

NY1 QUEENS

Nonprofit Distributes Books with Irish Ties on St. Patrick's Day

By NY1 News

Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 05:23 PM CDT



A nonprofit wants New Yorkers to know that there's much more to celebrate on St. Patrick's Day than the annual parade.

The Irish Arts Center held its yearly St. Patrick's Day book giveaway on Thursday.

This time, the center gave away 5,000 books at Diversity Plaza in Jackson Heights.

The works are by Irish and Irish-American authors, including Elmer McBride and Samuel Beckett.

The goal of the giveaway is bringing public awareness to other parts of the Irish culture that don't get much recognition.

"Ireland has produced as many writers as it has over the centuries. So what they may be more familiar with on St. Patrick's Day is Guinness and corned beef and cabbage, and really, the country of Ireland and Irish America is about so much more than that," said Rachel Gilkey, director of programming at the Irish Arts Center.

The center also gave away books at four other locations across the city.