

# *Irish Philadelphia Community Partners*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Irish Philadelphia Community Partners To Host Farewell Reception For Consul General of Ireland, Barbara Jones**

**PHILADELPHIA, August 4, 2017** – Leaders representing a cross-section of Irish organizations in Philadelphia have partnered to host an Irish Philadelphia Community Celebration on the occasion of the departure of Consul General of Ireland, Barbara Jones. Consul General Jones' tenure at the Consulate General of Ireland in New York comes to an end this month prior to her next assignment as the Ambassador of Ireland to Mexico.

Irish American Mayor James Kenney will present the Consul General with a Liberty Bell from the City of Philadelphia in recognition of her contributions to the city. From the beginning of her tenure in 2014, Consul General Jones has been actively engaged with the Irish Community in Philadelphia and has made several trips to the Greater Philadelphia region. Consul General Jones has worked tirelessly to promote Philadelphia as one of the quintessential Irish cities in the United States, celebrating the city's rich Irish heritage and recognizing Philadelphia's contributions to Ireland. Consul General Jones has celebrated significant events in Philadelphia, including the Great Hunger and 1916 Easter Rising Commemorations. Consul General Jones also accompanied various Irish diplomats and government officials on state visits to the Philadelphia region. In July 2016, Ms. Jones hosted Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald T.D. (Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland) and Ambassador Anne Anderson (the Ambassador of Ireland to the US) on their visit to Philadelphia, when they attended the Democratic National Convention. This March, Ms. Jones hosted Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. (Prime Minister of Ireland) on his St. Patrick's Day tour through Philadelphia. At Philadelphia's Irish Memorial, the Taoiseach made the historic announcement that an Irish government referendum would be held on granting Irish living abroad voting rights.

Event co-hosts, the Free Library of Philadelphia, PA Department of Community & Economic Development, and the Center for Irish Studies at Villanova University will join Irish Philadelphia Community partners in hosting this inclusive and dynamic reception on August 10<sup>th</sup> at the Skyline Terrace of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Irish Philadelphia Community partners include the Irish Immigration Center, Irish American Business Chamber and Network, Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Brehon Law Society Commodore Barry Arts & Cultural Center (representing county societies), Duffy's Cut Project, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Irish Society, Philadelphia Gaelic Athletic Association, Philadelphia Irish Memorial, and Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Observance Association.

#### **About The Irish in Philadelphia**

People of Irish descent form the largest ethnic group in the Greater Philadelphia region with more than 1.1 million people in Greater Philadelphia claim some percentage of Irish blood. The Irish have lived in Philadelphia since before the American revolution. The Irish had a major impact on the city even prior to its inception. William Penn, founder of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania had notable ties to Ireland. Penn converted to Quakerism as a result of a sermon preached in Cork.

#### **About Consul General Barbara Jones**

Barbara Jones was born in Co. Wexford, Ireland. She began working for the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1983 and has had a varied career advising the Irish government on issues relating to the European Union, the United States and the Northern Ireland Peace Process. Her overseas postings include assignments at the Consulate General of Ireland in San Francisco (1986-1990); at the Embassy of Ireland at Luxembourg (1991-1993) and as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Ireland in London dealing with political relations and the Northern Ireland peace process. In September 2012, Ms. Jones was appointed Joint Secretary at the British-Irish Intergovernmental Secretariat in Belfast. Ms. Jones served in two other government Departments in Ireland, serving as special adviser to the Prime Minister of Ireland (An Taoiseach) and as an adviser in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and

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Employment, where she developed Ireland's strategy to promote trade with China and Asia. Ms. Jones took up duty as Consul General of Ireland in New York in September 2014.

## **About Irish Philadelphia Community Partners**

To learn more about each partnering organization, please visit their websites:

- The Free Library of Philadelphia – [www.freelibrary.org](http://www.freelibrary.org)
- Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development – [www.dced.pa.gov](http://www.dced.pa.gov)
- Villanova University Center for Irish Studies - [www1.villanova.edu/villanova/artsci/irishstudies.html](http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/artsci/irishstudies.html)
- Irish Immigration Center - [www.icphila.org](http://www.icphila.org)
- Irish American Business Chamber and Network – [www.iabcn.org](http://www.iabcn.org)
- Ancient Order of Hibernians - [www.aohpastate.org](http://www.aohpastate.org)
- Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - [www.statepalaoh.com](http://www.statepalaoh.com)
- Brehon Law Society - [www.brehonlawsociety.org](http://www.brehonlawsociety.org)
- Commodore Barry Arts & Cultural Center – [www.theirishcenter.com](http://www.theirishcenter.com)
- Duffy's Cut Project – [www.duffyscut.immaculata.edu](http://www.duffyscut.immaculata.edu)
- Friendly Sons of St. Patrick - [www.friendlysons.com](http://www.friendlysons.com)
- Irish Society - [www.theirishsociety.com](http://www.theirishsociety.com)
- Philadelphia Gaelic Athletic Association - [www.philadelphiaaaa.com](http://www.philadelphiaaaa.com)
- Philadelphia Irish Memorial - [www.irishmemorial.org](http://www.irishmemorial.org)
- Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Observance Association - [www.philadelphiastpatparade.com](http://www.philadelphiastpatparade.com)

Interested press are asked to contact Leslie Alcock or Alanna Barry McCloskey for security clearance.

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