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August 2017

Cook County Commissioner

Bridget Gainer

Working for Good in the 'Hood!





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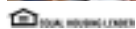
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Bridget Gainer: Working for Good in the Hood

By *Ryanne Gallagher Johnson*

Southside native, political powerhouse, and Democrat Bridget Gainer, currently serving as Cook County Commissioner for the 10th district, is our own living, breathing icon for community empowerment during a time that has been particularly tumultuous for our country. With a strong spirit for outreach and development, a deep love for this fine city, and a background that's rich in service experience, she's using every scrap of opportunity she's been given to strengthen our neighborhoods and build up our residents. And the results of her efforts have gone a long way towards beginning the process of rejuvenating Chicago from the inside out.

Raised in Beverly, Bridget is the oldest of six children - four sisters and a brother. Her grandparents hail from Athlone and Co. Mayo in Ireland. Her parents, Gerry and Bill Gainer, have always been a strong part of the Irish-American cultural fabric here in the city.

Her upbringing is notable in that she's native to Chicago and her love for the area stems from the positive experiences she had through her childhood, which ultimately set her on her political path.

"Growing up in Beverly in the 70s and 80s... I couldn't imagine a better place to live. It's a great neighborhood. You felt like the whole world was right there for you. It's beautiful. I had a great life," she explains.

She received her early education at St. Barnabas, and later from Mother McAuley, the latter of which she insists was very much a gift to her as a teenager. "When I was young... there were all these studies that talk about how girls have their own thoughts, and then they turn 12 and 13, and they want to watch boys play sports and they're really concerned with how they look! For me, to wake up every morning, put my hair in a ponytail, grab my uniform off the floor, go to school, and never think about any of that stuff until the weekend... it was great! There were no distractions... I love McAuley. It's an incredible school."

Putting herself through U of I working as a waitress at the famous Martinique, and ultimately receiving degrees in English and Political Science, went a long way to giving her the incredible work ethic she exhibits today. This is a trait that she credits her parents with giving her.



Whatever job you're in, there's always parts of it that feel like you're cleaning the bathroom! If you're not willing to do them, you're not going to be successful

"My mom and dad are two of the hardest working people I know," she says.

And after college, she continued in that spirit, moving to New York to work with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps as a caseworker for kids in foster care. "I felt called to do something service-oriented. You're twenty-one, you have no obligations, you really have a lot of freedom, and I wanted to

do something positive," Gainer explains. "It was either that or the Peace Corps, but I wanted to work in the United States. The Jesuit Volunteer Corps came up as an opportunity, and I ended up working for the most incredible people. Geoffrey Canada, who later formed the Harlem Children's Zone and was in the movie *Waiting for Superman*, is a pioneer in education. I also worked for Jean Thomases at the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. I still think of the things she said to me 30 years ago, the most memorable being: 'everybody cleans the bathroom', and that has served me well over the course of time... whatever job you're in, there's always parts of it that feel like you're cleaning the bathroom, but if you're not willing to do them, you're not going to be successful. You should always maintain humility about what hard work is. I learned that from my parents, and I feel incredibly lucky that I had good examples in both of them."

While in New York, she also trained as a community organizer with a goal of bringing people together to get access to their public schools. The project worked to open up the school buildings and turn them into a community center and after

"(I thought) that's crazy! The lakefront is so crowded, why would you carve out a place for dogs?"

school program. "New York, at that time in the early 90's, had a lot of violence, just like there is in Chicago now, and they needed better alternatives, especially for young people."

She lived in New York for three years, but felt compelled to move back to Chicago. "I loved New York, it was great. But (Chicago) is my home."

Back here, the MacArthur Foundation and the mayor's office wanted to create the same program of opening a public school building in Chicago. Nicholas Senn High School in the North Side neighborhood of Edgewater was chosen for the initiative. "We went in there, and we brought all these community organizations together. We kept the building open until 9 o'clock at night and on Saturdays, and there was swimming, and ESL and GED classes... it's a fabulous building. We had programs for teenagers. The whole building was alive at 3 o'clock, and it became a real center for the community. As a Southsider, up north is so different... there were 57 different languages that were spoken at Senn, which is really different from the South side... it's one of the most diverse high schools in the country. It was a fascinating place to be," Gainer recalls.

She put in several years with the project before eventually going to work for Mayor Richard Daley at city hall, where she became a budget analyst. From there, she went on to work for the Park District, as the Director of Lakefront Parks.

One of her legacies from her work in Parks is the creation of the city's first dog park. When the idea was pitched, she admits that it wasn't a project she thought would succeed as much as it has. "(I thought) that's crazy! The lakefront is so crowded, why carve out a place for dogs? But one of the guys I worked with, Drew Becher insisted, so we pushed it through and built it. Two or three months

later, I go up to check it out on a Saturday morning, and all these people are together, and finding a way to engage with each other... that's why it's a good thing to be reminded how wrong you were. And now everybody loves dog parks."

Her tenure with Parks lasted a couple more years, until she went on to work with Aon, the insurance broker, with whom she is still currently employed. Her work has included meeting with legislators, advocating for the firm's interests, and branding the firm with relevant decision makers. It's a position that she's found a lot of joy in. "It's a great company, and I love my job."

While working full time, she was also attending night school to receive her MBA at University of Chicago, and she walked in her MBA graduation ceremony just two weeks before having her first child with husband Dennis Kibby. Now the mother of three children, Finn, Lillian, and Mary, she utilizes her parents' solid model of work-home balance, working as a cohesive team with her family to find harmony between all of her endeavors and those of her husband and kids.

Her time as Commissioner came about in 2009, when a series of promotions, catalyzed by President Obama's election, created a vacuum in Chicago's government that needed filling. Gainer was initially appointed to the seat in April of 2009 to replace former Commissioner Mike Quigley, who won the spe-

cial election to fill former Congressman Rahm Emanuel's seat when Emanuel left Congress to become President Obama's Chief of Staff. In 2010, she defeated her Republican opponent in the November election and won a four-year term.

Of her position as Commissioner, she says, "I think about Chicago first. For me, local is everything. I'm a local girl more than anything else. I love Chicago. City living is everything. I'm going to be here forever. I grew up here, I'm raising three kids here. So making the city better is my most important mission, and I'll do whatever that is. Right now, I can do a lot from the position I'm in, and I've loved it."

One of the two more notable projects she's spearheaded as Commissioner is the Cook County Land Bank. This is an initiative that was brought about by the foreclosure crisis, and has a goal of filling the vacant houses in the city while simultaneously creating more homeowners from members of the public. It's the region's most comprehensive response to reduce the amount and impact of vacant land and abandoned buildings throughout the county. The project brings together local realtors, developers, and civic and social leaders to rehab empty, foreclosed-upon properties and sell them to families wanting to own homes. The idea is to give these small businesses work and keep them employed while also helping people buy houses.

"In politics, you really have this opportunity to do the same things you have the opportunity to do as anyone who cares about the community, but then you have a little bit more of a platform, and that helps."

This is an important project for regrowth in the city, and Gainer feels lucky to be in a position to make it happen. "In politics, you really have this opportunity to do the same things you have the opportunity to do as anyone who cares about the community, but then you have a little bit more of a platform, and that helps. For me, Chicago's a city of neighborhoods, and being able to help be a part of strengthening some of those neighborhoods is really important. The Land Bank has been this amazing opportunity to get in there and address this issue, because nobody wants to buy a house on a block with a vacant house, and they certainly don't want to buy a house on block with two vacant homes. We go in there, identify a small developer who's just getting going, or starting up a business, they can rehab the house, then you move a family in. 75% of these rehabs go to homeowners. You need homeowners to change a community. It's a model that works across the board."

Gainer's other notable project is in apprenticeships. Her own web page describes, "In addition to (her) work with finance and foreclosure, she is creating a new asset for regional workforce development by bringing together community colleges, high schools and businesses to re-imagine apprenticeships. Commissioner Gainer believes that if the United States is going to be a leader in the global labor market we have to ensure our

job training today looks more like the economy of tomorrow. Commissioner Gainer believes rather than just focusing on the skills gap we have to fight the training gap by bringing employers into the workforce development process."

(bridgetgainer.com)

Her most recent endeavor has been the launch of an organization called "Off the Sidelines," which empowers women to get involved in civic life. "The vast majority of women, or people, are never going to run for office. While office is important, getting involved in civic life, philanthropy, charity, something, (is more important). Just get off the sidelines. Take your ideas and turn it into action. We started this 2 years ago, with a launch event. Now we have over 2500

"There's an energy around women now, and you want to tap into that."

members... There's an energy around women now, and you want to tap into that. You want to get people involved in their government, and involved in their city, and involved in their community."

Information on this project can be found at otschicago.org. Moving forward in her career, Gainer plans to run again for her Commissioner seat in 2018. Beyond that, she's not sure where she'll go. A run for mayor or governor may not be off the table, but there's nothing further up the chain that she'll yet admit to having aspirations for. At the moment, she's doing great work in our community, and she's happy there.

"You have to be willing to put the time in, and you have to like it. If you don't like it, it seems like work. If you do like it, you're doing things to help your community."

You can read more about Ms. Gainer's work and initiatives at bridgetgainer.com.



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McGregor Wins Regardless of Result

No doubt you have heard the 'circus' passing by in recent weeks.

This 'circus,' as dubbed by Hall of Fame pugilist Oscar De La Hoya, is the upcoming boxing match on August 26 in Las Vegas between MMA fighter and UFC megastar Conor McGregor and the greatest boxer of his generation Floyd Mayweather Jr.

There is little doubt that we are being sold a hoax.

For the purists, it is nothing more than a ruse, an entertainment, a subterfuge, a deception that has little merit in sporting integrity.


And yet even knowing this, hundreds of thousands if not millions of people around the

world will pay to watch and therein lies the crux of why this event has come to pass.


In time, it will come to be the embodiment of the social media marketing age that we now live in.

Back in the 1980s Andy Warhol was a man ahead of his time. The artist and comedian went through a phase of fighting pro-wrestlers and women for paying consumers on the national American stage. Had he just arrived just a generation later, he could have become the richest sports star in the world.

For that is what Conor McGregor will become when Floyd slips back into retirement and
Continued to next page



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What a boxer Mayweather has been! He has beaten the best welterweights that his sport had to offer over the last 20 years.

He is widely respected for his feats in the ring and yet he is hard to like. The charisma of his youth has long been eclipsed by an entitled and self-serving persona.

Despite all his fame and his earnings, he was thrown into a Las Vegas jail for two months in 2012 for domestic battery, which gives a significant indication to his character.

It doesn't matter how much money he makes, he will never be loved by the man on the street.

As a professional he won 49 fights and from a television revenue standpoint he attracted more viewers in his prime than the rest of the sport put together. He has also led the way in how to maximise his earnings by setting up his own promotional company so that he got paid as a promoter as well as a fighter.

The sporting purists of boxing are already blaming the two protagonists, who look set to make \$100 million each from this one-off showpiece.

For that is a big slice of bread for Conor, who in 2012 was making €188 a week on the dole in Ireland as he trained to become a star of the mixed martial arts environs. His first win in the UFC earned him \$60,000 which he boasted about and celebrated loudly in the ring after the fight.

Since, he has gone on to be one of the most recognisable personalities in sport and has brought the popularity of the UFC to the masses. He has also made more money in the UFC than any fighter in its history but even these earnings will pale into insignificance after this fight with Floyd.

McGregor has little to lose.

If he doesn't win a fight that nobody is expecting him to win, he will be \$100 million richer. Anything slightly better and his image will grow further into legend.

But can the Dubliner win?

Here is the case for: Conor can hit hard so he has what's called a puncher's chance. And they say that Floyd doesn't like fighting southpaws and at 40, doesn't possess a knockout blow while Conor has a strong chin so is likely to stick around for a few rounds.

Realistically, from my perspective, there is no chance of Conor winning this bout.

To put this match-up into its most simplistic form. You are pitting a fighter who has never fought one professional boxing match against the best professional boxer of his generation in a contest of boxing.

Even multiple weight boxing world champions, Manny Pacquiao and Canelo Alvarez couldn't lay a heavy glove on Mayweather over 24 rounds between them.

Also, if you look at how Conor fights in the UFC, he stands up very straight for balance with very little head movement. His head will be an allegorical sitting duck for even an accomplished amateur boxer.

In my opinion, if Conor was pitched in a boxing match against Ireland's Michael Conlon, who McGregor famously walked to the ring on his professional debut in Madison Square Garden's last year, I would give Conor little to no chance of winning.

Against Mayweather, a likelihood of him winning are even dimmer.

I don't doubt that McGregor knows the score and to quote the film 'Top Gun,' it could be argued that his ego is writing cheques that his butt can't cash.

The only difference here is that he will get a check, a big fat cheque with eight zeros that his butt can put straight into his bank account.



For this money, he will big-up this fight and fake an animosity between himself and Floyd more than any he has done for any fight in his career because he knows that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make more money than he can ever earn again.

Already, his use of the word 'boy' when talking to Mayweather shows how dirty he is willing to go to sell this fight to the populous. This, however, is not something to pardon or tolerate.

Soon I envisage Floyd's history of domestic abuse and his family will be on the menu.

For McGregor win or lose, having this fight is ultimately the success in itself.

Afterwards, Conor will no doubt allow himself a machine-gun chuckle as he wipes away the tears of his loss to Mayweather with wads of cash as he sits in front of the large fireplace at his new Dublin castle.

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We've Come A Long Way

One of the strongpoints seized by the 1916 rebels – and the scene of bitter fighting – was the South Dublin Union, the major Workhouse for South Dublin, housing some 3000 people. With the abolition of workhouses by the new Irish state, the surviving Union buildings morphed into what is today part of St. James's Hospital. The Workhouse was a crude and early attempt to alleviate absolute poverty by offering accommodation and employment to those unable to support themselves. Its heyday was in Britain in the nineteenth century, where the first evolving industrial society had to cope with the side effects of industrialisation – the expansion in population, the growth of towns and periodic bouts of unemployment as bust followed boom. At least 160 workhouses were set up in Ireland, catering for hundreds of thousands of indigent poor.

The very name "Workhouse" generates feelings of revulsion today, with images of the poor and destitute being herded into unsanitary buildings and compounds where they were forced to labour (including children) for bread and a bed, with



From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



families being broken up under a system deliberately designed to be harsh, to deter the able bodied poor from living off it. The proceeds from the work inmates performed were intended to defray the workhouse costs, which would otherwise fall on the local ratepayers. The comprehensive Wikipedia article on Workhouses makes for a fascinating read.

A dreadful system, designed, to address not Poverty, but Pauperism. But it was a dreadful time, when someone born poor had few prospects, social mobility was limited and life expectancy short. There was not even a rudimentary welfare state, no old age pension, no health system. And the workhouse era was not too long ago. In the 1890s Charlie Chaplin spent time as a child in a workhouse; George Orwell wrote of his time in one in the 1920s. They continued to exist, in one form or another until the British Welfare State was brought into being after 1945.

One aspect of particular dread to the elderly was the prospect of separation,

when necessity forced old people to resort to the workhouse. "My Old Dutch," one of the Music Hall songs of the 1890s, many of which dealt with the life and tribulations of the urban poor, if slightly maudlin, captures poignantly, the moment of no return at the workhouse entrance. The singer/narrator, is an old man – for the time, life expectancy was far lower – unable to work and reduced, therefore, to the workhouse to house himself and his wife of forty years. They enter, without hope of ever getting out, and are separated. He sings – maudlin but highly charged all the same:

"We've been together now for forty years, An' it don't seem a day too much, There ain't a lady livin' in the land As I'd swop for my dear old Dutch." (Dutch being abbreviated Cockney rhyming slang for "Duchess of Fife" = Wife.)

We've come a long way since then, but I was reminded of the song, almost serendipitously, by what happened to the Devereux family from Wexford in late June. How the elderly are treated in any country is a good measure of that society and thus far Ireland is probably due a few brownie points in this regard. The state old age pension is reasonable and is supplemented by a number of additional supports including free travel (a much prized benefit) and assistance with the cost of electricity and TV license, all of which survived unscathed during the recent era of cutbacks. Most of the elderly are in receipt of medical cards providing for free care and treatment, with free doctor's visits for those over seventy who don't qualify.

Money apart, the main thrust of state support for the elderly is through the Home Care Package administered by Ireland's Health Service Executive (HSE). The aim of the package is to provide service and support to enable the elderly to stay for as long as possible in their own homes, rather than be obliged to move into a nursing home, either one publicly owned (of which there are too few) or privately run (which are ruinously expensive). The package is not perfect, not comprehensive and suffered severe cutbacks during the Recession, the mantra that everyone should take a cut being applied callously to the old and infirm, who were for obvious reasons least likely to complain. However there is a structure there, cuts can be restored, it can be built on, it is what most old people want and it is far more economical to the state and the individual than nursing home care. It is also not means tested, an important

consideration.

Nevertheless there comes a time when the elderly can no longer cope. 90 year old Michael Devereux and his wife, Kathleen, who is 86, and who have been married for 63 years, applied in March for participation in the Government's "Fair Deal" scheme to cover the cost of long term residential care in a nursing home. The scheme involves a person (or a couple) surrendering most of her or his income, and up to 22.5% of the equity realised on selling the home after death. There are obvious flaws with the scheme but it represents an attempt to grapple with an issue that is likely to increase in importance as the number of elderly infirm people living longer seems set to rise. Either the state builds a lot more nursing homes or devises a formula to assist those entering private nursing homes by splitting the ruinous cost.

The problem in the Devereux' case was that, initially Michael was awarded a nursing home place but the assessment of Kathleen was that she was healthy enough to continue to live on her own. The couple were thus to be separated with Kathleen expected to continue to live at home. When their son appealed, a review panel determined she was capable of living independently. The story broke on RTE Radio's LiveLine on June 26, with an emotional interview with Michael Devereux, complaining that after sixty three years together he and Kathleen were to be separated. Once the piece was aired, an "Operation Stable Door" was mounted by the HSE, which ran for cover. After critical comments by Health Minister Harris and the Taoiseach, the HSE acted. The case was resolved in a day and Kathleen is to join Michael in the home.

To an outsider it might appear that, from the start, a dose of common sense would have prevented the issue ever arising. The HSE practice is to assess first on the basis of suitability for Home Care, and clearly with limited resources and residential care costing so much this is the wise approach – but there are always individual cases where there is need for some flexibility and a common sense approach. This was lacking - shades of the fiasco over withdrawing discretionary medical cards from chronically sick children several years ago.

Still, all's well that ends well and we have certainly advanced from the Workhouse era. But with the numbers of elderly set to rise sharply in the coming years, the pressures on the system – and its financing – look likely to mount.

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This Bento Life - Too Lazy to Live, or Too Busy to Care?

I know a guy with six sons and fourteen grandchildren. He is loving and devoted husband. He coached grammar school sports, remains active in his community. He is a very skilled tradesman. Above all those things, this man can cook. Beyond that he is superb baker, which is just about the most exacting position in the kitchen hierarchy - the pastier.

Cooking takes timing. Busy people can cook creatively and handsomely with good time management.

I am a pretty good hand around the kitchen and have pleased the people I fed with the exception of my kids when they were young - "Beef Daube again! Dad, seriously. Can't we order from Waldo Cooney's?" I have ordered from Waldo Cooney's - nice Calzones.

I prefer to cook even though I have been busy, teaching raising funds, writing articles, a couple of books, attending to kid sports, school recitals, school meetings, board meetings, church, fund-raisers, wakes, doing laundry, cutting grass, cleaning gutters, fixing sump pumps, picking up the house, doing the floors and getting myself in jams through my own follies. Busy.

I made kid lunches for school but was ragged by my younger two into buying disgusting K-rations put out by Oscar Meyer -Lunchables sans drink (I bought Capri Sun bags). Lunchables would gag a maggot.

In the last few years I have noticed that County Fair, Mariano's, Pete's Produce and other fine grocers offer pre-prepared dinner meals - cuts of beef, chicken and fish with spud, carrots, green beans. Better scale Lunchables.

I prefer to put my recipes together. I also get to bump carts with Mike Regan, Eddie Carroll and other culinary worthies. Would I buy a prepared meal?

How hard is it to skewer shish kebobs? Is it a struggle to stick a chicken in a roasting pan?

Would this purchase give me more time? No. I get the exact same twenty four hours that I have

owned since 1952.

This spring while teaching at Brother Rice High School, I was assigned 5th Period lunch supervision. This was a wonderful time of day for me as it was a chance to witness the lads unencumbered by the proprieties of the classroom. The lunch periods are tight, but the food service at Brother Rice is wonderful. The quality and choices of meals is a tribute to the women who come to school at 5AM and prepare breakfast and lunch entrees from scratch, using fresh vegetables and quality meats.

Most guys buy lunch cards and most faculty do as well. I limited my intake to two Strawberry Fruit Smoothies as my lard increaseth with the galloping years. No Ubi Sunt around the belt. I am usually too busy to eat anyway. With my two colleagues Tom and Eric we triangulate the known miscreants.

Lunch is a happy time. I get to spar with Fitz (now a Junior) and allow Justin (now a sophomore) to put the bite on me for the odd buck here and there.

One thing I noticed about some of the gents who do not purchase lunches is the number of Japanese Bento*boxes. Homemade lunchables. Moms in St. John Fisher, Holy Redeemer, Incarnation and St. Barnabas fill the slots with baby carrots, dried fruits, hand wrapped cheeses, pickles, cuts of meat, flat-breads and candies. Pretty cross-culturally cool. I know that some Dads had a hand in these preparations when a thermos full of cassoulet accompanies the Crusader's mess kit.

This is a signal that families still glow with love. These Bentos are not Lunchables - they are crafted by hand and not purchased at the Dollar Store in bulk.

I worry about our culture. We want everything yesterday. We want to know all about Jay-Z and Beyonce and the score of last night's Cub's game with the pound of same thumb. We need to get somewhere -fast. We have Apps for gracious living and calling a cab.

How hard is it go somewhere



pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



and have human contact with another carbon footprint? Hey, Cabbie? What the Cubbies Do? So they (The Family Z) had a kid? No Kidding.

Instead of thumbing away on some Steve Jobs gizmo, you engage a living human being and learn the very same bits of information and you get a ride in a taxi.

It appears that things are so hectic that we must now order clothing Bentos. There are now Apps for ordering one's business, casual, stylishly elegant ensembles. Shirts, socks, shoes and skivvies accompany the sportscoat and slacks. All for \$75 a month!

You thumb in your age, your gender, your height, your weight (Remember; this is not DMV), your neck, sleeve, waist and shoe sizes and in micro-seconds, you are outfitted by a faceless personal stylist.

Fashion Stork, Trunk Club and Stitch Fix are but a few of the sites available for your App where you can avoid the human being with the tape measure and cheeky asides - "My we've grown into quite the lard ass. Have we not?" Hell, Carol's Red Hanger on 63rd and Kedzie and Mr. Lee's and Baskin's at the Pla-zoo did that forty years ago, You walked in; told Si Blitzstein what you needed the duds for and in two-shakes of lambs wool sweater you were off to the Beverly with your main squeeze to see Funny Girl and Purple Cow for sundaes after the show.

Now, you thumb up a monthly box of Bento Boss Bibs. Jack, that cat is clean!

Like the kitchen, the hearth, where meals are prepared and shared are we isolating ourselves out of fear of contact with people? Are we saving time? Saving time for what? The next App?

Moms and Dads of Brother Rice have turned the Bento collapsible side. It is not for take-out. It is for the return trip to kitchen with Mom and Dad.

That guy I know with the six boys and fourteen grandkids - he makes Milky Way Chocolate Cheesecake. No App for that.

*Bento (bentō)[1] is a single-portion take-out or home-packed meal common in Japanese cuisine. A traditional bento holds rice, fish or meat, with pickled or cooked vegetables, usually in a box-shaped container. Containers range from disposable mass-produced to hand-crafted lacquerware. Bentos are readily available in many places throughout Japan, including convenience stores, bento shops (bentō-ya), railway stations, and department stores. However, Japanese homemakers often spend time and energy on a carefully prepared lunch box for their spouse, child, or themselves.

Bentos can be elaborately

arranged in a style called "kyaraben" ("character bento"). Kyaraben are typically decorated to look like popular characters from Japanese animation (anime), comic books (manga), or video games. Another popular bento style is "oekakiben" or "picture bento". This is decorated to look like people, animals, buildings and monuments, or items such as flowers and plants. Contests are often held where bento arrangers compete for the most aesthetically pleasing arrangements.

There are similar forms of boxed lunches in Asian countries including the Philippines (baon), Korea (dosirak), Taiwan (biandang), and India (tiffin). Also, Hawaiian culture has adopted localized versions of bento featuring local tastes after over a century of Japanese influence in the islands.

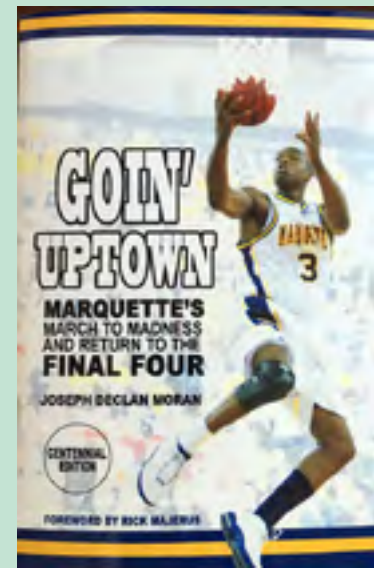
history of college basketball.

To order the book email: jdmoran24@gmail.com

Goin' Uptown

By Joseph Declan Moran

The Final Four is the elite address in college basketball, and in 2003 Marquette was a rightful tenant. Follow the team through a phenomenal season that culminated in a march to the Final Four. Hear what the coaches and players have to say about their triumphs and disappointments during the winning season. This book offers a game-by-game account all the way to the end. An avid Marquette fan and alumnus, author Joseph Declan Moran is also the author of You Can Call Me Al, the story of Marquette's Al McGuire, one of the greatest and most colorful coaches in the



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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Loveable, Laughing Leo and Empty Cant

I received a few nice emails on the back of last month's piece, Robbery with a Fountain Pen. They are always welcome and many thanks. The graphic novel I mentioned was 'Woody Guthrie and the Dust Bowl Ballads' by Nick Hayes; and in it one of the things that came across for me was the way in which, despite the Depression, people mainly mixed well together.

Professor Dale Nelson of North Dakota sent on an essay he had written called Lovecraft's Comfortable World; and there is a passage in it that resonated with me: "Conservative commentator John Derbyshire picked up the

'old, weird America' phrase when writing about the roots of Hank Williams's experience. Derbyshire describes 'the old, weird America' thus: 'a place where "multiculturalism" was not an empty cant phrase mouthed by social-engineering bureaucrats, but a daily reality of white, red, and black, hillbilly and Cajun, bluegrass and blues, all jostled together - bickering, fighting and oppressing, to be sure, but also working, drinking, singing and coupling. That America has now gone forever, paved over with strip malls, industrial parks, community colleges and trimmed suburban gardens. We gained a

lot in the process, no doubt, but we lost something too. We lost it, and it will never be seen again in life: but the ghost of it is still there for anyone who seeks it, in the songs of Hank Williams'".

And also, I would suggest, in those of the great Woody Guthrie. *** ** *

Well, that's that: there will be no living with him now. Yes, coming a few years after his predecessor Enda Kenny, our beloved new leader Leo Varadkar has only gone and gotten himself on the front cover of the European 'Time' magazine.

Back when I saw Kenny's face staring out at me I remember thinking that this was some sort of spoof job, that it was a joke cover. It was horribly, unbelievably true, though; and after that we had to endure his ridiculous face-pulling; his phony hail-fellow-well-met punches to the arm; and his nauseating throwing of shapes and smirks for what seemed like...well, it WAS

years, even if it felt like decades. And everyone outside of Ireland lapped it up because...sure, isn't he a grand fella all the same?

And then we couldn't get rid of him! Even his party didn't want him hanging around anymore, but Enda clung on...and on...and on. He was leaving after BREXIT; then he was leaving after the next St. Patrick's Day junket; then he was leaving after the Second Coming. When he finally DID leave, of course (clutching several pensions and an enormous bonus in his sweaty little hands), no one really noticed because it was out with the old and in with more of the same.

Loveable Leo. 'The Island at the Centre of the World' is the caption on the cover; and since he doesn't do modesty the words do of course belong to Leo.

When he was Minister for Health he talked about EVERYTHING but. Always one eye on what would be the next step up the ladder. Ambitious isn't

the word for this guy. He's got a police force that everyone has lost faith in and a health service that is an absolute shambles, with the HSE now involved in so many scandals that it isn't even embarrassed by them anymore. Hell, they know they can't be touched. Yet the only person Leo is out for is Leo.

He ignored everyone's feelings on the dodgy appointment of the former Attorney General Marie Whelan and when asked about the downright creepy questioning of the New York-based blogger Catherine Kelly at the airport on June 27th by police (who appeared to have been keenly following the lady's travel plans), he decided it was a private matter. Minister for Employment and Looking After Herself Regina Doherty TD had been annoyed at the blogger and as a result the woman was asked to confirm her identity and given a finger-wagging and talking-to over social media posts where she

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had spoken about the collapse of the TD's business interests eight years ago.

Of course, like the rest of their shifty cronies, Regina and Leo HATE bloggers. After all, they've got a nice, compliant mainstream media that – with a few honourable exceptions such as Gene Kerrigan -- doesn't the rock the boat TOO much; so maybe it's time to put some manners on these bloggers. We can't have them asking questions that the mainstream won't touch; why, the whole of Western civilization could collapse.

Ms. Kelly, incidentally, is the partner of Jim Cullen, who is the head of Friends of Sinn Fein, in New York – so that was two black marks against her.

Even the Garda have said that it's unusual. You're not listening, guys: it's a private matter. Move along now; nothing to see here.

Leo DID excited about his visit to Downing Street. Could hardly contain himself. After all, there he was looking at the ACTUAL STAIRCASE that Hugh Grant danced down in the movie 'Love, Actually'. Well, until Theresa

May pointed out that it wasn't the ACTUAL staircase. That was...somewhere else. Leo said he was 'disappointed'. And this was all to a background of the Grenfell Towers tragedy and our continuing concerns about what BREXIT means for Ireland.

Likeable Leo. We felt so proud. Of course, we felt even more proud when Leo began pulling up his trouser legs and showing off his colourful socks to visiting Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. In fact, I felt so proud I wanted to cry.

Laughing Leo. People are getting suckered by this guy, but don't believe it. This bloke is hard as nails and he's willing to walk over anyone to get to where he wants to be. Which isn't politics, as he aims to be shot of that – and of us -- by the time he's fifty. I don't like him and I don't trust him.

One of his very first acts was to ask their neighbours to inform on those who may be making a few undeclared Euros. And now we're talking of naming and shaming.

I've no problem with seeing

those who are ripping off the country to the tune of thousands and millions being brought to task, even though I would have thought that was the government's job; but as well as causing a distraction Varadkar is stirring it up between those who have been fortunate enough to recover from austerity and recession and those who are still struggling after years of both. And with the latter, being shamed for making a few Euros on the side could be the last straw in a country where suicide is already rampant. (Three in my area alone this past week.) And that's not right, Leo; that's just not right. Not when we see a steady parade of white collar criminals who have cost this country BILLIONS walk free from courts.

Thankfully, since he has now been in power for a whole month he is off on ten weeks' holidays with his fellow gougers. Ah well, I suppose that we'll just have to get on without them.

That shouldn't be too hard. They weren't doing much, anyway.

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- Wednesday, August 9th**
- 6:30 PM Jr. Hurling Cusack's v. CuChulainn's
- Sunday, August 13th**
- 12:30 PM Inter. Men's Football Semi-Final 2 v. 3
- 2:00 PM Sr. Men's Football Semi-Final 2 v. 3
- 3:30 PM Inter. Men's Football Semi-Final 1 v. 4
- 5:00 PM Sr. Men's Football Semi-Final 1 v. 4
- Sunday, August 20th**
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- Final
- 2:00 PM Sr. Ladies Football
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- 3:30 PM Sr. Hurling Final
- 5:00 PM Sr. Men's Football
- Final

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My Son the Waiter (A Jewish Tragedy)

Review by Terence Boyle

The North Shore Center for

how to turn life's misery into joy.

His self-effacing humour is truly

Performing Arts in Skokie has come up trumps, if that's still a word I can use without bias. Brad Zimmerman, author and performer, is hilarious. His many years as a waiter have served him well. There's nothing more entertaining than someone who knows



marvelous. With his particular take on his rise from mediocrity to the middle of the pile will have you laughing and wanting more.

Having graduated from college with a degree in drama, the young Zimmerman is like most hopefuls waiting on the elusive break. 29 years, he's still waiting for the moment when the world recognizes his talent. In the meantime, his job as a waiter brings him some valuable material

for what will become his life's work, literally.

Brad's interaction with his Jewish mother is more than funny, it's relatable. When he speaks of his mother's 'running off at the mouth', and constant interference there are great parallels with Irish mothers. We Irish Catholics and Jews have much in common when it comes to our matriarchs.

Brad's one-man show is a good night out. He's obviously talented as a stand-up comedian. He has, as the Irish comedian Frank Carson put it, a way of delivering his anecdotal references that lightens the heart. As Carson puts it, 'it's the way (he) tells them'. He commands the stage, bringing us the physical action of drama, with the robust wit of a gifted comedian.

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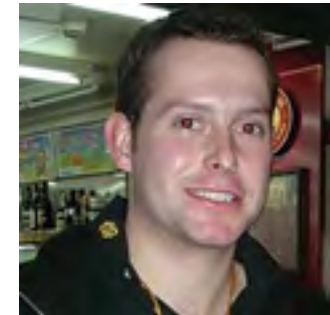
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Thomas Martin



Started dancing at the age of 4 for the Doherty Academy of Irish Dance in Coventry, England. He competed in all local feisianna and major competition until 2000, picking up many medals, trophies and world titles for solo, ceili and figure dancing.

In 2001, Thomas joined Michael Flatley's Feet of Flames touring the U.S. and then went on to join Lord of the Dance Troupe 1 touring Europe, the world, performing in all the major arenas, theaters. He also made numerous TV appearances, performing for celebrities and even for the Pope Benedict in 2011.

Thomas did his last performances with Lord of the Dance in 2012 for Feet of Flames in Taiwan. He was a guest instructor with the Martin Academy in Coventry, between tours instructing pupils from beginner level to open Dancers, all ages.

In 2016, he left England to marry Anne Hatfield and relocate to Joliet IL, where he now resides with his son and wife.

The Hatfield Sisters

www.hatfieldsisters.com
The Hatfield Sisters, as a musical group, was formed inadvertently by sisters, Anne and Mary Hatfield, after many years of playing together at home. The Sisters' musical rep-

ertoire thrives on a fusion of Irish, Scottish, and Cape Breton Fiddle music. Steeped in tradition, these Celtic fiddle styles



retain their musical relevance with the Sisters' subtle variations and fresh arrangements.

The Hatfield Sisters' musical escapades have taken them all over the world including



numerous venues in the Chicago area including Chicago Celtic Fest, Chicago Cultural Center, Northern Illinois University's World Music Concert, Chicago's Navy Pier, and Milwaukee Irish Fest. Anne and Mary have both toured with Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance. Anne has

traveled with the tour group to numerous countries including Israel, Dubai, Taiwan, spanning across three continents and 48 of the United States.

The sisters' combination of high-energy step-dance and fiddling creates a contagious exuberance, infecting audiences with irrepressible clapping and toe-tapping.

The Dirty Wellies

The Dirty Wellies is a trad Irish band based in the Chicago area. The band formed in 2012 when

County Mayo natives Regina Garrity (accordion), Margaret Murphy O'Callaghan (fiddle), Bernadette Murphy

(fiddle), and Kevin Branigan (guitar) began playing regularly at a popular Chicago suburban pub. The band expanded to include Jim Aman on the whistle, Vincent O'Callaghan on bodhran, and Frank Gleeson on mandolin and banjo. The band's focus is

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traditional Irish music with excursions into Scottish and English tunes. Modern tunes and twists

have come into the repertoire along the way, but the focus remains trad. Their style and love of traditional tunes and songs has carried the band to festivals, concerts, and a variety of private and public performances.

Five of the six members of

The Dirty Wellies are natives of Ireland. Regina, Margaret, and Bernadette all grew up in Began, Co. Mayo. Frank is from Co. Dublin. Vincent is a Kerryman.

Jim's ancestors emigrated in 1770 from The Neale in Co. Mayo. All six bring their love of traditional music to life on the stage.

Here is the official line up for 2017 WCCF:

12:10 opening ceremonies
with Tunes of Glory Drum and Pipe Corp band
12:30 Dirty Wellies
1:30 The Hatfield Sisters and Friends Pub Session
3:00 John Condron with Allison Flood
4:00 Tunes of glory Drum and Pipe Corp Band
4:20 Reilly
5:00 Keigher academy of Irish Dance
5:20 Reilly
6:10 Irish Toast (Finbar MacCarthy Toastmaster)
6:30 Whiskey of the Damned
8:15 Finbar MacCarthy

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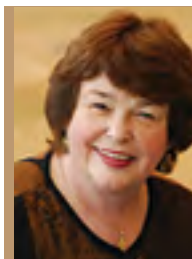
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By Rita Emmett

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~~ Nido R. Qubein

Tips For The Deadly Sins Of Clutter

Our clutter comes from four goofy habits:

Saving things that we never need or use

Insisting on adding things to our lives that we never need or use

Never deciding on a place for things to be put

Setting things down instead of putting them where they belong

The first letter of each habit spells SINS, so how about trying to incorporate one new habit to counteract the Deadly SINS of Clutter? Here are 21 ideas:

1. If you haven't used it in a year, get rid of it.

2. Every day, before turning on your computer, toss or put away three things on your desk.

3. When you buy one thing, get rid of one thing. (a toy for a toy, a shoe for a shoe)

4. Glance over your left shoulder every time you leave a room. Pick up the clutter you spot and take it with you to where it belongs.

5. Decide now. Clutter is often caused by putting off decisions.

6. Make a place for everything. Make a place for special papers, and for each child's school papers. Make a place for mittens, scarves, hats, boots, and so forth.

7. Put everything in its place. Teach your family to put things where they belong. (One way to teach: "If everything is where it belongs, you can come with to the mall or you can watch TV. If not, you can't.")

8. If you take it out, put it back.

9. Ask a "non-clutter friend" to help you sort through your closet or other clutter. Some people will be overjoyed to help you de-clutter. All you need from them is help in deciding what to keep or not keep.

10. Take five minutes whenever you can to tackle a small section of clutter

(or do it during the commercials of the first hour of watching TV).

11. Find a person or organization that will love & cherish your stuff as much

as you do. That will make it easier to say good-bye to things you don't use or need.

12. Decide on one place to put your keys (a hook or bowl near the door, a certain section of your purse) and cultivate the simple habit of putting them there always.

13. Live simply so that others might simply live.

14. When you want to buy something – no matter how sensational or adorable it is – think if you have a place to put it. Even if it's the greatest bargain in the world, don't buy it if you don't have a place for it. What a life changing way to think!

15. Always open mail next to a wastebasket. Get BIG wastebaskets for every place in your home that you need to encourage tossing or recycling paper, magazines, catalogues, newsletters, newspapers or other paper clutter.

16. Never leave a room empty-handed until the only things in the room are ones that belong there.

17. Never go up or down stairs empty-handed as long as there is something that should be taken up or down.

18. Have company over once in a while so the house gets cleaned.

19. Pay bills, fold laundry, sort through catalogues & magazines, and so forth during TV commercials or while visiting on the phone.

20. When de-cluttering a room, start at the doorway & go right or left. Then if you're interrupted, you can see where you stopped.

21. Don't de-clutter & clean the same day. You might keel over, poor thing.

Just making one of these habits a regular part of your day will impact the amount of clutter in your life.

HAPPY CLUTTER-BUSTING

Rita Emmett is a "Recovered Pack Rat", Professional Speaker, and author of *The Clutter-Busting Handbook*,

To subscribe to her free monthly "Anticrastination Tip Sheet", go to her website www.RitaEmmett.com

847-699-9950 or REmmett412@aol.com.

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello From Ireland

We're about half way through our summer trip/tour. Clocked up a lot of miles in Scotland and England and are now back in Ireland again. This time we're staying close to home in the rugged hills of South Armagh. Our routine is to go to Slieve Gullion everyday where they have a forest park and drive. There's lots to do there and it's extremely rich in history. I highly recommend it. Declan and I made it up to the top of the mountain the other day. It seemed to come easier to him than me, I guess it's an age thing. Him in the lead and me puffing and blowing behind, but I was determined to make it. On top of Slieve Gullion there's a lake. It's thought that a volcano was active there millions of years ago. They say if you enter the lake, you will turn into stone. So I told Declan that's why there's a lot of stones lying all around it. Of course he didn't believe me, but he didn't venture in to find out.

Occasionally someone will say to me, in a strange sounding voice "Oh! you're from the north aren't you". Ha! Ha! Well yes I am and I'm very proud of it. I've been almost everywhere in Ireland (the whole of Ireland that is) and it's beautiful wherever I've been. There's a sign just down the road from here and it reads - des-

ignated as an area of outstanding natural beauty - So that makes me feel very proud and I guess sometimes we don't realize how picturesque our home is, until we come back to visit.

I've put my son through musical boot camp this time. We did eight gigs in a row at one point, but we're taking it easy for the rest of our trip. We also co-wrote a song that I've been singing at a lot of the venues. So congratulations Declan, he is now joining IMRO (songwriting society in Ireland) and also Bardis Music. The song is called 'Until I Took A Second Look'. So here's to many more songs!

This month's song is one I wrote with my dear friend Jordan Moge. I was driving over to play in the Irish Cottage in Galena, IL. It was about six weeks ago. Jordan called me and we started chatting about how music and dancing is such a part of life in Ireland. A phrase came up during our conversation and it was 'Musical Island' so about an hour later, because the phone was cutting out, we wrote the song.

Well myself and the new high schooler will be back in town in a couple of weeks. Looking forward to seeing everyone again in Chitown. As always be good to one another.

Joe

'Musical Island'

© Copyright Joe McShane © Copyright Jordan

Moge

Verse 1

Nestled in the ocean

Where hearts of sweet emotion

And timeless music lingers in the air

I believe the angels fly

Amongst the notes as they roll by

And charm the ears of people everywhere

Chorus

This musical island

I'm proud to call it my land

Where there's rhythm in the rivers

And a tune among the trees

Hear the gentle sound

Of the melodies we're playing

And the music all around us

As it's coming through the breeze

Verse 2

Sitting by the fire

You'll hear a family choir

Singing softly in the evening glow

You may hear a fiddle

And someone play a whistle

Or hear a yarn and song from long ago

Chorus

This musical island

I'm proud to call it my land

Where there's rhythm in the rivers

And a tune among the trees

Hear the gentle sound

Of the melodies we're playing

And the music all around us

As it's coming through the breeze

Verse 3

We meet our neighbors daily

Sometimes we have a ceili

We'll be dancing in the kitchen and the street

That's the way it is in Ireland

And I'm proud to call it my land

There's even music in the way we speak

Chorus

This musical island

I'm proud to call it my land

Where there's rhythm in the rivers

And a tune among the trees

Hear the gentle sound

Of the melodies we're playing

And the music all around us

As it's coming through the breeze

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The Davey Thynne Family Fundraiser June 25th 2017

Chair: Brian McMcahon Vice-Chair: Manus Gallagher Secretary: Maria Kelly Treasurer: Aishling Dalton-Kelly Assistant treasurer Eileen Conlon Ticket Chairs: Kevin Horan, Mary Prendiville

The Davey Thynne family fundraiser committee would like to extend a very special thank you to all those who assisted in this benefit. I wonder does the general public really understand the efforts that go into organizing these events. I would like to thank all those that were involved, so many to mention individually I would be afraid to would leave someone out and offend them. Such an amazing committees who worked tirelessly on

the streets for months in advance of the big day. A very special thank you to all the golf courses that donated gift of golf outings. To the golf courses that held outings to raise funds for the benefit. To all the pubs who hosted our meetings, especially to our north side family for their wonderful card night. A thank you to All those who sponsored races, and horses for the race night. To our volunteers, who took on anything they were asked. To all the restaurants who sponsored the food. To our wonderful communities of Irish women who baked cookies, breads and cakes for the event. To Countryside bank for all your help throughout the last six

months. A very special thank you to the radio shows who hosted us to advertise the day. Last but not least to the stellar committee members who worked alongside me. We had the opportunity to work on this wonderful benefit together, but more than that we became friends and comrades. Building everlasting relationships for the future supporting our own countrymen. I would like to thank each and every one of you, you know who you are and what you did. I'm so proud to be called Irish and to be Irish.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, Brian Mc Mahon Committee Chair.



Davey Thynne Committee

Happy folks after a very successful fundraiser for Davey Thynne.

(l to r) Brian McMcahon, Maria Kelly, Ann Hourihan, Manus Gallagher, Aishling Dalton Kelly, Kevin Horan. Missing from the photo is Mary Prendiville.



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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



With the Dublin Brigade:

*Espionage and Assassination
with Michael Collins' Intelligence Unit*

By: Charles Dalton
Mercier Press
Dufour Editions

We can be deeply proud of our ancestors for the resolution, in-



tegrity, and resourcefulness they showed in the War for Irish Independence. That struggle lasted from 1916 to 1920. And this book is about one of the incredibly brave, bold, and resourceful persons involved in that titanic struggle.

The British Empire had just won a world war and possessed

the armed forces and the modern equipment used to bring victory. How did a small nation like Ireland fight that huge, powerful empire to a draw? The answer is all about the inner-strength and will of the Irish people.

That question puzzled Charles Dalton too. He is the author of this memoir and this is his explanation: "The people of a small and weak nation, without training, and practically without resources, by their grit, their steadfastness, their amazing solidarity... were able to render powerless... a mighty Empire."

Charles Dalton was only 14 years old when in 1917 he fibbed about his age so that he could join the Irish Volunteers, "his commitment and intelligence quickly became apparent" and by 1920 he had risen to become "a member of Michael Collins' elite Intelligence Unit..." The purpose of this unit was to destroy Britain's network of spies and informers. The book gives us a look into this struggle for Ireland's independence and how Michael Collins led this struggle.

These events were fresh on Dalton's mind when he published this memoir in 1929. Thanks to Mercier Press for republishing it

and to Dufour Editions for distributing it.

Dalton was a member of Michael Collins' famed Squad. The war was a constant battle to outwit the British. One mistake would mean torture and a horrible death. These quotes from Dalton's memoir show the intensity of that struggle.

"Michael Collins was the first leader Ireland ever had who recognized...wherein lay England's power to render all national movements abortive, and who had the character to stand up to it unflinchingly. That power lay in...thoroughness of the British Secret Service..."

"The goal of Michael Collins' leadership and the thoroughness of his intelligence service, the British were defeated...Without her spies, England was helpless... The Irish by their superior intelligence and boldness outwitted the vastly superior resources of the adversary."

The British wanted Michael Collins dead or alive, so they offered a €10,000 reward for this. "Michael Collins...was alive and free, but not by the grace of this British...How he eluded the hounds who were continually on his track, is one of the miracles of history."

Charles Dalton tells what led to success in the war: "we had to keep our mouths sealed. Not a word could we drop even to our dearest friends. Silence and success went hand in hand."

Many years later, in 1950, Dalton made a long statement (included here) to Ireland's Bureau of Military History. As many of the sources of information were alive, he mentioned no names, so that no one would be compromised. The war had taught him how vital silence is.

One of the persons Dalton worked with was Tom Cullen. Cullen was one of Michael Collins' closest and most trusted assistants. Because ruthless British agents wanted to capture him, Cullen found safety by staying in the shadows. Dalton greatly admired him and described his personality and character. Sadly, Cullen had died a few years before

the book was published.

Cathal Liam has written a biography of Tom Cullen. The title is *Fear Not the Storm*. Liam brings this great Irish revolutionary to life.

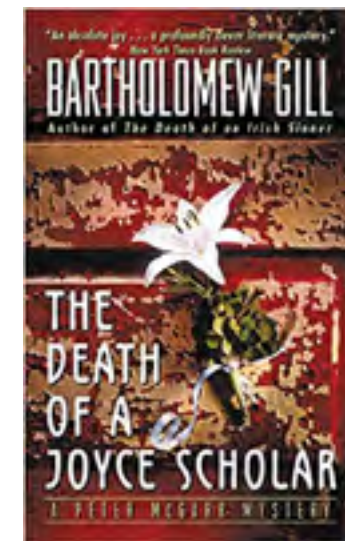
These are outstanding books to read to prepare for the anniversary of Ireland's War of Independence

Death of a Joyce Scholar

—A Peter McGarr Mystery
By: Bartholomew Bill
William Murrow

The Peter McGarr series of mystery books were such powerful, colorful, and carefully detailed that I have kept them.

When I reviewed this book, almost thirty years ago, I underlined things I thought important. I recently looked at them, and wondered if the underlinings were still meaningful.



I reread the book and found the fictional detectives to be so realistic and warmly human that it was like meeting old friends.

The Peter McGarr Mysteries were written by Mark McGarrity, who used the pen name of Bartholomew Gill. He lived from 1943-2002 and wrote 22 mystery novels, all set in Ireland.

McGarrity was born in Massachusetts, and earned a master's degree from Trinity College Dublin. And in 1989 this book was nominated for an Edgar Award, the highest honor in the mystery world.

June 16, Blooms day, is a celebration of James Joyce and his book *Ulysses*. However, quoting the publisher's summary, it "turns

into an intricate...puzzle for Chief Superintendent Peter McGarr of the Dublin Murder Squad.

"Kevin Coyle, a brilliant expert on Joyce, has been found murdered..." His body is found at Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery, a focus of *Ulysses*. Coyle was a professor at Trinity College and had a promising future. He had just published a much praised book about James Joyce. McGarr has to deal with utterly devious suspects in order to answer the questions: Who murdered him? And why?

McGarr discovers that reasons for murder "can hide as easily in the pages of a book as in the twisted passions of the heart. McGarr finds it difficult to tell where literature ends and murder begins."

What did McGarr look like? "Bald on top, he kept long the light red hair that remained...He had a freckled face and a long nose, which had been broken often and was now bent to one side. His eyes were pale gray..."

In good mystery book style, the case isn't resolved until the last page and a half. Some observations in 1989, by McGarr: "He wondered if in the future there would be only two classes, the haves and the have nots. Or rather the law makers, who possessed things, and the law breakers, who appropriated whatever they could. And all that with the Irish Revolution that was to end all that only seventy years old."

He thinks also of *Ulysses*: "poverty was written into every page of *Ulysses*. Dublin society, then, as now, was stagnant on virtually every level—economic first, but on social, moral, and spiritual levels as well. Back then, the British and the Church...controlled the country. Now it was the 6 percent...who controlled over eighty percent of the country's wealth...a powerful Church that intruded into all aspects of life and quashed every social or political reform not decidedly in its interest, and finally the British who were still with them in the North."

Thinking about *Ulysses*, "thought of how startling he found a book that detailed a day in 1904 but that seemed current and accurate."

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Chicago Gaelic Park

Serving the social & cultural needs of the Irish community throughout Chicagoland



A Cháirde

I was riding my bike through the I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor today while enjoying the weather and the scenery, and savoring a variety of music streaming from a Celtic show originating from a radio station in New Orleans. It was a great way to spend some time, and when I heard a few flute and whistle tunes, I thought about Pat Finnegan and Friends. Pat runs our sessions at the Carraig Pub every Thursday night at 7:30. If you haven't been to one of our sessions in a while, I encourage you to come. Bring your instrument or come to listen. All ages

and abilities are welcome. As pub manager Phillip Quinlan says, "Come for a Pint and you'll stay for the Craic!"

This year Our Lady of Knock commemoration falls on the actual feast day, August 21. The evening will include benediction, rosary, hymns sung by our choir and a procession to the grotto, followed by refreshments provided by the Gaelic Park Ladies Auxiliary. We thank Monsignor Boland and our volunteers for their assistance with this free event.

Slán go fóil,
Bill O'Sullivan

2017 CGP Calendar of Events 2017

AUGUST

- Aug 2 Monthly Musical Luncheon*
- Aug 5 Ride with Pride
- Aug 25 Oak Forest Fire Dept. Fundraiser

Next Ladies Auxiliary Meeting -September 13th

Monthly Musical Luncheon* - Doors open at noon, hot lunch served at 1pm for just \$15 per person

*Reservations Required 708.687.9323

Monday Evenings Set Dancing 7:30pm

Tuesday Evenings Ceili Dancing Lessons 7pm/Ceili 7:30pm

Sunday Evening CGP Radio Live WCEV 1450 AM 7:05-9pm



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- Fri Aug 4 Jerry & Kara 7:30pm
- Sat Aug 5 Larry Nugent & Billy O'Donahue 9:00pm
- Wed Aug 9 Frank Rossi 6:00pm (BBQ on the Patio)
- Fri Aug 11 Ray Gavin 7:30pm
- Sat Aug 12 Kieran Byrne 8:30pm
- Wed Aug 16 Jerry O & Rhonda 6:00pm (BBQ on the Patio)
- Fri Aug 18 Joe Cullen 7:30pm
- Sat Aug 19 Fifty One Lincoln 8:30pm
- Wed Aug 23 Ray Gavin 6:00pm (BBQ on the Patio)
- Fri Aug 25 Bernie Glim 7:30pm
- Sat Aug 26 Mulligan Stew 8:30pm
- Wed Aug 30 Joe McShane 8:30pm (BBQ on the Patio)

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CHICAGO GAELIC PARK PRESENTS OUR LADY OF KNOCK FEASTDAY CELEBRATION

Benediction, Rosary and Procession to the grotto to be held on Monday Evening, August 21, 2017 at 7:30pm

Come and enjoy the evening with us. Bring a friend. Refreshments will be served.



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We hope you are enjoying your summer!

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Gaelic Park Players, the meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm at Gaelic Park. Anyone who is interested in either auditioning for our fall play production or being

a part of the crew, please join us for a meeting or contact us via the website gaelicparkplayers.org. We welcome all who wish to be involved in acting, directing or working backstage. Stay tuned to this page over the summer as we will be announcing the name of our fall 2017 production and celebrating our 25th year of producing Irish plays at Gaelic Park!

Chicago Gaelic Park's

IRISH HERITAGE & HARVEST DAY

Sunday September 17th, 2017
Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th Street
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Art Contest
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Straw Pillow Fight



Youth hurling and football games

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(subject to change)

For More information call 708-687-9323 or visit www.chicagogaelicpark.org



Save The Date

Friday September 15, 2017
The Carraig Pub's Annual Golf Outing

The Odyssey Golf Club

Shotgun Start 1:00pm
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Tom Boyle



Illinois

*By the rivers gently flowing, Illinois,
Illinois,
O'er the prairie's verdant growing, Illi-
nois, Illinois*

Now we have Asian carp in the rivers, urban sprawl, and one financial crisis after the other. The problem is government worker pensions which are eating up 25% of the state budget. They come with an annual cost of living adjustment averaging 3% per year. Pensions shouldn't kick in until age 65, not age 50.

State officials and politicians control the pull of funds and use them as a political slush fund. Taxpayers are paying three times as much as state workers.

Tax and spend is the Democrat's marching song. Speaker Madigan has been in office over 45 years, Senate President Cullerton is nearing 40 years. That's why we need term limits! Former Governor, George Ryan, has the right idea. We need a constitutional convention.

Mad Mad World

Fights on airplanes are suddenly becoming a regular event, just like fights at hockey games. Do you think booze has anything to do with it? Is it the ever shrinking seat and lack of legroom? Profits and a lack of competition are at the heart of the problem. Stop over selling flights.

Whose going to get punched out first? People who are visibly intoxicated should not be allowed to board the aircraft.

Brendan Byrne

Three Cheers for Chicago Firefighter, and traditional Irish musician, Brendan Byrne (he plays the fiddle in the band, Cu Roi). Brendan was involved in the rescue of man's best friend, a dog caught in a fence.

Jim Mallon

The Irish are well known for their eloquence. Jim Mallon, one of our IAHC thespians, recently took first place in a competition at Toastmasters in Park Ridge Illinois. I wonder if he practiced with pebbles in his mouth like the great Greek orator Demosthenes!

Russian Horse

Did Russia attempt to keep Hillary out of the White House? If they did the

outcome of the election was what it was regardless. The Democrats continue to flog the dead Russian horse,

because it allows them to impede meaningful legislation like tax reform and healthcare. Hillary won the popular vote, but lost the electoral college vote.

The games they play in Washington, petty crap on both sides of the aisle. Senators at 70 and 80 years of age need to retire. Term limits are long overdue! We've had enough family dynasties like the Clinton and Bush families. We need a law to keep legislators from becoming lobbyists the day after they leave office. Like our former Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, making millions of dollars and using the money to pay off the young men he molested. Enough! Hastert just got out of jail and is now in a halfway house.

Down Under Abuse

George Cardinal Pell, the Chief Financial Officer at the Vatican has returned to Australia where he is accused of mishandling cases of clergy abuse when he was Archbishop of Melbourne. He also faced allegations of child abuse as a young priest in the 1970's.

Seven percent of Australian Catholic priests are alleged to be involved in child abuse. More than 1,000 Catholic institutions across Australia have been identified in claims of sex abuse involving 1880 alleged perpetrators between 1980 and 2015. The average age of victims is 10 and a half years for girls and 11 and a half years for boys. It took an average of 33 years for each incident of abuse to be reported.

Sister Loyola Boyle R.S.M.

Mary Philomena Boyle was born August 12, 1928 in Ballinglanna Causeway, Co. Kerry. One of ten children of Terence Boyle and Nora Sweeney. Her older sister, Bridget, also became a Mercy nun, and took the name, Sister Ambrose.

Sister Ambrose and Sister Loyola both sailed for Australia in May, 1947 on the SS Asturias, the first ship to sail from South Hampton England after World War II. They boarded the ship in Cobh Harbor, Co. Cork, Ireland. Sister Loyola went on to serve 25 years in New Guinea, working with the Aborigines, and living in a dirt floor hut. She became fluent in pidgin english. Sister Loyola would have been 89 on August 12. She passed peace-

fully on July 9th in Nudgee, Brisbane, Australia. She was preceded in death by her parents and all of her siblings. She is survived by many nephews and nieces near Ballyheigue, Co. Kerry. She was my first cousin, once removed.

Boyle Diaz Wedding

Tom and Josephine Boyle of Burr Ridge, Il gave their daughter, Brigid, in marriage to Albert Diaz. The ceremony was in California. The bride and groom are both studying for their PHD's at UCLA. A reception for the Chicago family was held at the Irish Times in Brookfield, on Saturday, July 22nd.

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Counties of Ireland

This month I will write about Co. Donegal. (dun na nGall) it means fort of the foreigners. The population of Donegal is about 160,000. Donegal town sits at the mouth of the river Eske. There is a famous castle on the banks of the river Eske called, Lough Eske, other castles include: Glenveagh, Donegal, Doe and Carrickabraghy. There is a beautiful mountain range called the Bluestack mountains, they are in the south of Donegal. The elevation is over 2,000 feet. (674 meters) There are many beaches in Donegal to name a few: Bundoran, Portsalon, Bunrana, Culdaff bay and Marble hill. The town of Donegal is bypassed by two roads, N15 and N56. The center of the town is known as the diamond, it is a hub for music and entertainment. Up until the early 17c Donegal was the capital of Tyrconnell. Tyrconnell was the Gaelic kingdom controlled by the O'Donnell dynasty

of the northern O'neil clan. The great Gaelic royal family who ruled Tyrconnell in Ulster for centuries who played a pivotal role in Irish history. The story of Hugh ro O'donnell also known as red Hugh, lord of Tyrconnell was the inspiration behind many books and films, he was the fighting prince of Donegal. Speaking of Tyrconnell it brings to mind the famous song, Noreen Bawn written by Niall MacGiolla Bhríde. It was a sad song telling the hardships of emigration. Other songs associated with Donegal include: Home to Donegal, Rose of Aranmore, The hills of Glenswilly, Dear old Donegal, Girl from Donegal and My Donegal Shore. Gweedore is an Irish speaking parish located on the Atlantic coast in Donegal it stretches 16 miles. It is the largest Irish speaking parish in Ireland. It's the home of the regional studios of RTE Radio na Gaeltachta. Gweedore is known for being the cradle of the culture of Ireland with old customs, traditional music and Gaelic games. Donegal has a long tradition of weaving carpets, they have been made in Killybeggs for over a 100 years. They are found in the Aras an Uacharan, the presidents residents in Phoenix park, and Notre Dame University and The White House. They are adorned with beautiful Celtic designs. These carpets have gotten around. In 2016 National Geographic named Donegal as the coolest & hippest destination to travel. I think that's a noteworthy

complement. The town of Donegal is home to these newspapers: Donegal democrat, Donegal post, local Donegal times, Northwest Regional paper and the Derry journal is also available. Donegal town was host to the final, World Rally Championship in 2009, it was viewed by millions around the world. WRC, was established in 1973 it is the most challenging motor sport in the world. Cars race across several countries with a host of different rallies and a variety of terrain. In 2012 the all Ireland football championship Donegal vs. Mayo, Donegal won by a score of 2-11, to Mayo's 0-13. After the game the Donegal fans boasted Donegal for the Sam and Mayo for the Sam'wiches. Congrats to Donegal on that victory. On a more religious note August is the month that Catholics celebrate, "Our Lady of Knock". I will rap up this month with this riddle, there were 3 men selling bibles, it was late so they had to find a hotel. They asked how much for the night? The manager replied, \$10.00 each. The men paid the money. The hotel manager told the bell hop, I think I overcharged those men selling bibles, go find them and pay them 5 dollars. The bell hop had trouble trying to figure how to divide \$5.00 among 3 people so he decided to keep 2 dollars and only returned 1 dollar each. Now the 3 men were out 27 dollars and the bell hop got 2 which makes 29. What happened to the other dollar? Up Donegal. If you have any questions or comments please Email me at: Kilkennycat1@yahoo.com

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Some of the participants in the First Annual Ed McElroy Golf Outing held at Palos CC, July 20. More pictures on following pages. The outing in memory of Ed, benefitted his favorite charity, the 100 Club. photo by Cathy Curry Carlsson

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Memorial Mass for Martin McGuinness in Washington, D.C.

By Sabina Clarke

On Tuesday, July 25th there was a Memorial Mass at St. Peter's Church in the nation's Capitol for former Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland Martin McGuinness. Among the attendees were McGuinness' sons Emmet and Fiachra accompanied by Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams.

Afterward, Adams met with the Congressional Friends of Ireland on Capitol Hill and the State Department to discuss the current impasse in the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

In a statement Adams said, "I told both the Congressional Friends of Ireland Committee and the State Department that Sinn Fein is fully committed to the restoration of the political institutions but that this must be on a sustainable basis. The institutions have to work for everyone. They must be based on respect, integrity and equality."

He said "the Irish and British

governments have a key role to play in re-establishing the institutions, especially given that many of the rights issues are outstanding from the Good Friday and subsequent agreements."

He also assured them that "Sinn Féin is determined that in any future negotiation progress must be made on Irish language rights, marriage equality, the Bill of Rights, legacy matters and anti-sectarian measures."

Adams also talked about his upcoming meeting with the British Secretary of State James Brokenshire and the imperative on his government to honour its obligations under the Good Friday Agreement and their refusal to honour commitments it made in the Stormont House Agreement on legacy three years ago.

"In particular," he said, "the British government has denied the inquest courts and the Police Ombudsman's office the funding they need to fulfil their legal responsibilities. It has stymied

the proposal by the Lord Chief Justice, Declan Morgan, for dealing with the inquests that have yet to take place relating to 97 deaths. Many of these deaths go back decades."

Regarding legacy issues Adams pointed out that the British Secretary of State said that his government would now consult

on the legacy proposals—in an effort, Adams said is intended to sideline legacy issues. He called this a "cynical ploy to delay implementing the legacy proposals."

Adams also discussed the issue of Brexit with the congressional leaders and State department and its implications for the Good Friday Agreement and the two economies on the island of

Ireland.

Previously, Adams outlined his proposal for the best way to defend the Good Friday Agreement, and ensure that the two economies on the island are protected by urging that the North be assigned special status within the EU as this is the only way in which the majority vote of citizens in the North to remain in the EU can be respected."



Pictured at the event are Joe Smith, Gerry Adams, Emmet McGuinness, Fiachra McGuinness.

From Ireland to Chicagoland

Hailing originally from Arranmore Island, off the Donegal coast, Caroleann has been living and practicing law in Chicago for almost ten years now. Her practice has been concentrated in representing labor and union workers and their families, in all types of personal injury and work related accidents, including, construction site accidents, automobile accidents and premises liability claims. Her father and three brothers all worked as tunnel miners so she has a deep rooted affinity for the working man and their families.

CAROLEANN GALLAGHER



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Growing up, Caroleann has directly experienced the devastating impact on a family when the primary breadwinner suffers an injury. She recently joined a nationally renowned law firm concentrating in all types of personal injury, medical malpractice, nursing home abuse and neglect, and wrongful death litigation. Caroleann is committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others.

Irish American Hall of Fame Gala is a Star-Studded event!

The Irish American Hall of Fame Gala held on June 10th recognized nine outstanding Irish Americans in front of a sold-out crowd of more than 300 guests. WGN Radio's Brian Noonan served as Master of Ceremonies. The audience was inspired by all of the inductee acceptance speeches and video tributes and was entertained by the Trinity Irish Dancers with Consul General Brian O'Brien making a guest dance appearance! The crowd was delighted with acceptances by Professor Lawrence McCaffrey (Education) and astronauts Mark & Scott Kelly via video (Science). Other awards were accepted for John Fitzpatrick (Business & Industry) by Neil Hartigan, Illinois Appellate Court Judge and former Illinois Attorney General, Audie Murphy (Public Service) by Major General Richard Hayes, Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, Maureen "Little Mo" Connolly (Sports) by her daughters Cindy Brinker Simmons and Brenda Bottum and Fr. Mychal Judge (Religion) by his cousin Eileen Judge and niece Lorraine Jessich. Chicago Cubs owner, Tom Ricketts, introduced inductee Bill Murray (Arts & Humanities) and Bill brought down the house! The evening concluded with a gracious acceptance via video by Martin Sheen (Arts & Humanities) who gave a shout out to Bill Murray and all his other fellow inductees. Chicago's own Paddy Homan sang The Parting Glass as guests exited this extraordinary event. Nominations are now open for the 2018 class. Submit nominations at www.iahof.org. photos by ColleenGallagher









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The 32nd Annual Irish Fest Is a Huge Success!

The sun shone brightly on the 32nd annual Irish American Heritage Festival on July 7, 8 and 9.

Thousands of fest fans enjoyed music on six stages from world class performers from Ireland, across North America and our own backyard of Chicago. They watched dance from performers from 6 schools who performed slip jigs, hornpipes and reels. Families reconnected as they attended Mass with Father Scott Donahue of Mercy Home and the Irish Heritage Singers and shared a post-Mass Irish Breakfast on the Fest grounds.

The fun began Friday night with perennial favorite, the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band who kicked off the weekend with great pageantry, piping their way into the fest grounds. Friday also saw the return of Chicago son

Michael McDermott and his band who did not disappoint, rolling out a set filled with songs old and new from his nearly 30 year career.

A nice new addition to this year's Fest was an outdoor Ceili Mor hosted by the Francis O'Neill Club on the South Lawn. Veteran dancers taught novices *the Siege of Ennis* under the Fest lights.

Saturday, there wasn't a cloud in the sky as the gates opened at noon for another day of Fest fun. The Main Stage featured performances from the Irish Heritage Singers, our friends from the South Side; the Larkin and Moran Brothers and award-winning traditional Irish act, RUNA. As evening set in, large crowds were treated to rousing sets from Dublin

folk-rockers, Tupelo, and fest favorites Scythian to close out the Main Stage. The evening was brought to



a thunderous close with the Cash for Kids Showcase rocking the Fifth Province with The Dark Passengers and Iron Horse bringing down the house.

There was a new addition to the fest with the outdoor Folk Stage and it was christened with a crowd-pleasing performance from the world champion Trinity Irish Dancers and a fiery set from traditional Irish band, Bua, to start the day on Saturday. As the sun set on the evening, the Folk Stage crowd was treated to classic Irish folk songs from Chicago troubadour Jim Sullivan with friends Jimmy Moore, John Williams and others. A Comedy Showcase closed out the evening on the stage with WGN Radio's Patti Vasquez and

several comics keeping the crowd in stitches. Sunday's Folk Stage entertainers included South Bend's Kennedy's Kitchen and bohola, featuring Chicago legend Jimmy Keane and Pat Broaders.

After Mass and breakfast on Sunday, the Main Stage opened with the Dooley Brothers, who have played at every single Irish Fest since 1985, and crowd favorite, The Misericordia Heartbreakers and Heartzingers, who wowed the crowd with their talents. The fest welcomed Makem-Spain back to the Main Stage to uphold the folk tradition with their songs and ballads of Ireland. World-renowned Galway



band We Banjo 3 made their Irish Fest debut to a packed house before turning over the stage to Gaelic Storm and their brand new fiddle player, our very own Katie Grennan, to close out the evening to a huge crowd of fest fans.

As is tradition, the festival came to a raucous close with the Chancey Brothers on the Fifth Province Stage.

Our children's area on Saturday and Sunday welcomed visits from Irish wolfhounds and birds of prey for children to meet and learn the story of these unique animals. Face-painted children made music with the Wiggleworms and listened to live tunes from the youngest musicians of the Francis O'Neill Irish Arts Camp. On Sunday,

children climbed aboard a Chicago Fire Department firetruck. We again hosted high tea on Saturday and Sunday where more than 100 guests enjoyed Irish tea, sandwiches, scones and sweet treats in the beautiful Shamrock American Room. Guests enjoyed a respite from the Fest while enjoying live music on vocals, keyboard and harp.

Visitors to our second floor were treated to tours of our Museum and an IAHC members' exhibit of art and photography. Our Irish language teachers were on hand in the Library to teach phrases to those looking to learn more about the first language of



Ireland. Our genealogists assisted visitors tracing their roots or continue in their ongoing research.

Skilled artisans and musicians gave demonstrations and lectures on Irish spinning, quilting, the Uilleann Pipes and the Book of Kells. Cultural offerings also featured films, one-act plays and performances combining theatre, storytelling and song. Musicians performed in the hallways on pipes and fiddle, harp, vocals and keyboard; truly making the second floor halls alive with the sound of music. Irish Fest attendees were greeted on the Center steps by Devin Shepherd and the kids from the Shepherd School of Music each day as a welcome to our neighbors and guests.



Irish Fest is always a hands-on event and many attended music lessons on bodhrán and tin whistle that brought out beginning musicians and those looking to hone their craft.

Our food vendors provided sustenance for weary fest crowds and our craft vendors showcased their wares of jewelry, clothing, music and handmade gifts.

Irish Fest ran smoothly with the help of more than 500 volunteers who worked tirelessly all weekend to provide a great experience for our guests.

Thanks to all of our guests, performers, sponsors, volunteers, staff, vendors and YOU! The mix of ideal weather, world class Irish music and dance, cultural programming, topped off with support from the Irish community made the 2017 Irish Fest one of our most successful ever.



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UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Hermitage Green in Concert

Acoustic folk rock band Hermitage Green, fresh from their Milwaukee Irish Fest performance, comes to the Fifth Province. Their 2016 debut album, *Save Your Soul* debuted at No. 3 in the Irish Charts. The band has played more than 1000 gigs across 5 continents, with an unusual arrangement of instruments such as djembe, bodhrán and dobro. **Wednesday, August 23, 8pm, \$15 and \$12 for members**



PÍOBAIRÍ

Traditional Irish music fans can enjoy a presentation hosted by Patrick and Karen Cannady on Uilleann Pipes and fiddle with Patrick's students and musical colleagues. **Saturday, September 9, 6pm**



Lúnasa in Concert

The World Music Festival, in collaboration with the IAHC presents Lúnasa in concert. The group that *Folk Roots* magazine called an "Irish music dream team" is one of the most influential bands in the history of Irish traditional music. Come out to help the band celebrate its 20th anniversary at an all-ages show. **Thursday, September 14, 7pm, Free**



Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party

Start the celebration early with a rollicking party with performances by the Tossers in the Auditorium and the Chancey Brothers and Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band in the Fifth Province. **Friday, September 15, 6pm-1am, Tossers: \$10 for IAHC Members and \$12 for non members**
Fifth Province entertainment: Free



Anam Cara Storytelling

Pull up a chair to listen to heartfelt, funny and poignant tales from writers and alumni of the IAHC's Memoir and Creative Writing Classes. **Saturday, September 16, 8:30pm, suggested donation: \$5**



An Afternoon with Mark Twain: Life on the Mississippi

IAHC President and radio show host Gene Cooney portrays the American writer, humorist, entrepreneur, publisher and lecturer in a solo performance as musicians accompany on banjo, harmonica and vocals. Cash bar and refreshments will be served. **Sunday, September 17, 11am, \$20, Children 12 and under \$5**



Memoir and Creative Writing Classes

These ongoing workshops help fledgling and accomplished writers hone their skills in telling their stories for print.

Tuesdays: 4-6pm from September 19-October 24 or
Thursdays: 7pm-9pm from September 21-October 26, \$60



Breakfast with the Board

Meet your 2017-2018 Board of Directors and join them for Mass, a full Irish breakfast and the Chicago Bears game in the Fifth Province. **Sunday, September 24, 10:30am Mass, 11:30am Breakfast, Noon Chicago Bears Game**
\$12 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under



IBAM! Irish Books, Arts and Music Celebration

The annual Irish Books, Arts and Music Celebration brings authors, artists, musicians, lecturers and filmmakers together for a weekend of concerts, lectures, art exhibits, film screenings, panel discussions and children's activities. Highlights include a documentary on John Hume, an appearance by *New York Times* best-selling author Timothy Egan, concerts

with Daniel O'Donnell and Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones and a gala dinner honoring the accomplishments of the Irish in the arts. **October 27-29**

UPCOMING CONCERTS

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President's Message

We were blessed with ideal weather for our annual Irish Fest on July 7, 8 and 9. Under the outstanding leadership of our committee chairs Bob McNamara and Mike Shevlin, we hosted thousands of revelers and music lovers at our Center for the weekend.



from Misericordia, capped off by Gaelic Storm on the Main Stage and the Chancey Brothers closing out the Fest in the Fifth Province.

It is an honor to be selected by the Board of Directors to serve as President of the Irish American Heritage Center for a third year. I thank my daughter

All treated to the finest combination of Irish music, entertainment, food and drink and cultural activities. So many people attended for the first time and so many returned for the first time in many years. A lot of new members signed up during the Fest weekend. If you aren't a member yet, join them!

Thank you to our incredible staff, the building committee and the army of volunteers who made the weekend a success. The lineup of music was nothing short of phenomenal. The Auditorium was packed full with lovers of Irish dance.

Our own Irish Heritage Singers performed at the outdoor Mass that began our biggest day; Sunday. It was the beginning of a beautiful day which featured the heartwarming performers

Caitlin for sacrificing our time together at home so that I can be at the Center. My job as president has been easy because I have been surrounded by a hard-working, selfless, intelligent and creative Board of Directors who also pledge to serve the Center and guide it toward all things Irish. We look forward to a wonderful year as we continue to make capital improvements on our aging building, such as replacing the air conditioning unit in the Fifth Province, and a total remodel of the first floor Ladies Room.

And finally, a big thanks to you for being a member, a volunteer and for your presence at Irish Fest. Your continued support is heartwarming.

Erin Go Bragh
Eugene M. Cooney
President



Lend a hand! We seek volunteers to help with concerts, programs and our upcoming iBAM! Celebration in October. To sign up, email info@irishahc.org or visit our website at www.irish-american.org

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Meg Buchanan, Gene Cooney, Laura Coyle, Ellen Folan, Catherine Kelly, Bob McNamara, Sheila Murphy, Mike Shevlin, Becky Tatz

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the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

AUGUST ENTERTAINMENT

- 8/4 Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor
- 8/5 Baal Tinne
- 8/11 TBA
- 8/12 Academy of Irish Music
- 8/18 Baal Tinne
- 8/19 Glass Half Empty
- 8/23 Hermitage Green \$15, 8pm
- 8/25 Party Music
- 8/26 Party Music



Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions: August 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31; 7pm

August 2017

8/4	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
8/15	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7pm
8/23	Hermitage Green Concert	Fifth Province	8pm
8/27	Genealogy Workshop	Library	1pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Mon-Fri	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	4pm-8pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
	Set Dancing	Room 111	7:30-9:30pm
Wed	Traditional Irish Music Session	Room 311	7pm
	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
Thurs	Taping of the Craic Radio Show	Fifth Province	6:30pm
	Thursday Night Irish Music Session	Fifth Province	7pm
	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal	Room 306	7pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	10am-8pm

Library Hours:

The Library is open by appointment only during August and for Genealogy on 8/27.

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Visit to the town of Cong with Quiet Man Walking Tour • Meet the Monaghans of Headford at Anglers Rest for lunch.
Clew Bay Cruise with Lunch and tour of Achill Island • Our Lady of Knock Shrine • Visit to the town of Athlone along the River Shannon • Tour of Kilbeggen Distillery • Guinness Factory • The daily musical talents of Katie Grennan!!!



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank everyone who supported our annual St. Patrick's Day dinner making it the largest grossing one to date. We raised over \$115,000 for our charities, a new dinner record. Co-Chairman Kevin Flood and Bob Flood did a tremendous job securing sponsorships. Executive Director Kathy Taylor did another great job organizing the event and working with the Hilton to make the Grand Ballroom look spectacular. Over 800 guests enjoyed themselves and danced into the evening listening to the Rich Daniels Orchestra. David Dunne was also playing Irish music in the Normandy Lounge for guests who wanted to continue celebrating St. Patrick's Day. We were honored to have Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor and Senator Dick Durbin address the Club. Grand Marshall Martin Healy Jr and Guest of Honor Monsignor Michael Boland were honored for exemplary service to the Irish Fellowship Club and the City of Chicago. It was a beautiful sunny parade day and we had one of our largest crowds marching with our unit. Pat Clair designed a new float keeping with the theme of immigration. Thank you again for everyone who supported and attended the dinner.

We are very honored to have sponsored an event welcoming An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, to Chicago. He is the longest serving Fine Gael leader in history as Taoiseach. He did a great job serving his country and he is a great friend to Chicago. We wish him well in his future. This year is the 40th anniversary of the Irish Fellowship Cultural and Educational Committee. I am very honored to say that we have increased our grant levels to \$5,000 for all of the Catholic high schools that we support. I thank Jack Hartman and the fine members of the committee for all of the great work that they do.

I hope everyone had a great time at the annual Irish Fellowship Club golf outing on July 10th at Beverly Country Club. Chairman Gene Callahan and his committee put on a wonderful outing. Please mark your calendars for our annual Christmas luncheon that will take place on December 1st. James F. Coyne, Business Manager for Plumbers Local 130 and General Chairman of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, will be the Chairman and you will not want to miss it. Have a wonderful summer.

Christopher J. Kozicki









Connemara Daly

By Bill Daly

The Change Agent

During Bertie Ahern's period as Taoiseach, it was mentioned that he might, as history unfolded, become our greatest Taoiseach. His tenure would not, in my opinion, equal that of my choice, Sean Lemass.

The tragedy for Lemass was that his period as Taoiseach was all too short. De Valera did not hand over the reins of power until 1959 and he was replaced, upon retirement, by Jack Lynch in 1965. De Valera stayed on far too long and he should have handed the Country over to Lemass as early as 1950.

After thirty years of freedom, the Country was almost going out of business by the mid 1950's. De Valera's vision of a self-sufficient Ireland, frugal and with comely maidens dancing at the crossroads was extremely

flawed and very out of touch with reality. We were obsessed with putting people back on the land and this was never going to solve our bigger economic problem.

The people were being suffocated by Irish Nationalism and the winds of change were beginning to blow strongly.

As a Senior Government Minister from the 1940's onwards, Lemass was becoming increasingly worried about the way things were going. As a pragmatist, he knew that we would have to look externally in order to bring us in line with the social and economic conditions of the other European countries.

He started to strengthen Bord Failte and he figured that the more people that saw the Country the greater the publicity we would get. We may not have had the best facilities at the time, but the people were generally very warm and friendly. Our tourist industry was built



on the quality of our people.

Lemass also encouraged a young Economist at the Department of Finance, Ken Whittaker, to see what was needed to give the country a kick start. Out of this strategy came the now famous 'Programme for Economic Development', published in 1958.

Even though De Valera's policies and beliefs lay in more insular solutions, he was practical enough not to stand in the way of progress. The new policies were also supported by the Opposition Parties. Any plan was certainly better than no plan at all. After this, there was no looking back. The Multinationals

were encouraged to invest in the Country, and this, along with the emergence of free Secondary education in the mid 1960's, kick-started the beginnings of an economy that we are bearing the fruits of Today.

None of this would have happened without a visionary like Sean Lemass. He was certainly ahead of his time, any by his astute social and economic policies, brought Ireland out of a terminal decline and gave us hope and confidence as we headed towards the 21st century. Good ideas are not adopted automatically. They must be driven into practice with courageous impatience. Sean Lemass asked if we had the confidence and belief in ourselves, and that we would have to take the future on board and there was no question of opting out'

'Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything' – George Bernard Shaw

Originally from Tallow in West Waterford, Bill spent 30 years in Cork as a Senior Manager in the Electronics Manufacturing industry with such companies as Apple, EMC and Logitech. He has been working on his own as a Consultant/ Contractor in Manufacturing Operations and Materials for the past 18 years. He also attended UCC and has a BA Degree in Archaeology and Geography. Bill is now residing in Connemara, Co. Galway since 2009.

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Are Unstable Politics here to Stay?

The ongoing suspension of the Stormont Assembly in Northern Ireland has happened in the context of: 'immovable' deadlines being discreetly moved; a British government reluctant to formally suspend the Assembly and rule from London; a deeply uncertain future for Britain as it negotiates terms for its exit passage from the European Union; the DUP riding high as kingmakers in Westminster Parliament while being uncooperative as only they can be; Sinn Féin delivering nothing

to its electorate either in Belfast or in London but frantically trying to pretend otherwise. Such a dismal situation cannot continue long—not even in Northern Ireland.

Unfortunately, the gratuitous dismissal of partnership, of bi-partisan policies and of mutual gain through co-operation that the DUP-Sinn Féin impasse represents exemplifies the political landscape in many other countries in the western world just now.

In Turkey, for example, the constitutional referendum held on

April 16th 2017 copper fastened Recep Erdoğan's absolute power and ended Turkey's democracy. What has ensued hardly bears thinking about: thousands of arrests of civil servants, teachers, newspaper editors, writers and students who dare to utter critical comments about Erdoğan's administration. A similar mode of government, if a less drastic form of it, prevails in Hungary and right-wing movements in other countries are strengthened by it all.

Still, there are also grounds for optimism. For example, shifts towards autocratic governments threatened throughout the spring of this year in several European countries; and yet they were repulsed. In April, France could have swapped a visionless leader for one who has a clear vision—although an awful one—of pulling France out of the Europe and probably bringing the European Union down in its train. Instead, they voted in another visionless leader in the form of Emmanuel Macron...

A stable France took the wind out of the sails of reactionary movements elsewhere. This year the Italian electorate could well be brought back to vote for a second year running, in a general election this time, after they gave Prime Minister Renzi the bum's rush last December. Such an election may possibly return Beppe Grillo's anti-Euro Five Star Movement. But it is much less likely now that France has fended off the surge to the right proposing an end to Europe: Italy does not want to do to itself what Britain, which slouches towards its fate to be outside the European Union, has done.

Finally, Europe's last man standing as a viable economy, Germany, which has been helmed by the redoubtable Angela Merkel since 2005, will hold elections this autumn. Merkel, like her counterparts elsewhere in Western Europe, has had cause to fear the growth of the right-wing in her country, Alternative für Deutschland, this year. But one of Germany's closest economic partners, Holland, held a

general election in March which dealt with the Dutch right-wing party, The Party for Freedom, at its ease. With centrist politics prevailing in France and Holland, Merkel will almost certainly triumph later this year.

But what do these challenges to centrist government have in common? And why have right-wing movements surged just now?

To understand political instability today, it is necessary to understand the brand of stability that is being sold as a replacement for democratic processes and genuinely democratic institutions. Adam Curtis in his epic BBC documentary, released late last year, *Hypernormalisation*, gives us a clue: 'In a world where the overriding aim was now stability, politics became just part of a wider system of managing the world. The old idea of democratic politics—that it gave a voice to the weak against the powerful—was eroded. And a resentment began to quietly grow out on the edges of society'.

Curtis is right. When real participation in the democratic process is swapped for the concept of management trust in society suddenly diminishes. Managers of systems rather than leaders of people have, and will continue to, run afoul of popular opinion.

Consider the American election last year. Hilary Clinton later expressed 'regret' that at the hustings last September she said: 'You can put half of Trump supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables...unfortunately, there are people like that and he has lifted them up'. Turns out that a vote from one of the 'deplorables' went as far as a vote from anyone else.

Hilary Clinton may well have felt regret, but her remorse was surely all the more profound on the morning of November 9th 2016.

Brexit and the election of Trump in 2016 made clear that in the political world as it is presently constituted people can be persuaded to vote against their own interests in dramatic ways.

What is required is clear enough: an entirely new vision in politics and an admission that the economic system that has dominated the western world for the past two centuries is ending—Trump may criticise the flight of jobs to Asia and Mexico but he is afraid to mention that far more jobs are lost to automation (circa 7:1 of losses in manufacturing). The reason that politicians avoid saying that is because cannot fully grasp the impact of the changes in our time, still less articulate a clear alternative to the outmoded systems that have hardened into our political structures. Consequently, they try to reboot the old system even though it is unsustainable. In short, they are not up to the job (not that that will stop them from applying). The word 'leadership' has been thoroughly cheapened to mean something between a conformist and a trimmer, that when a leader actually emerges he/she is often misunderstood. People like Edward Snowden in the US and Mikhail Zygar in Russia are identified solely for their stances against the US and Russian governments. But what is intriguing about their activities is the way in which they might be lighting up a new way to do politics

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Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

By Michael Collins,
Executive Director

Illinois Budget & TRUST Act

The two-year Illinois budget crisis came to an end on July 6th when the Illinois General Assembly overrode the Governor's veto of the bipartisan budget bill. Governor Rauner vetoed the budget bill that was initially passed through both Houses of the Illinois legislature. Fifteen Republican members of the general assembly defied the governor and gave the House a 71 vote, veto proof majority on the proposed budget. By passing this budget, Illinois narrowly avoided being the first state to acquire "junk" creditworthiness status. This budget also included the fully funded Immigrant Service Line Item. This funding was kept at the same level as it was in 2014 budget; \$6 million was allocated to immigrant services and another \$1.4 million to welcoming centers. The dollars allocated to this line item funds 59 community and immigrant services organizations throughout the state of Illinois. During the past two years this funding was not issued and many of the state funded organizations had to scale back their services and even close down certain programs. The negative impact of this budget impasse on the immigrant community in Illinois is

undeniable and we are thankful that the funding has now been fully restored. This budget is not perfect and there are still many long term fixes that need to

be made, however this is a step in the right direction for the state of Illinois and specifically the most vulnerable people members of our community who were directly affected by the two yearlong budget impasse.

On a related note, The Illinois TRUST Act was officially sent to the Governor's desk for a signature or veto on June 29th. The Governor has until August 28th to make a final decision on the bill. If no decision is made by that date the bill will automatically become law. CIIS encourages the governor to sign this bill and ensure that Illinois is one of the most welcoming states in the country for immigrants. The immigrant community nationwide is facing many challenges and this bill would provide some degree of safety for those who are still waiting for a visa.

CIIS Update

CIIS will continue to host free legal clinics for anyone who might have immigration questions. These clinics are currently being held two to three times per month by appointment only. Each clinic provides a client with a 30- minute face-to-face consultation with an immigration attorney. Call today to reserve your place! Please call (773) 282-8445 or email

Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



will take place on Wednesday 20th September and the featured musical performer will be none other

than Joe McShane. There is no cost to attend so grab your friends and swing by the Irish American Heritage Centre and let's visit with each other a while.

Following our usual break over the summer months, both the Tara Club and Emerald Club will be back in full swing from September. The Tara Club meets at the Irish American Heritage Centre on the first and third Wednesday of the month while the Emerald Club meets at Chicago Gaelic Park on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. We have put together another exciting calendar of programs for the fall months feature guest speakers, cultural programs, and the fall outing! All meetings begin at 10am with some refreshments with programs begging around 10.30am.

Each month in this article we'll publish a description of upcoming meetings and

anyone who would like the calendar of events mailed to them directly can call the office on 773-282-8445 and we'll get one out to you right away!

Date and details for September's meetings are below. We hope to see you there!

Tara Club at the Heritage Center

Wednesday 6th September, 10am

We kick off the new season of meetings with a celebratory Mass officiated by our very own Fr. Mick Madigan. We hope to see both old and new friends join us over the course of our fall programming.

Emerald Club at Chicago Gaelic Park

Wednesday 13th September, 10am

Fr. Mick Madigan will join us as we launch a new schedule of emerald Club meetings with a celebratory mass. We look forward to welcoming you back after summer break.

Wednesday 27th September, 10am

This week we will be joined once again by Donegal-born attorney Caroleann Gallagher. Caroleann specializes in a variety of areas that relate to older people and she will be eager to share her expertise with us all at this meeting of the Emerald Club.

Farewell!

Last month Chicago Irish Immigrant

Support said goodbye to our latest batch of Irish students, Clara, Jenny, and Doireann are studying social work at Trinity College in Dublin and had spent 8 weeks us. During their time here they worked with our senior programs, attending group meetings and visiting with seniors. We thank them for all they contributed to our organization and wish them well as they continue their studies.

Lake Cruise

Last month we brought together the north and south side of Chicago by combining members of the Tara and Emerald Clubs for the annual summer outing. By popular demand we once again spent a very pleasant afternoon cursing Lake Michigan aboard the stalwart Spirit of Chicago. Despite some wet weather conditions we were able to find our 'sea' legs and make the most of the breathtaking skyline views to one side and the vast expanse of the lake on the other. We had a total of 50 seniors come along for an adventurous afternoon of sailing and, of course, indulgence at the buffet table! Check out our website to see some pictures of our time on Lake Michigan - www.irishchicago.org.



On July 20, 2017 the First Annual Ed McElroy "Shenanigan's" Golf Outing was held at Palos Country Club with all proceeds going to the 100 Club. Shown here are 100 Club volunteers and friend.



Foursome winners with the low score on the day include: (l to r): Barrett Pedersen, Dan Rankin, Bob Olszewski, and Ron Roenigk

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Do the Wounded Warriors Speak to You?

As reported in the Sun Times, 42 year old U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Israel Del Toro, Jr. participated in four different sporting events in the recent Warrior Games. Del Toro had been severely wounded in Afghanistan by an IED explosion; he suffered burn injuries that covered 80% of his body. Although considered fully disabled, he remains on active duty and now teaches at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. This remarkable man was awarded the Pat Tillman Award for Service after the Games this year.

The City of Chicago recently welcomed the Warrior Games to the city. Originally established in 2010, the Games have been held on military bases up to now. The move off of military bases to Chicago was intended to create a greater audience to witness the courage and tenacity of the 256 participating Wounded Warriors.

These Warriors could serve as tremendous inspiration to any of us who feel sorry for the circumstances of our lives and/or careers. One participant had lost both of his legs and part of one arm in combat and he still participated in the Games. If you were to accept this courageous young man as your guiding light of inspiration wouldn't you likely be more successful in achieving whatever your

goals might be?

I have worked with hundreds of job seekers over my career. Many of them, indeed most of them, succeeded in their search for new employment. But in the main there are a significant percentage of job seekers who simply give up on their search. Maybe they are defeated by the rigors of the search—perhaps the rejection gets to them. They may find it too difficult, too frustrating, so they stop looking for a job.

But if they could compare the difficulty of their search with the enormous disadvantages that these Wounded Warriors deal with on a daily basis they might be inspired to be successful. Frankly, I don't know how any of these Warriors simply get through the day, do you? We have all seen the tremendous pain and suffering that the IED's, in particular, have caused so many of our military troops. Could their awesome commitment serve as inspiration for us?

Many job seekers just become complacent about the process. They put off contacting people that have been suggested to them. They procrastinate; "there is always tomorrow". Some people find the whole process to be long, tedious and tiresome in addition to being demeaning and taxing. There is a great tendency to live in the "world of gonna". I am gonna do this or I am gonna do that; but somehow it seems to be on the schedule for someday, not today. Yes, a job search can be difficult for even highly qualified people.

But surprisingly enough, it is the rare job seeker who uses the time of their unemployment to enhance their skill level. I knew a very intelligent IT person who had convinced himself that he could not find another job in the IT field because his focus was a specific computer language that was going out of common usage. He was adamant that he was known as being good technically but only in this one nearly obsolete language. He finally got the additional training of another

computer language which allowed him to advance his career. Even the financially strapped State of Illinois will still provide funds to job seekers wanting to improve upon their skills. Learning new skills while one is unemployed can be viewed as a strong indication of persistence by an individual.

Obviously, I think these heroic young Wounded Warriors will face an incredibly difficult future. But they can serve as an inspiration to all of us. Their courage and tenacity makes it clear that even people who have been savaged by a wartime experience can focus on maintaining a significant role in our society. They are not to be pitied but should be recognized for their post military courage and persistence.

It is not only job seekers who might adopt the mental toughness displayed by our Wounded Warriors, but also those of us who feel they have reached a plateau in their career. Remember what the Army says "be all you can be". Recognize that with the right level of inspiration you can re-energize your employment situation. So if you are struggling with a real or potential challenge at work, read about the Wounded Warriors who may have to overcome physical and/or psychological issues, ones probably far more daunting than the ones we might be facing. Work on emulating the same level of dedication that the Wounded Warriors have displayed on and off the battlefield.

Please recognize the heroism of those who have served their country so gallantly. Carpe Diem

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. *There are no limits to our opportunities. Most of us see only a small portion of what is possible. We create opportunities by seeing the possibilities, and having the persistence to act upon them. We must always remember...Opportunities are always here, but we must look for them. (Unknown)*

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., a Naperville, IL-based Senior Executive Coaching and Career Transition firm. #630-420-0362 Jamesffitzgerald.com jamesffitz37@hotmail.com

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On July 20, 2017 the First Annual Ed McElroy "Shenanigan's" Golf Outing was held at Palos Country Club benefitting the 100 Club. Shown here are some of Ed's family. (l to r): Mike, Tim and Megan Kirkwood, Rita McElroy, Beth McElroy Kirkwood, Jack Kirkwood, and Edward McElroy Jr. Next years nine hole best ball event will take place on July, 19 at Palos CC. for info 312-498-1337

On the Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Founding Partner



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This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. Each month we will focus on various aspects of the law relating to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us.

HealyScanlon, formerly The Healy Law Firm, is comprised of eight trial attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). www.HealyScanlon.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

Staying Safe This Boating Season

Last year around this time, we discussed various safety tips for keeping yourself safe while enjoying the many lakes and rivers in the area on a boat or other recreational watercraft. Not surprisingly, most boating accidents occur in the summer months. Last year, over 57% of recreational boating accidents occurred in June, July and August, with over 50% of the year's boating fatalities occurring in those months. So, with boating season again in full swing, it is a good time to provide some reminders and a few additional tips for staying safe while out on the water this summer.

There are nearly 12 million registered recreational vessels in the United States. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, there were nearly 4,500 boating accidents in 2016, up nearly 10% from 2015. Those accidents resulted in over 700 deaths, more than 2,900 injuries, and caused approximately \$49 million of damage to property. By using your common sense and following some of these tips, you can avoid accidents and injuries, you can ensure your summer on the water is both safe and enjoyable.

•Don't drink and drive.

Alcohol use was the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents in 2016, accounting for 15% of boating deaths. For many, a cold drink goes hand-in-hand with a warm day out on the water, but it is important to re-

member to drink responsibly, and to ensure that the driver of the boat is not intoxicated. Last fall, a fatal boating accident involving Florida Marlins all-star starting pitcher, Jose Fernandez, tragically brought the issue of alcohol and boating safety into a national spotlight. It was determined that Fernandez, who was 25 years old, was operating the boat with a blood alcohol content nearly twice the legal limit, and traveling between 65 and 70 m.p.h. at the time of the accident.

Intoxicated boat operators are subject to penalties similar to those enforced against motorists who drive a car while intoxicated. This past spring, an Indiana man was charged with reckless homicide after an accident that occurred while he was operating his boat while intoxicated and traveling nearly 70 miles per hour at night on Lake Michigan.

•Use extra caution at night

In both incidents mentioned above, the fatal accidents occurred at night. While fewer total accidents occur at night, as there are generally less boats in operation during that time, the percentage of accidents that result in fatalities during the nighttime hours is disproportionately high. Of the accidents that occurred between 2:30 a.m. and 4:30 a.m., nearly 30% resulted in fatalities. Compare that to accidents that occurred between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., which resulted in fatalities just over 10% of the time.

Some bodies of water enforce

nighttime speed limits. On Indiana waters, including open waters of Lake Michigan, a boat may not exceed 10 m.p.h. at night, and must travel at 5 m.p.h. or less if within 200 feet of the Lake Michigan shoreline at night. For boaters traveling between Illinois and Indiana, it is important to remember that the two state's speed limits are different if traveling after sunset and the Illinois/Indiana border is in open waters.

In Illinois, there is no numerical speed limit, either during the day

or at night, but watercraft must at all times be operated at a speed which allows the operator to bring the boat to a stop "within an assured clear distance ahead." The U.S. Coast Guard Rules similarly require a vessel be operated at a safe speed so that it can take proper and effective action to avoid a collision and be stopped within a distance appropriate to the prevailing conditions.

In "no wake" zones, whether during the day or at night, a vessel may not exceed 5 m.p.h.

•Be careful around the dock and while getting on and off the boat.

It is important to be aware of your surroundings when you are on and around the dock, and to use extra caution when boarding and disembarking the watercraft. Look around to make sure the footing around the dock area is solid and there are no tripping hazards in the area, such as ropes, boat hooks, or other equipment. In 2016, over 750 accident occurred while the vessel was docking or tied to a dock. In one case handled by Healy Scanlon, we represented an individual who suffered significant injuries when he fell as he tried to step off the boat onto the dock because a portion of rubber edging around the border of the dock gave way under him as he stepped off the boat.

Accidents can also occur around the dock area if hands, arms, or legs get stuck or pinned between objects in sometimes-crowded or busy harbors. Be aware of the location of the dock, your boat, and other boats when you are around the dock, particularly when boats are moving.

•Be aware of weather, plan your route, and do not become overly reliant on electronic devices.

Weather is another major consideration when taking a boat for a summer cruise, particularly in the Midwest, where the weather conditions can change at the snap of a finger. Weather and hazardous waters accounted for 580 accidents in 2016. This year's annual Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac Island, Michigan was a prime example of how the weather can interrupt a trip. Of the 300 boats participating in the race, over 95

pulled out of the race after encountering storms, 35 m.p.h. winds, and 8-foot waves. The Coast Guard rescued five people after two sailboats capsized in separate incidents during the race.

Many encounters with bad weather can be avoided altogether by planning your route in advance and checking the weather forecasts prior to setting off. It is also important to carry maps and not to be overly dependent on electrical equipment such as GPS devices or cellular phones. Many times, these devices may not be reliable for longer excursions or trips on larger bodies of water. Equipment failure caused 419 accidents in 2016.

•Make sure your boat has an experienced and attentive operator.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, operator inattention, operator inexperience, improper lookout, excessive speed, and machinery failure were the top five primary contributing factors in boating accidents in 2016, and were responsible for nearly 50% of all boating accidents. In 2016, 50% of boating accidents involved operators with no boating safety education. 77% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive any formal boating safety instruction. Only 13% of deaths occurred on vessels where its operator had receive a nationally-approved boating safety education certificate.

Boating safety instruction is available through a number of courses approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). Proper safety training decreases the potential for accidents and injuries.

•Make sure to have plenty of life jackets on board

Any time you are on the water, life jackets are a must. 83% of drowning victims in 2016 were not wearing life jackets. Life jackets are particularly important if your boat is 21 feet or smaller, as eight out of every ten drowning deaths occur on boats less than 21 feet in length. In Illinois, boats must carry at least one Coast Guard-approved flotation device for each person on board. All children under 13 years old must wear a flotation device any time they are on a boat



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less than 26 feet long, unless they are below deck or in the cabin. Be sure to inspect the life jackets and floatation devices before heading out on the water. Like any product, life jackets are subject to wear, damage, breaking, or failure.

•Follow warnings and instructions when using jet skis and other smaller watercraft

Many jet skis, wave runners, and smaller personal watercraft pose different risks than larger boats. Many jet skis simply have too much power-producing capacity and inexperienced or younger drivers can easily lose control. Problems can go from bad to worse when the jet ski or watercraft does not automatically deactivate when the driver falls off. Jet skis are jet-propelled, and when users fall off or are thrown from the watercraft, water from the jet propulsion system can cause severe damage to body orifices and internal organs. Healy Scanlon represented a teenager passenger who fell backwards off a jet ski as it was accelerating receiving serious internal injuries from the force of the water stream. Propeller powered watercraft also pose risks to those who may fall in the water near the vessel. "Prop

guards" are available to provide protection for some types of propeller-powered crafts. Because some of these risks are unique to wave runners and smaller watercraft, it is vital to look for and heed the warnings that often accompany these vessels. Wet suits are highly recommended when using any type of jet-propelled watercraft.

•Obtain boat insurance.

Unfortunately, boat insurance is not required in most states. That is why it is especially important that you protect yourself in the event of a boating accident. Boat insurance policies work just like many auto insurance policies with coverage for liability, property damage, collision, theft and fire. Underinsured and uninsured boater coverage is also available and will provide you coverage if you are in an accident caused by an uninsured boater. Boating accidents can cause property damage and serious injuries. Having a good boat policy ensures that



you are not left holding a large bill in the event of an accident.

By: Martin Healy, Jr.
(picture above)
Patrick C. Anderson



(l to r): Mike Galoanuskas, Chris Kozicki, the unknown golfer!, Sidney Davis, Bill Dougherty, and Mark Donahue at the Ed McElroy "Shenanigan's" Golf Outing.

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On the Upbeat

By Maryann
McTeague Keifer

It only took the first two cuts on THE RECOLLECTIVE album to lure me in and realize I needed to pull over in my car somewhere that I could really listen and enjoy. The expressway at 80MPH wasn't going to do it!

This multitalented group of musicians spans the Isles—Kieran Leonard, on bodhran and drums, is from Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh and now lives in London. Limerick resident Karen Hickey, fiddler extraordinaire and owner of the sexiest speaking voice you'll ever hear, is from Castlebar, Co. Mayo. Also in Limerick, but hailing from Glossop, an area of England rich in Irish Traditional Music is flute player Mike Coult. Calum Morrison, a Glaswegian, pulls in the Scottish influence on guitar and vocals. It is our good fortune, that they met touring in the cast of the CELTIC LEGENDS. Several also

and GOITSE.

Let's get to the music, and it is well worth getting to! THE RECOLLECTIVE is a mixture of Irish and Scottish Trad with some beautiful new pieces woven in. The compositions and arrangements are class!



Karen is top rung, and her playing gets the fiddle talking and singing to you. Take a special listen to VAL TIL MOR OG FAR AS

have UL roots and are well ensconced in that body of talented musicians, and have played with fellow alumni FULL SET

her fiddle weaves the story of Mum & Dad's waltzing—magnificent! On REILLY'S, she has you tapping your toes and wanting to dance. I have had the privilege of seeing Karen live several times, and cannot wait for her appearance with Full Set at Chief O'Neill's on August 3rd.

Tying in beautifully with the fiddle is Mike Coult on flute. As blessed as we are with so many excellent flute players in Irish Trad Music (Larry Nugent, Kevin Crawford, Mike McGoldrick, Matt Malloy, Joanie Madden, Sarah Allen, Brian Finnegan to just scratch the surface...) one might think it difficult to be impressed, but Mike definitely is in the major league here with any of those players. His playing is fluid, carrying you along on a very enticing musical journey. He is a master of the instrument and brings that level of play to each set.

Kieran Leonard has a vitae of someone much older than he. All Ireland several times over, instructor at Junior Davey's distinguished Bodhran Academy in Gurteen, Co. Sligo, master teacher and mentor, he is also a timpanist specializing in opera—WOW! It would be pretty interesting to hear the bodhran and timpani together! I wonder how the airlines would deal with a set of timpani...I so enjoy his style as he supports and adds depth to the tunes and songs. Kieran is the spokesperson for the group on their sites, so get in contact and let him know how much you like their music and want to see them more here in the States!

Their recent short mostly west coast tour was not enough, for sure! I am hoping to spend a bit of time with him when I get back

to Ireland as we are from the same stomping grounds.

Last, but in no way least, is Calum Morrison whose guitar enchants us at the beginning of NEARLY THERE, where he has you pretend playing, because it is impossible to just sit and listen. He is the group's vocalist, and the best way I can describe his vocals is that you want to be in your favorite easy chair with your pint, and as Colum starts to sing, your body will settle back; you'll take a good sip, and close your eyes in pleasure while his voice transports you to a very happy place. It's mesmerizing!

I haven't been able to pick a favorite song on this album yet. BARON'S HEIR is special, and his version of the oft sung BILLY TAYLOR is up there with the best.

Kieran, Karen, Mike and Calum have created a brilliant album by, as Kieran tells, combining the best of their divergent backgrounds—Irish Trad, Highland influences, classical, as well as pulling in their depth of talent to create a fresh sound. The very famous flute player, Mike McGoldrick, described their album this way: "Accomplished musicianship, expressive vocals, a brilliant fusion of old and new." I couldn't say it any better. This is a must own, and you can go to their website and treat yourself to it today. Bravo! and Congratulations! to them for their wonderful accomplishment in bringing this album to us!

Don't forget to support all the live music we have coming our way. In addition to the fests in August/September and many local sessions, several concerts are coming up that deserve your attendance and are being held at Chief O'Neill's except where noted:

- August 16th The Fitzgeralds
- August 22nd GOITSE
- August 24th Pauline & Mick Conneely with Liz Carroll & Troy MacGillivray
- August 27th Garry O'Meara Band with Jig Jam
- August 29th We Banjo 3 at City Winery
- September 6th Ruaile Buaila
- September 14th Aoife Scott
- September 14th Lunasa at IAHC
- September 15th Old Blind Dogs
- September 17th Drops of Green

We sure are blessed! Don't forget to tune into IRELAND TONIGHT on WDCB Monday nights at 9PM! Shay Clarke at 8PM and Bill & Imelda at 10PM.



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Surprise, Good Music

August is here, the month with the most and best music festivals and we'll be at one every weekend this month, a total of eleven days of festifying, not counting the days for set up and tear down, travel and restocking. September is almost as bad but we do have one weekend off that month. On the plus side we'll be seeing the best in music and good friends that we only see once a year.

While working the Motor City Irish Fest this year in Detroit, we got a chance to hear The Druids, www.thedruidsband.com. Having never heard them before, I was curious to see what they had to offer. Well, you could have knocked me over with a feather, I was that gobsmacked when I heard their performance.

Four fellas, Paddy Mangan, Mick O'Brien, Gary Lawlor and Mick Dunne, put voice to the old rebel ballads, much in the manner of the Dubliners or Clancy Brothers, with no more instrumentation than was necessary. They spoke before each song to give a bit of the backstory of the song and then sang it clear and inspiring. Frankly, I was moved to tears a couple of times and enjoyed their performance immensely. They only had one of their recordings available for me to take back to the store and that was "Starry Plough". The title track's about James Connelly and, for my money, not played often enough. The Druids performed it in Detroit and they do a very lovely job of it. Not many bands perform as many songs from the fight for Irish freedom as the Druids do, and that's a shame but I am encouraged that at least this band is working hard to preserve the memory of the fight and the fighters.

Vertical Records is a fairly new label out of Scotland. Owned by one of the members of super band Capercaillie, Vertical has a small catalog but an impressive one. Their newest release is a beaut called "Ushers Island" and

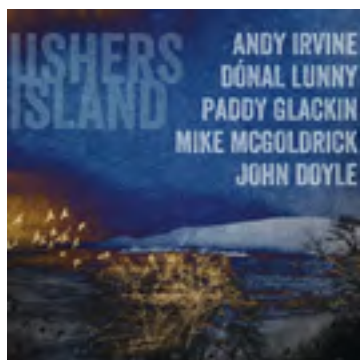


Piping It In

Jack Baker



contains the musical talents of no less than Andy Irvine, Dónal Lunny, Paddy Glackin, Mike McGoldrick and John Doyle. Now when you get this much talent working together in one place you'd expect a potload of great music and that's exactly what they deliver. Daring, delightful instrumentals and vocals that



stay with you and make you wish that you could sing, or at least I could sing. To say the least, a classic recording and, to use the title of track 11, "As Good As It Gets".

Most of us know Seán

O'Driscoll from his work with the Irish Rovers, but he is also a superb solo banjo player of no small talent. One of his early recordings has just been rereleased and it is a gem. "So There You Go" is the title and it is a banjo fan's dream. Seán treats us to 12 tracks of his finest and if you love banjo, you'll delight in this recording. You can find more of Seán music at www.seanodriscollmusic.com.

A few words of praise for the tremendous job performed by the staff at the Irish American Heritage Center on the festival last month. It was the finest festival we have experienced there in many a year. Mike Shevlin and Bob McNamara, as co-chairs, did a great job. They were the first guys I saw when I got there to set up and the last guys I saw when I was leaving. If you were there, you know what a good fest it was and if you weren't.....there's always next year.

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Saturday, September 2: 11am-7pm

- 11:00am- 12:00pm Academy of Irish Music
- 12:30pm - 1:00pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 1:15pm - 1:45pm Best Men's Legs in a Kilt Competition
- 2:00pm - 3:30pm Rory Makem
- 3:45pm - 4:15pm Dog Beauty Contest
- 4:30pm - 5:00pm Shannon Rovers
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm Chancey Brothers

Sunday, September 3: 10am - 7pm

- 10:00am Mass with Father Michael Madigan of St. Patrick's Fathers with musical accompaniment by Gavin Coyle
- 11:00am - 12:00pm Gavin Coyle
- 12:30pm - 1:00pm McNulty School of Dance
- 1:15pm - 1:45pm Best Men's Legs in a Kilt Competition
- 2:00pm - 3:30pm Green Meadow Boys
- 3:45pm - 4:15pm Dog Beauty Contest/ Competition
- 4:30pm - 5:00pm Shannon Rovers
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm The Dooley Brothers

Monday, September 4: 11am- 5:15pm

- 11:00am - 11:30am Dillon Gavin School of Dance
- 11:45am - 12:15pm Best Men's Legs in a Kilt Competition
- 12:30pm - 2:00pm Joe Cullen & Kathleen Keane
- 2:15pm - 2:45pm Dog Beauty Contest/ Competition
- 3:00pm - 3:30pm Shannon Rovers
- 3:45pm - 5:15pm The Toolies

**Entertainment subject to change - check website/ call for updates*



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Illinois Bar Associations

Illinois has two major Bar Organizations whose members represent injured workers. The Illinois Trial Lawyers Association has over 2000 members comprising of attorneys who represent injured parties. The Illinois Workers' Compensation Lawyers Association has over 600 members and represents both sides of the bar at the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission.

The Healy Scanlon Law Firm recently made history by having two of its partners elected Presidents of two major Illinois Bar Associations.

John Scanlon was elected President of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association (ITLA) in June. Jack Cannon was elected President of the Workers' Compensation Lawyers Association (WCLA) in January. John and Jack come from strong Irish backgrounds. They have represented hundreds of injured Irish men and women over their combined fifty years of practice. *Irish American News* recently sat down with John and Jack to discuss their background, careers, practice and the current state of the law.

What is your Irish background?

John: I was born in Chicago and went to grade school on the Southside. Three of my grandparents are from County Kerry and the other is from Mayo.

Jack: I was born in Chicago and raised in Dublin. My parents are both native Dubliners. I went to primary and secondary school in Dublin. I returned to the United States and went to Loyola University.

Why did you choose law?

Jack: I worked in the Board of Trade when I first got out of college. The market crashed and I was laid off. It was the eighties and all of my mates were making money working in construction. I joined them and labored on high rises for a few years. I saw that many successful people had law degrees, so I applied to law school and went to school at night after work.

John: After college, I worked as a financial auditor for a large corporation, but, it just wasn't for me. It was my dad who encouraged me to try law school.

Why injury law?

John: Short answer is I got lucky. While in law school I took a job to pay some bills and it just happened to be with several injury attorneys. The lucky part was that one of the attorneys was

Martin Healy, Jr. and I could tell right away that he was special and I also realized that I would help people in



John P. Scanlon



Jack Cannon

very difficult situations if I followed this path.

Jack: I was offered a position with a small LaSalle Street firm that specialized in personal injury and workers' compensation after finishing law school. Almost immediately, I started getting calls from Irish lads who had been hurt on-the-job and either didn't know any lawyers or were afraid to approach one due to their legal status.

What do you like about the practice of law?

Jack: I like representing the little guy, the underdog. We represent people who are seriously injured and who are facing months, years and sometimes the rest of their life without being able to work and support themselves and their families. The sense of fear when they first come to see us is palpable. We represent their interests against major insurance companies and multi-national corporations (many of whose offices I helped build as a laborer!). We only get paid on results.

John: The idea that we can make a big difference in someone's life. When a serious injury occurs all areas of your life can be devastated. Finances, jobs and personal relationships are all threatened and through our work, we can provide a road back to a better future.

Dislikes about the law?

John: When opponents or their corporate clients use technicalities to hide the truth. However, in our experience it never works out because with determination, time and legal skill the truth will come out. You cannot hide dangerous products or workplaces forever and coverups ultimately make it worse.

Jack: I hate losing! Fortunately, it doesn't happen that often. I also dislike delay in the system. Some delay is unavoidable.

Misconceptions about the law?

Jack: The idea that people who are injured have hit the jackpot or are just

trying to get one over on the system. We have been fortunate in obtaining many large verdicts and settlements for our clients, often in the millions of dollars. Each and every one of these individuals would give every cent back if they could reverse the hands of time and have their health or their loved ones back.

John: People sometimes think it is easy for our clients to win. It's not. It takes tremendous effort, time and skill to prove something is dangerous.

What are your goals for your organizations?

John: We are creating two new committees this year. First, we now have a Women's Caucus which we hope will encourage more women attorneys to join our organization and pursue this type of litigation. Second, we are creating a Cyber Claims Committee because so many people are being harmed by internet users and companies. For example, every day through the internet people are harassed, defamed or have personal information stolen or improperly shared.

Jack: One of my goals as President is to make sure the public is better informed. Most people do not know that you cannot sue your employer if you are injured on-the-job. The Illinois Workers' Compensation Act prevents you from suing your employer for injuries suffered on-the-job no matter how negligent the employer may have been in their actions or inactions. In exchange for giving up the right to sue, the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act protects those injured on-the-job by paying them a percentage of their lost earnings and medical bills while they are treating. The alternative is injured workers go on welfare and become a burden on the tax payer.

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Full Court Press

Social unrest, political assassinations and fake news are not new to America. Consider that in March, 1964 a jury in Dallas found Jack Ruby guilty of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald; Yale University students hosted conference on socialism with the new Students for a Democratic Society launching antiwar demonstrations in New York, San Francisco and other cities; and the New York Times gave front-page coverage to a murder that two weeks earlier had been buried on its back pages.

In retelling the story of a Queens, NY woman of 28, Brooklyn-born Catherine Susan "Kitty" Genovese who'd been stalked, stabbed, robbed and raped, the Times convinced Americans that all around them were people infected with a truly loathsome and appalling apathy toward their neighbors.

Back then, the Times had a solid reputation for honesty and accuracy. Editors in most other newsrooms wouldn't dare assign reporters to stories without first checking what the morning Times thought newsworthy. Its only detractors then were some who felt the paper was "pinko".

The front page headline read: "37 Who Saw Murder Didn't Call the Police". It began: "For more than half an hour 38 respectable, law-abiding citizens watched a killer stalk and stab a woman in three separate attacks in Kew Gardens... Twice the sound of their voices and the sudden glow of their bedroom lights interrupted him and frightened him off. Each time he returned, sought her out and stabbed her again. Not one person telephoned the police during the assault; one witness called after the woman was dead."

That Times version of events echoed unchallenged across America for the next half century. Several books appeared on the case,

including a best seller by Times Metropolitan Editor and Pulitzer Prize winner Abe Rosenthal, who had assigned the Genovese story to veteran writer Martin Gansburg. Professors gave lectures on "The Bystander Effect" and "The Genovese Syndrome", studies measuring human callousness and apathy. Development of the 911 emergency phone system was hastened.

A year after her murder, Kitty's mother suffered a stroke, and her father died in 1969. Her brother Bill said of his beloved big sister: "I just really loved the hell out of Kitty; we would laugh a lot together... Two years after kitty's death I graduated high school. The Vietnam War was in full swing. Many of my peers were looking for ways not to serve. Whether the war was right or wrong, I couldn't help but see them as apathetic bystanders. I wasn't going to be like the 38 witnesses. So I enlisted in the Marines."

Bill Genovese studied Vietnamese, and served as an interpreter and intelligence officer until one day while crossing a rice paddy, a mine tore both legs from his body.

Recovering back home, Bill earned his MBA and applied himself to working and raising his children. "In our family we basically stayed away from all publicity, all inquiries, because my mom was so affected by this." But 40 years on, mysteries concerning his sister's death compelled him to find what evidence he could for his documentary film, "The Witness", released last year.

Bill was shocked when his interviews with people on the scene proved the Times account of his sister's death to be a fabrication. Neighbors did call police, and the Times grossly exaggerated what they witnessed.

Witness #1 - "I called the police... and they said 'we already got the calls'. I didn't even finish my statement and they said 'We've

already got the call'. It wasn't that people didn't call."

Bill: "How can anything be believed about this story? I never questioned it... So many other missed details of that night- like the fact that Kitty did not die alone." (She was comforted by a neighbor, Sophia Farrar, who ran down the stairwell to hold her before the ambulance arrived.)

Bill interviewed two prominent New York reporters from that era. Bill: "Was the story a media creation?" Mike Wallace: "To a certain extent it was a media creation. No one investigated the 38. No one followed up on it." Bill: "Why?" Wallace: "Because it was taken seriously by the New York Times. The reason I picked up on it is because Abe Rosenthal is a man I respect; a good reporter, in a position of authority at the New York Times. I mean, the Times had - still does - but back then particularly, had that kind of clout. It's a fascinating, troubling story- and undoubtedly sold newspapers."

Gabe Pressman: "In 1964 I was a reporter at WNBC and had no first-hand knowledge of the story. But my friend, Danny Meehan covered the story. And among all the police reporters I've known- and I've known many- he was one of the best, if not THE best. He said: 'The story doesn't make any sense to me'. He gave me an account of what he had found, and it says here: (Pressman recited from Meehan's actual note book) 'There were many witnesses, some 30-odd in number. One conclusion all seemed to have: It was a drunken brawl between man and wife'. Martin Gansburg, the author of the page-one story in the Times which caused the furor, was challenged by this irate reporter (Meehan) 'Why didn't you include in your story the fact that a lot of witnesses did not believe a murder was taking place?' Gansburg replied: 'It would have ruined the story'."

Bill: "That, to me, is incredible. How come people didn't call the Times on that?" Pressman: "Because it was the New York Times, and Danny, you know, had to continue to hold onto his job. I don't think he was probably interested in taking on Abe Rosenthal and the

New York Times. I was teaching a course and... A couple of people in my class, being enterprising... called Rosenthal. And Rosenthal called me. He was really angry! He was screaming at me! 'Do you realize' said Rosenthal, 'that this story has become emblematic of a situation in America? That it's become the subject of sociology courses, books and articles?'"

Bill Genovese then interviewed Abe Rosenthal, who defended the embroidered version of the murder he published. Bill: "Where did the number 38 come from? Was it synthesized somehow to make a big impact?" Rosenthal: (emphatically) "No! I can't swear to God that there were 38 people. Some people say there were more; some people say there were less. But what was true: people all over the world were affected by it. Did it do anything? You bet your eye it did something. And I'm glad it did."

Bill was stunned by Rosenthal's admission: "I think that is abhorrent to anyone who is interested in truth. For me to hear that is shocking, because I grew up and moved in certain directions" (enlisting for Vietnam and losing both legs) "based on this story being fact. But indeed, it was not totally fact."

Clearly Metropolitan Editor Rosenthal saw his mission at the New York Times as not so much to provide America with facts to inform decisions, but to advance a political agenda, bending truth when convenient.

Now, 52 years after Kitty's death went front page in the Times, "mainstream" journalism is foundering. Though their names linger on like the Cheshire Cat's smile,

many venerable publications have gone bankrupt. Newsweek was sold for one dollar and is now run by two partners linked to a California Presbyterian university. Amazon's Jeff Bezos bought up the bones of The Washington Post.

Last November, the publisher of the once proud NY Times, Arthur Sulzberger Jr., had to print an unprecedented post-election appeal, begging subscribers to stay on after his paper went headfirst into the tank for Clinton. Sulzberger promised readers that henceforth his paper would "strive always to understand and reflect all political perspectives and life experiences in the stories that we bring to you."

But the Times pledge to swear off the bias didn't last longer than the post-election hangover. And by June, following that near-fatal assassination attempt on Republican congressmen by a Bernie Sanders supporter, even leftist outlets like CNN and MSNBC publicly mocked the Times for its biased and deceptive editorial reviving a long-dead lie claiming the shooter of Representative Gabby Giffords in 2011 was inspired by a Sarah Palin campaign ad. Even rabidly left Mother Jones labeled the Times editorial "stupid". The Grey Lady was shamed into reprinting a corrected editorial, with yet another apology to its dwindling reader base. ©Michael P Morley 2017

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An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



Kate's Law

The House of Representatives passed a bill on June 29th it is called Kate's Law in memory of Kathryn Steinle who was killed on July 1st 2015 in San Francisco. Her killer was named as Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, a Mexican native with a record of seven felony convictions and who had been deported five times but had returned illegally to the U.S.

This law together with another law that is being pushed by the Trump administration, to deny federal funding to "sanctuary cities", has again brought the spotlight on the need for immigration reform. The groups who wish to seriously restrict immigrants entering the US, point to the death of Kate Steinle and other crimes committed by undocumented aliens as

proof that our immigration laws are not strict enough.

Not long before the death of Ms. Steinle's, Mr. Lopez-Sanchez had just finished a four-year federal prison sentence for illegally reentering the country. He was released to San Francisco law enforcement officials because of an outstanding warrant for a drug related charge, but that ticket was dismissed. The San Francisco police released him, despite a request from federal immigration officials to keep him in custody because of his undocumented status.

What is most upsetting is the fact that if the local authorities had enforced the existing laws, Kate Steinle's death could have been avoided. I truly sympathize with the Steinle family and pray that no other family has to go through a similar experience.

I'm not however, convinced that the proposed Kate's law is the answer to the problems that we have as a nation with the undocumented population. Let me be very clear, I have often stated that this country needs to take a strong stance with undocumented folks who are criminals and guilty of serious felonies. These bad guys need to be dealt with according to the full extend of the law, criminals need to be removed from our streets along with the drug lords and all who are exploiting vulnerable people for ill gotten gain.

We do however need to be careful that we are not "tarring all of the undocumented with the same brush". Law abiding people who are good upstanding members of our communities need to be treated with dignity and respect. Also, those who are fleeing persecution and refugees fleeing wars and natural disasters need to be welcomed with open arms when they reach our shores.

The Cockroach Theory for Self Development

At a restaurant, a cockroach

suddenly flew from somewhere and sat on a lady.

She started screaming out of fear.

With a panic stricken face and trembling voice, she started jumping, with both her hands desperately trying to get rid of the cockroach.

Her reaction was contagious, as everyone in her group also got panicky.

The lady finally managed to push the cockroach away but... it landed on another lady in the group.

Now, it was the turn of the other lady in the group to continue the drama.

The waiter rushed forward to their rescue. In the relay of throwing, the cockroach next fell upon the waiter.

The waiter stood firm, composed himself and observed the behavior of the cockroach on his shirt. When he was confident enough, he grabbed it with his fingers and threw it out of the restaurant.

Sipping my coffee and watching

the amusement, the antenna of my mind picked up a few thoughts and started wondering, was the cockroach responsible for their histrionic behavior?

If so, then why was the waiter not disturbed? He handled it near to perfection, without any chaos.

It is not the cockroach, but the inability of those people to handle the disturbance caused by the cockroach, that disturbed the ladies.

I realized that, it is not the shouting of my father or my boss or my wife that disturbs me, but it's my inability to handle the disturbances caused by their shouting that disturbs me.

It's not the traffic jams on the road that disturbs me, but my inability to handle the disturbance caused by the traffic jam that disturbs me.

More than the problem, it's my reaction to the problem that creates chaos in my life. By Sundar Pichai

Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at: sliabhanoir@gmail.com

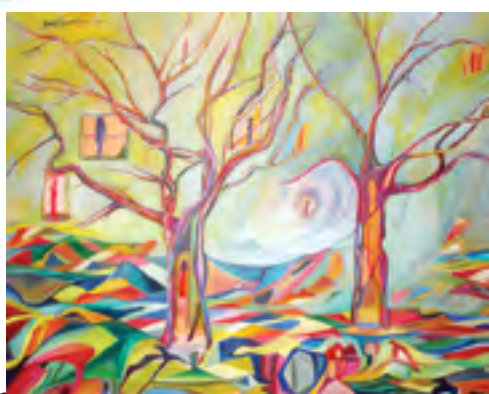


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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



Getting to know the Irish Who are the fairies? sioga The definition of a fairy says it's a type of mythical being or magical character metaphysical or supernatural. I wanted this month to be a little lighter, a whimsical topic because last month was

rather serious. I like to balance my writing just as we need balance in every aspect of our life. A happy life is a balanced life. Fairies live in fairy forts, ring forts, which are ancient dwellings. These simple living areas were designed to make it difficult for predators to

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gain access. They were designed to protect agriculture and livestock. They were circular settlements that were enclosed by one or more center, you would find a courtyard for livestock and crops. Some were built with stone. Over time the ring forts were destroyed either by people or the elements and the remaining circular mounds of dirt and stone took on a new meaning. The became known as the magical places that were protected by spells of the druids.

No one would dare disturb these forts for fear of being cursed as a result of the protection spell placed over the dwelling. To this day many people believe that if you disturb a fairy fort you will suffer some sort of accident or bad luck. There are a lot of place names in Ireland after the fairies, (puca means ghost=fairy) for ex. Rathpooka, Castlepook, (Cork) Rathpoge, (Kerry) Pollaphuca, (pool of the fairy)Co. Wicklow, Puckstown, Co Louth, Carrigaphooca, (the

fairies rock). My dad's village in Kilkenny, is named Clopook. A few famous places designated fairy places include: Ben bulben in Sligo, and knockainey in Limerick. In Co. Sligo there is a town called, Sooeey, and the newspapers read, "Fairies blamed for fallen electricity poles". I don't know how many would believe that but there are some mysterious and unexplainable things that have happened in Ireland and throughout the world. The country where fairies are meant to live is called, "Tir-na-n-og" and it's said that death nor age hasn't found this land. It's an underwater dwelling. Unfortunately, if you upset the fairies you might pay for it in one way or another. There have been people who disturbed these ancient fairy forts including stories of contaminated hands and missing cows to more extreme misfortune and financial ruin.

For ex. some say that the people who signed off on the partial de-

struction of fairy forts in the Tara skyrne Valley (co. Meath) to make way for the M3 motorway suffered hardships and freak accidents. Gloom struck these men as soon as they started construction on the motorway in 2007. Some say the fairies got their revenge on one of Ireland's richest men, Seamus Quinn. Quinn is a businessman & conglomerateur from Co. Fermanagh. In 1992 he relocated a 4,000 year old megalithic burial tomb that was in the way of his venture. And 20 years later he declared bankruptcy.

But some people want to attract fairies and maybe they can bring good luck just as much as bad. It's said that shamrock, clover, cowslip, thyme and primrose can attract them to your yard. I don't know if I want to do any extra attracting for the fairies, I definitely believe there could be a fairy or two around at times, it's an enchanting idea to think it to be true.

Maybe before we had Sigmund Freud there were folklorist who mined our subconscious for our hidden hopes and fears that we'd rather keep under wraps. As the power of influence of psychiatry and psychology took hold through recent times I suppose folklore waned. John Lennon said, "I believe in everything until it's disproved. So I believe in fairies, the myths, the dragons. It all exists even if it's in your mind. Who's to say that dreams and nightmares aren't as real as the here and now?" There is a famous seanchai (story teller) Eddie Lenihan from Kerry who has written and discussed this topic in detail if you want to look him up.

I'd like to say Happy Anniversary to my dear parents, Tom & Mary, August 31st is their special day! (49 years)

Gaelic for the Month:

- fairy-siog
- superstitions-piseog
- bad luck-mi-adh
- good luck-adh mor
- Seanfhocail

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If you have any questions or comments please Email me at: Molanive@yahoo.com

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