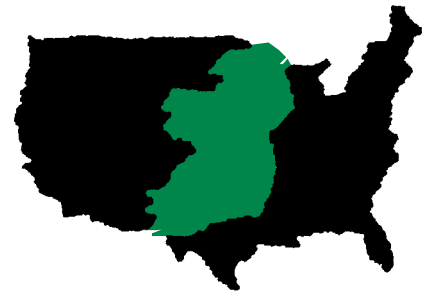


# EIIC NEWS



Fall 2009  
Volume 11, Issue 1

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[www.eiic.org](http://www.eiic.org)

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#### Lillian Morrissey\*

*Social Worker (License pending)*

#### Lisa McGovern

*Bronx Office Manager*

#### Laura O'Brien, MS\*

*Licensed Clinical Social Worker*

#### Liz Barber

*NY Cares Coordinator*

#### Carmel Rose\*

*Immigration Counselor*

#### John Stahl Esq.\*

*Director of Legal Services, Immigration Attorney*

*\*works from both offices unless otherwise indicated*

## IMMIGRATION NEWS

The topic of immigration reform is heating up again and it is encouraging news that there is hope for an immigration bill by the end of 2009 or early in 2010. NY's Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has assumed the role of Chair of the Senate Immigration Subcommittee. The Senator has outlined his principles to be included in the immigration reform debate and they include a major emphasis on enforcement, including a biometrics based employer verification system. Many members of Congress will be looking to hear from their constituents on this issue and we encourage you to share your views as the debate is expected to move forward nationally.

The Emerald Isle Immigration Center's Director of Legal Services & Immigration Attorney, John Stahl Esq. participated in roundtable discussions on comprehensive immigration reform hosted by Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) in Washington DC on May 19, 2009.

Amongst the attendees were...

Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez, NY-12, Chair of the CHC

Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez,  
IL-04, Chair of CHC's  
Immigration Task Force

Rep. Charles Rangel, NY-15,  
Chair of House Ways and  
Means Committee

Rep. Yvette Clarke, NY-11,  
Whip of the Congressional  
Black Caucus  
Chicago Celts for  
Immigration Reform  
Irish Lobby for

Immigration Reform  
Irish Apostolate  
American Immigration  
Lawyers Assoc.  
(AILA)

New York Immigration  
Coalition

Emerald Isle Immigration  
Center



*(Continued on page 5)*

## Important Notice About DV-2011

The online entry registration period for the DV-2011 green card lottery will be from October 2 until November 30, 2009.

Please check our website, [www.eiic.org](http://www.eiic.org), for updates and instructions regarding online entry for DV-2011 and be sure if you are interested to apply early as the website gets a lot of traffic prior to the deadline at the end of November. Also, beware of scammers and websites who will charge exorbitant fees to apply. [http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types\\_1322.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1322.html)

# EIIC SOCIAL SERVICES

## Welcome Lillian Morrissey!

The center is delighted to have added Lillian Morrissey to the staffing ranks on a full time basis as of June 1, 2009. Lillian interned with us while a student at Adelphi University completing a Master of Social Work degree between September 2008 and May 2009.



Lillian has helped many EIIC clients over the past year with general and hospitalization insurance questions, provided PCAP information to many of our expectant moms, as well as assisted clients with applying for other benefits such as Food Stamps, Medicaid, Medicare, and other forms of assistance.

Seniors are encouraged to come to either of our offices to meet with Lillian for information and application assistance for Irish Pension, Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption, Home Energy Assistance Program, and Access-A-Ride, among other available programs, entitlements, and benefits. Most recently she has helped with prescription questions for a client who needed urgent help sourcing medicine for a recently diagnosed diabetes illness.

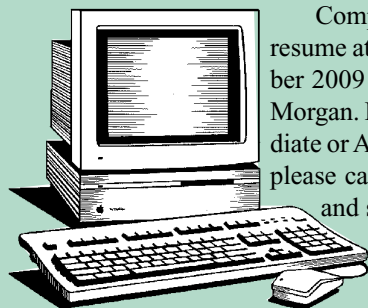
Lillian works very closely with our Psychotherapist, Laura O'Brien, LCSW, who continues to host our Drop-in Counseling hours and takes appointments on Mondays in Woodside from 4-8 pm and on Thursdays in Woodlawn from 4-8. Laura's expertise in the area of relationships (both marital and familial) has been helping many of her long term clients.

Lillian is also going to be managing an array of class options for us in Queens, as follows:

**FÁILTE ISTEACH An bhfuil gaelige agat?**— We are hoping to start an evening Irish conversation class at the center in Queens. If you are interested in participating or hosting conversation classes "as gaelige," please call Lillian Morrissey 718/478-5502 Ext 210.

**Fall Jewelry Making Classes** – We are currently looking for anyone interested in taking a jewelry making class at the center in Queens. All the supplies are provided and the class will be approximately an hour and a half per week for roughly six weeks – cost for the class for six weeks will be \$60. A piece of jewelry (bracelet, necklace etc) will be created at every class.

## Computer Classes Continue



Computer classes in Woodside will resume at the Queens office in September 2009 under the direction of Eileen Morgan. If you are a Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced user seeking classes, please call the center at 718/478-5502 and speak to reception for details.

## Senior Helpline

Plans are underway to expand the Seniors Helpline hours in the fall. If you are interesting in volunteering or need more information, please contact Lisa McGovern 718/324-3039 Ext 102.



Are you Irish?  
Do you need someone to listen?

We provide a confidential listening service

- for older Irish emigrants
- by older Irish emigrants

Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
10am - 12pm

**1877 997 5777**

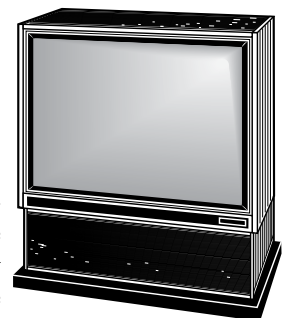
*Senior Help Line USA is a partner agreement of Senior Helpline Ireland which was launched in 1998 by President Mary McAleese, its Patron.*

Helpline: 1877 997 5777






## Digital TV Transition



Earlier this summer, on June 12, 2009, New York City residents transitioned to digital television. Some affected residents were not entirely prepared for the transition and we fielded some enquiries where we helped with securing converter boxes. If you are having issues, please note that you can find additional information on the transition at [www.nyc.gov/html/misc/html/2008/dtv.html](http://www.nyc.gov/html/misc/html/2008/dtv.html) and information in the form of printable flyers at [www.dtv.gov/publications.html](http://www.dtv.gov/publications.html).

# NEWS FROM WOODLAWN AND OUR BRONX OFFICE

## Cara Art and Design Exhibit

The Emerald Isle Immigration Center presents:

**"GLÓR"**  
"VOICE"



7th Annual exhibition of artworks by the students of  
Cara Art & Design

Opening night September 15th at 7pm - All are invited!  
Exhibit open to the public from September 14th - 30th  
Monday - Friday 10am - 5pm  
at the Emerald Isle Immigration Center  
4275 Katonah Avenue, Woodlawn, Bronx NY 10470

For more information contact:  
Lisa at EIIC 718 324 3039 x 102  
or Regina at Cara Art 914 310 9117

Visit us on the web:  
www.eiic.org  
www.caracoach.com

The students from Cara Art and Design will be exhibiting their work with us again at our office in the Bronx (4275 Katonah Avenue) until the end of September 2009. All are welcome. The exhibit was opened by Vice Consul of New York, Alan Farrelly, on Tuesday, September 15, 2009.



June 15, 2009 – A contingent representing Emerald Isle Immigration Center attended the Bronx Borough Presidents Big Band Luncheon at the Villa Barone on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> 2009.

## An bhfuil gaelige agat? FAILTE ISTEACH

Our long time Executive Board member and gaelgeoir, Noreen O'Donoghue, will be hosting conversational classes "as gaelige" at the center in Woodlawn starting in the Fall – anyone interested in signing up should call and speak to Lisa McGovern, our Bronx Office Manager 718/324-3039 Ext. 102.

## BOOK CLUB

Lisa McGovern is continuing to host our Book Club monthly and while the club has been on hiatus over the summer, she wanted to let anyone interested know that it will resume on September 14, 2009. The current book choice they are reading is Star of the Sea by Joseph O'Connor.



## A Special Word of Thanks to LOCAL 608 Apprentice Training Class

Many of the additional programs and services we have on offer in Woodlawn would not be possible without the renovation work that was generously donated to the center in the Spring of this year. We wanted to acknowledge and thank the entire group, and in particular Don Killinger, for all their help.



## EMERALD ISLE KNITTING GROUP NEXT PLANNED VISIT

Our Bronx Knitting Group have been working fastidiously to keep their supply of lap blankets in stock and their next visit is planned for September 29, 2009 to the Veterans Hospital on Kingsbridge Road in the Bronx. We are grateful for all their hard work and effort! Their most recent visit was on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, where they donated fifty blankets to residents of the Frances Schervier Nursing Home in the Bronx.

The residents picked out their own blanket and were delighted with them. The staff of Frances Schervier was also extremely grateful.



**JEWELRY CLASSES** – We are currently looking for anyone interesting in taking a jewelry making class at the center. All the supplies are provided and the class will be approximately an hour and half for roughly six weeks – cost for the class for six weeks will be \$60. Anyone interested in signing up should call and speak to Lisa McGovern, our Bronx Office Manager 718/324-3039 Ext. 102.

## EIIC BOARD NEWS

### Mae O'Driscoll Scholarship

Thanks from the Mae O'Driscoll Scholarship Committee to everyone who has donated to the fund. In particular we wish to thank Chair Brian O'Dwyer for the event he hosted at the offices of O'Dwyer and Bernstien in June. We have successfully reached our initial goal of \$20,000 and further details on the scholarships can be found when finalized on our website at [www.eiic.org](http://www.eiic.org).

Congratulations to Board Member Jim Connell who is retiring to Ireland at the end of September with his wife Francis. We wish them both all the best and slán abhaile.



## IMMIGRATION NEWS *(Continued from page 1)*

(Washington, DC) - The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), in conjunction with the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) and the Progressive Caucus, met with a diverse coalition of organizations invested in the debate on Comprehensive Immigration Reform. The focus of the discussion was on how to advance legislation this year that would enact the reforms necessary to fix the broken immigration system. In March, the CHC met with President Barack Obama and received his commitment to move the debate on immigration reform forward during his first year.

"The debate on comprehensive immigration reform cannot wait another day, as families continue to be torn apart when they are unable to navigate our nation's broken immigration system," said Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, Chairwoman of the CHC. "Students are left in limbo and farms are facing shortages of workers every day we continue to put off reform. History has shown us that immigrants contribute to our nation's economy by entrepreneurship, creation of an increased tax base, and helping raise wages for all workers. Passing comprehensive immigration reform will help improve our struggling economy, and that is another reason we are ready to move forward today."

"I am proud our community is standing shoulder to shoulder with Members of Congress, energized to push for comprehensive immigration reform this year," said Congressman Michael Honda, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. "There is much strength in the diversity of this American coalition that includes Asians and Latinos, civil rights and faith-based organizations, business and labor. Together, as Americans, we are up to the challenge of fixing our broken immigration system and creating one that is worthy of our great nation."

"Today, civil rights coalitions, faith groups, labor unions and business representatives from across the country convened in Washington to discuss next steps toward realizing comprehensive immigration reform," said Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez, Chair of the CHC Immigration Task Force. "Our meeting was part of ongoing discussions the CHC is having, not only with community leaders, but also with members of Congress in both chambers and on both sides of the aisle, regarding their commitment to a comprehensive package. Based on these ongoing discussions, we are confident that the time to move forward is now." When the CHC sat down with President Obama last month, he reiterated his commitment to immigration reform that stabilizes our economy, secures our borders and keeps our families together. President Obama assured the CHC that in May he would launch his Administration's efforts to achieve comprehensive immigration reform; however, time is quickly running out, as American families continue to be separated from their loved ones. We continue to look to President Obama to lead on this issue, and we urge him to honor his promise—not only to the CHC but to all Americans—by presenting a solution that keeps husbands and wives, parents and children, together.

"The pursuit to attain comprehensive immigration reform is about correcting the current law and ensuring that we incorporate protection for American workers and immigrants," stated Congressman Raul M. Grijalva, Co-Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and Chair of the CHC Education and Job Training Task Force. "We are a nation of immigrants and must ensure that we keep families together, strengthen due process, and address the issue, rather than hindering by punitive anti-immigrant laws."

# IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Continued from page 1)

## Immigration Reform and Taxes

All immigrants residing and working in the United States are generally required by law to file income taxes every year, which are due around April 15th. Besides the legal requirement, there are other good reasons to file income tax returns, including eligibility for citizenship and other immigration benefits and potential tax refunds, credits or exemptions.

Undocumented immigrants living and working in the United States are also required to file an income tax return to report their earnings here. They must apply for and use an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) in place of a Social Security number to file a tax return and report income. An ITIN is a nine-digit number issued to people who are not eligible for a Social Security number. It does not authorize someone to work in the United States. An ITIN is used only for record keeping purposes and for filing taxes. One must complete a W-7 form and file it with their first tax return to get a tax identification number. Afterwards, the ITIN may be used to file future returns and also for opening a bank account, taking out a mortgage or for other financial transactions.

The IRS does not currently share any information from taxpayers with other government agencies due to privacy provisions in the tax laws. It is also not in the IRS's tax collection interest to disclose any information to the immigration authorities, since it will discourage those who are undocumented from filing tax returns.

It is in the best interest of undocumented immigrants to file their taxes in anticipation of a legalization program or other immigration reform. Tax filing may be used as evidence of physical presence in the United States and also demonstrates good moral character. Each may be a requirement towards a path to citizenship under new legislation.

## Visa Preference Numbers

The Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs offers the monthly "Visa Bulletin" on the INTERNET'S WORLDWIDE WEB. The INTERNET Web address to access the Bulletin is: <http://travel.state.gov>

From the home page, select the VISA section which contains the Visa Bulletin.

To be placed on the Department of State's E-mail subscription list for the "Visa Bulletin", please send an E-mail to the following E-mail address: [listserv@calist.state.gov](mailto:listserv@calist.state.gov). If you have further questions please call one our offices.

## Encounters With Law Enforcement

The Department of Homeland Security and the Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) is stepping up its efforts to check the status of individuals being held in local jails and prisons for those arrested without immigration status. Any undocumented immigrant who is arrested and detained by their local authorities, even for a relatively minor offense, is at risk of being discovered by ICE while in custody and may be further detained and deported if it is determined that they are out of status. Those who entered the US on the 90-day visa waiver program have waived their rights to a hearing before an immigration judge and they may be detained and automatically deported if they overstay their status.

## DV Lottery 2010

All the winners for the DV-2010 lottery application have been notified by regular mail to the mailing address provided on their online application. There were over 13 million applicants worldwide and only 102,800 winners were notified for further processing out of which 50,000 will actually get green cards.

Less than 200 people from Ireland were selected this year.

Ireland – 167                      N. Ireland – 31

Applicants can also verify the status of their application online to see if they were chosen, if they did not receive notice by mail. Until June 30, 2010, entrants are able to check the status of their entry through the E-DV website at <http://dvlottery.state.gov/esc>. Entrants need to use their own confirmation page information from the time of their entry made between October 2, 2008 and December 1, 2008 to check the status to find out if a Diversity Visa Lottery entry was or was not selected. You will need to enter your last name, year of birth and confirmation number from your receipt.

It is expected that the next application period for the DV Lottery will be between October and December this year. Official dates, rules and eligible countries should be announced by late September. For more information, go to the official US State Department website at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov). You may also contact our office in the early fall for more information and assistance to complete another application. Be aware that the application for the DV lottery is free and you do not need to pay any agency to enter. If you have any further questions or if you have been selected for further processing, contact our offices for further information and eligibility.

## ESL Classes at Emerald Isle

Since our partnership in 2007, NY cares volunteers and EIIC have been instrumental in assisting community members in the naturalization process. Through naturalization, community members are better equipped to be active participants by voting and serving as jurors. With over 200 registered students from the Ecuadorian, Colombian, Peruvian, and Chinese communities, we continue to expand our English as a Second Language U.S. Civics preparation program.

Here are some of our recent participants and their teachers (all volunteers through NY Cares).



**Emerald Isle Immigration**  
**59-26 Woodside Avenue**  
**Woodside, NY 11377**

 825-C

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We're on the web at  
[www.eiic.org](http://www.eiic.org)

**SAVE  
THIS  
DATE**

**FRIDAY**  
**OCTOBER 30, 2009**  
**Annual EIIC Dinner**  
**Astoria World Manor**

Our main community fundraiser of the year will be held on Friday, October 30, 2009 at the Astoria World Manor. For further details on supporting this event call our Deputy Director Sandra Boyle for advertising in our journal, sponsorship packages and ticket information.

*Pictured here are our 2008 Dinner Dance Honorees Maurice McGrath, Dr. Geraldine Chapey and Hon. Vincent J. Gentile (New York City Council, 43<sup>rd</sup> District).*



**If there is anything you would like to see in future issues please contact our newsletter editor ([info@eiic.org](mailto:info@eiic.org)) for inclusion in our next newsletter alternatively you can check out our website @ [www.eiic.org](http://www.eiic.org)**