater. Siena College. 515 Loudon Rd Loudonville, NY 12211



The Young Dubliners
September 23
Cohoes Music Hall

Purchase Tickets at the Cohoes Music Hall Box Office, Palace Theatre Box Office or By Phone at [518-465-4663](tel:518-465-4663).

Although the Young Dubliners sound is most commonly called 'Celtic Rock', that label is misleading. The Irish influence is there, certainly, but it's not the only influence that rears its head on their albums, or in live shows. After all, several of the band members have no Irish roots of any kind. "That was always the idea", Keith explains. "The sound was always intended to be a hybrid because we all come from different backgrounds. Even though two of us are from Ireland, a lot of the music we listened to growing up wasn't Irish at all, but when we got here, we got homesick and developed a new appreciation for Irish Music. In truth the Celtic riffs can just as easily come from the American band members. Everyone writes now so you never know what you'll end up with when we write."

Irish American Heritage Museum | 518-427-1916 | info@irish-us.org | www.irish-us.org