

**Former Irish
Navy Diver
and Extreme Artist,
Philip Gray,
to Paint Live
at iBAM!**

October 28-29
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**Remembering
James B. Sloan**
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iBAM! Schedule:
October 26 - Daniel O'Donnell Concert
October 27 - Gala Awards Dinner - You're Invited!
October 28-29 - Full Program
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Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



James B. Sloan Esq.

Chicago has lost a great Irishman, and I have lost a great friend. Jim Sloan came from a family of 13 children living on Chicago's West Side who grew up in the 1930's and 40's. Their parents were Irish immigrants. Barney Sloan from County Down, and their mother, Sarah Anne Murray, though born in Glasgow, Scotland, her family was from County Monaghan.

They lived in a basement flat with six children sleeping in one bedroom. Jim's father was a janitor. It was a hard-scrabble existence.

Jim had decided to study for the priesthood, and entered the Servite Seminary. When it came to final vows he had a change of heart and entered Loyola University. Upon graduation he served in the U.S. Army, and then enrolled in Loyola University Law School. Former Lieutenant Governor Neil Hartigan and Cook County Assessor Tom Hynes were classmates. Jim went on to become a very successful attorney practicing anti-trust law.

POLITICS

For a time Jim was active in the Democratic Party. Jim and his friend, Tom Cashman were both Precinct Captains in the 37th Ward, campaigning for John F. Kennedy. On one occasion they walked from Adams Street and Michigan Avenue, to the Chicago Stadium to attend the convention without knowing they needed passes to get in. In 1962 Jim was appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney by Robert F. Kennedy. Jim grew up listening to stories told by his father who served in the South County Down Battalion of the IRA, during Ireland's Civil War in 1921 and 1922. Jim found his love for Democracy early in life.

Jim's life was filled with many interests. Everything from boxing to literature, poetry, traditional Irish music, Irish history, the law, and above all his family and his church.

It was my privilege to know Jim and share many experiences with him like our visit to the Matador Boxing Club and Tommy O'Shea,



where I learned of their history together in the Chicago Golden Gloves Competition. The day we were there I met an up and coming young boxer from Cabrini Green who was a heavyweight and quite possibly an Olympic contender.

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES

When Jim was President of the Irish Fellowship Club in 1997 we had a luncheon where the topic presented was the MacBride Principles, which were a code of conduct for U.S. corporations doing business in Northern Ireland. The speaker was Eddie McGrady, an Irish Nationalist, and politician from Downpatrick, an M.P. in the United Kingdom Parliament for South Down.

The mission was to get the state of Illinois to adopt the MacBride Principles. Carolyn Cracraft, the British Vice-Consul was in the

audience and spoke in opposition. Next to speak from the audience, was Terry McCarthy, the Federal Defender for Northern Illinois who delighted in putting the British Vice-Consul in her place while our Chairman, Jim Sloan, kept a straight face. Meanwhile, bus loads of Irish were on their way to Springfield. Labor leaders like Margaret Blackshere were on board.

MORGAN LLYWELLYN

As President of the IFC, Jim brought Morgan Llywellyn in to launch her book, *The Lion of Ireland: Brian Boru*. The launch took place at Union League Club in Chicago. It was one of those books you couldn't put down once you started to read it, like Leon Uris' book, *Trinity*.

San Patricios (St. Patrick's)

Jim discovered the San Patricios Battalion, the Irish soldiers who fought on the side of Mexico in the 1847 war. Jim brought in Professor Michael Hogan from Guadalajara to launch his book on the Battalion. Once again the launch took place at the Union League Club. Jim naturally included the Mexican community, and his good friend, Alphonse Gonzales.

Jim was an avid reader, and if he found a good book he would give copies to his friends. He had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge.

County Down was his home away from home, with the exceptions of interludes in Lake Forest, and Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. His current interest was how the Irish Famine, 1845-1850 affected County Down.

Recently Irish American News published Anne Maddocks Thesis on the Kilkeel Famine at the urging of Jim.

GALACIA BAGPIPERS

Once again, as President of the IFC, Jim managed to get 60 bagpipers from Galacia, Spain, which unknown to many is the seventh Celtic Nation. The pipers wore black uniforms with capes, and tricorn hats. They played at the IFC St. Patrick's Day Dinner, and

marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

IRISH MUSIC SCHOOLS

Jim was one of the founders of the Academy of Irish Music, and on one occasion arranged for the children to meet Michael Flatley after a performance of Riverdance at the Rosemont Theatre. Flatley was a no show as they were icing down his legs and he was getting Novicain shots after the performance. None the less, one of Jim's friends from Bob O'Link CC donated a violin to the school. Jim was always looking for instruments for the school. He moved on to the Irish Music School of Chicago, again providing financial assistance.

IFC Book

Jim began the process of having a book written on the 100 year history of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago. A writer by the name of McHugh, wrote the book. When politics came into play, a second book was written by Tom O'Gorman. Jim asked me to proofread both books. McHugh had used some trite expressions, and instead of editing his book, the O'Gorman book was printed. I'm still puzzled as to why O'Gorman dedicated the book to his grandfather, and not the founding members of the Irish Fellowship Club.

IRISH SCHOLARS

When I first got to know Jim, he was often in the company of an Irish professor, Sean Lucey. Jim formed a club of noted scholars of Irish history and culture which met at the Union League Club. Among the regular attendees, were Emmet Larkin Phd. of the University of Chicago, Lawrence McCaffrey Phd., Loyola University, and Jack Leahy Phd., from DePaul University, and various guests interested in Irish history and culture. I was always invited to attend the luncheons. It was an honor to be in the company of these men. Although I didn't possess the academic credentials, I had first hand knowledge of life in Ireland. I once gave a talk to the Kellogg School at Northwestern University about Ireland's transformation when they joined the European Union.

PERSON OF THE YEAR

Jim was honored as the Person of the Year at the Irish Books, Arts, and Music Celebration (iBAM!) in 2015. I had the pleasure of introducing him. In doing so I used several quotes. One from Patrick Pearse, another from Brendan Behan, and I was just beginning to give the quote by George Bernard Shaw when Jim was standing behind me at the podium, poking me in the back, telling me to hurry up! None-the-less I was able to get the quote in because I thought it fit Jim to a tee.

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live it, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can."

I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no "brief candle" for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

Jim passed away from life to mortal dream on August 5, 2017, on the 50th anniversary of his marriage to Rose Lynch.

I had sent a Mass card for healing to Jim. His wife, Rose, found it on the table, but it hadn't been opened. The Nun at the Carmelite Monastery gave me some scapulars when I told her my friend was in hospice care. When Rose found the scapular in the card she handed it to Jim, and at that very moment he drew his last breath. Jim had a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson on his memorial card.

Crossing the Bar

*Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me.
And may there be
No moaning of the Bar
When I put out to sea.
For tho' from out our bourne
of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my
Pilot-face to face
When I have crossed the Bar.*

Funeral Mass was held at the Church of St. Mary, Lake Forest, IL on Friday, August 11, 2017.

Jim is at peace in Lake Forest Cemetery.

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Book A Listening Date With Your Mom or Dad

September 13 at Heritage Center

Nora Kerr of Memoir for Me, and Natalie Hollis of Pixologie, offer a new fun night out for adult children and their parents. They call it a "Listening Date," which includes light food, drinks, and powerful conversation. Kerr and Hollis have designed a program to take participants through several exercises to get to know each other better on a deeper and

more valuable level and leave them with tools to continue this work on their own.

"I've been interviewing and writing the life stories of people for a few years now, and while I'm proud of the finished memory books I give these families, I've realized that the interview itself can be really powerful," said Kerr, who lives on the



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"The little stories lead to the big ones," said Kerr. *"What are they most proud about? What mistakes have*

they made? These are stories we can really learn from as adults trying to figure out life just as our parents did a few decades earlier."

The first listening date is booked for September 13th, 7-9pm, at the Irish American Heritage Center (4626 N. Knox, Chicago). A similar event for moms is scheduled for Oct 1st, 10am-12pm at Anne's Haven (5629 W. Irving Park, Chicago).

Tickets can be ordered online at <http://memoirforme.com/workshops>.

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Trinity Irish Dance Company Creates New Work With Acclaimed Contemporary Choreographer

On August 2, five company members and Mark Howard joined Donlon in Longford to begin the creative process. The new work will premiere during TIDC's 2018 summer Japan tour.

Trinity Irish Dance Company, a non-profit, Chicago/Milwaukee-based company is the birthplace of progressive Irish dance, which opened the artistic pathways for commercial shows such as Riverdance.

Called "Impossibly complex" by the *New York Times*, this critically acclaimed performing arts company offers something profoundly significant – the transcendence of craft to art and a dance legacy that is rooted in tradition yet forward looking and new. The integrity filled vision sends a consistent message of female empowerment, resulting in a repertory that has elevated the art form since its inception in 1990.

Founding Artistic Director, Mark Howard reached out to Marguerite Donlon due to her perfectly suited background. "Marguerite's unique mix of pioneering contemporary work and knowledge of Irish step dance is a potent cocktail that we can't wait to experience," he said.

Berlin-based Donlon has been hailed as a "a wizard with a fierce sense of humor and invention" by the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Her celebrated work has been set upon distinguished companies such as the Stuttgart and Bolshoi ballets.

Marguerite Donlon is an innovative, contemporary choreographer and performer based in Berlin. Known for her humour and profound creativity, her work thrills an unusually broad audience. With stylistic innovation, Irish wit and the combination of different art forms, the Irish-born choreographer has pushed artistic limits to secure a place in the international dance scene. Her work has been performed most



Marguerite Donlon, (left) teaching.

recently by prima ballerina Svetlana Zacharova and the Bolshoi Ballet. She has also created for companies such as the Nederlands Dans Theater 2 (NDT), the Stuttgart Ballet, Berlin Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Company in Chicago, Rambert Dance in London, the Companhia Nacional de Bailado (CNB) Portugal, Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz Munich, Musiktheater im Revier (MiR) Gelsenkirchen and The One Grand Show, Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin. For more info, visit <http://donlon.de>.

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Mayo Have the Grit to Shock the Dubs

The joke over the last number of years is that this year is going to be Mayo's year.

What has become the Mayo story for a generation is a team that play terrific football and a team that has brought an inordinate amount of excitement to the game and yet they are a team remembered for never winning the big one, the All-Ireland Final.

With the advent of social media there has long been an amusing online campaign in support for #MayoforSam with contributions from every corner of the world, yet they are still waiting for the Sam Maguire to be brought back to Castlebar since they last triumphed in 1951.

In the 90s, they reached two All-Ireland finals, losing to Meath a replay in 1996, which is best remembered for a big first half brawl involving most every player on the pitch. The following year they under-performed only to be beaten by Kerry, who won their first title in over a decade.

In the noughties, twice Mayo got to the showpiece against Kerry and again completely underperformed to such a degree that both finals were over as a contest before half time.

In many ways over the last five years this current set of Mayo players have erroneously and quite unfairly come to embody the Mayo narra-

tive within the Irish sporting media.

Yet in the last six years, every team that have knocked them out of the championship has gone on to win the All-Ireland and in the last three years that winner has needed a replay to do so.



In 2012, Mayo lost the final against Jim McGuinness's Donegal side who scored two early goals in the final.

In 2013, Mayo lost the final to Dublin by a point. In 2014, Mayo looked to have beaten Kerry in the semi-final only for Kieran Donaghy and James O'Donoghue to com-

bine to score a goal in the dying seconds to bring the game to a replay, which Kerry won after extra time after an epic encounter at the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick.

In 2015, Mayo were leading Dublin by four points in the semi-final with 10 minutes remaining only again for the match to finish in a draw and Dublin to win the replay.

Last year Mayo met Dublin again, this time in the final and a rollercoaster game once again ended in a draw. Dublin edged the replay by a point.

The story of this Mayo team has been close but no cigar.

This has been the stick to beat them with and there has been no shortage of people queuing up to take a swing. The football analysts reasoning as to why Mayo have not been champions has ranged from a lack of manliness to a

lack of belief, from tactics to personal character and from naivety to blunder.

Sticking the boot into Mayo has become fashionable and this year there is something very clichéd about how Mayo football has been viewed within Ireland.

Earlier in the league, former Meath forward Bernard Flynn had a go at Aiden O'Shea's lack of focus on winning the All-Ireland and a lack of team togetherness when the midfielder signed autographs for kids on the field after a loss,

a task no player enjoys when beaten when the team were warming down.

When Mayo drew with Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final at the end of August, the Mayo management led by Stephan Rochefort were labelled 'donkeys' for putting O'Shea into full back

to mark Kieran Donaghy by a respected sports writer. Six days later Mayo won convincingly using the same tactic to reach another final.

Dublin

The following day, Dublin destroyed Ulster champions Tyrone in a very one-sided semi-final affair at Croke Park.

The Dubs, who have won the last two All-Ireland finals are playing outstanding football and a final victory would be a three-in-a-row of All-Irelands and four titles within five years.

Already people are talking about this side doing five-in-a-row such has been their dominance on the footballing landscape.

Their best player this year has been the young Con O'Callaghan, who starred in the Leinster final and scored 1-3 from play in the first half against Tyrone. Dublin are bolstered by the return of Jack McCaffery at wing back after he took a year away, while Brain Fenton is the outstanding midfielder in the country.

One thing that makes this Dublin team special is the strength in depth of their forwards.

On the bench in the semi-final they had Paul Flynn, Kevin McMenemy, Ronan O'Gara, Cormac Costello, Bernard Brogan and the infamous Diarmuid Connolly, a supreme footballer who is just back from suspension after he was banned for two months for pushing a linesman earlier in the summer.

Dublin also have shown a capability to change their game plan to suit the opposition. There are some analysts

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calling this perhaps the greatest team to ever play Gaelic football and they are overwhelming favourites for victory on the third Sunday in September.

And yet there is something about this Mayo team that seems different this year.

Call me a convert but what I like about this side is the leadership they

possess right throughout the field from Keith Higgins in the full back line, Lee Keegan and Colm Boyle in the half-back line, Aiden O'Shea in midfield and Andy Moran and Cillian O'Connor close to goal.

Their movement and especially their kick passing into their inside forwards has been so crisp this year and they are very experienced play-

ing against the sweeper system the Dublin deployed in their semi-final triumph.

They have rarely played better yet they have never been given less hope in the final.

I think most everyone not born in

the capital will be hoping that this indeed will be the year Mayo finish on top of the mountain.

And should it come, the silence from all the naysayers and begrudgers will in contrast to the party that will follow for days, weeks and months out west.

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John McSweeney Honored by Karate Masters

Three Irish karate masters came to the Illinois Martial Arts Hall of Fame recently to honor their instructor, the late John McSweeney, one of the pioneer karate instructors in Chicago and later, Ireland. McSweeney received his black belt in the early 1960's and moved to Dublin where he opened Ireland's first commercial karate and is known as "The Father

well as McSweeney's induction into the Hall of Fame.

Tommy Jordan was one of the first black belts promoted in Ireland. He was awarded his black belt in 1965 and in 1967 was the first Kenpo black belt to teach in Great Britain

Peter Coyle trained with McSweeney and Jordan and in 1970 was one of the



Irish karate masters visit Chicago. L to R: Mike McNamara, co- director of Illinois Martial Arts Hall of Fame, Tom Saviano, Ken Bryan, Peter Coyle, Former World Kickboxing Champion Rob Salazar Tommy Jordan, and Co- Director Pete Hoffman.

of Kenpo Karate in Ireland". He later moved back to Illinois where he opened a school in Elmhurst in 1979. One of his black belts in Illinois, 10th. degree black belt Tom Saviano, continued to teach after McSweeney retired to Florida, where he passed away in 2002.

McSweeney was elected to the Illinois Martial Arts Hall of Fame this year. Three of McSweeney's first black belts in Ireland, Tommy Jordan, Ken Bryan and Peter Coyle, learned of his induction and contacted Tom Saviano, who invited them to the induction ceremony. They flew to the U.S. where they were honored for their contribution to karate in Ireland, as

founders of the World Union of Karate Organization.

Ken Bryan was a student of McSweeney's and was promoted to black belt in the 1970's. Both Jordan and Coyle are the only students who began their training in 1963 and who are still active in teaching and promoting the art.

The three Irish masters were recognized at the Hall of Fame banquet for their tireless efforts in promoting karate in Ireland and Europe.

For further information contact Mike McNamara, co-director Illinois Martial Arts Hall of Fame, Illinois Boxing Hall of Fame, macveg3@aol.com. 708 473-0682

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A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland

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Food is the most basic human need and a fundamental human right. Yet, even in America's land of plenty, hunger is a pressing problem needing our attention and commitment to action. That is why during the month of September—Hunger Action Month—Catholic Charities is partnering with the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Catholic Schools, Soldier Field, and the Charles Tillman Cornerstone Foundation to hold the inaugural Soup-er Stadium Challenge.

The Soup-er Stadium Challenge is a multi-pronged effort that is much more than a food drive. At the heart of the Challenge is a specially designed curriculum that educates Catholic school children about hunger and its ramifications, teaches them about the Church's response to hunger, and encourages them to act to end hunger by participating in advocacy efforts, praying for relief for poor families, and making a donation of non-perishable foods.

The Soup-er Stadium Challenge is unique in that it encourages children not just to

people. These very special donations will be used to stock the shelves of Catholic Charities' eight food pantries. The goal this year is to receive donations to fill every seat in Soldier Field with at least two food items—that would be enough food for more than 100,000 meals!

Many people do not realize the shocking prevalence of hunger right in our own community. The USDA uses the term "food insecurity" to describe persons or households that have limited access to safe and/or nutritionally adequate food to meet basic needs. Nearly 800,000 people in Cook and Lake counties are food insecure—that is 14 percent of the population in Cook County, and 8 percent in Lake County, far too high given the wealth and abundance in our metropolitan area. Children have the highest food insecurity rates, with nearly 1 in 5 children in Illinois being food insecure.

Anyone living in poverty is at risk of being food insecure because for those in low wage jobs or on limited fixed incomes, it is very difficult

to pay for housing, medical care, child care, utilities and other necessities, and still have adequate resources to pay for nutritious food. Also, many poor communities do not have proper grocery stores, and so access to healthy foods is further restricted.

The consequences of hunger can be devastating, especially for vulnerable populations like seniors and children. Not having access to nutritious foods can contribute to numerous medical conditions including asthma, depression, heart disease, anemia, diabetes, and obesity. Although it might be surprising that obesity is related to food insecurity, often people are forced to buy the cheapest, most readily available foods to fill empty bellies, which are typically the most unhealthy foods. For children, hunger can also lead to learning difficulties, poor academic achievement, and a variety of behavioral problems including anxiety, aggression, hyperactivity and mood swings.

Whether they come to one of Catholic Charities food pantries, shop at one of our Women, Infant and Children grocery stores, or participate in one of our numerous meal programs, hunger is the number one reason people come to Catholic Charities. We consider all of our food and nutrition programs the very essential first step in helping people escape poverty. Without access to nutritious food to nourish the body and mind, it is very hard to overcome poverty.

During Hunger Action Month, let us join with the school children and take up the Soup-er Stadium Challenge, standing in solidarity with our hungry brothers and sisters, and giving them the hope and concrete help that they need to thrive.

For more information visit souperstadiumchallenge.org

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle

"Time is on Your Side, Yes, it is"

How many occasions have we heard that Rolling Stones track and thought, is it? You will forgive me for musing in this article, but one of my absolute favourite playwright's is Samuel Beckett. Originally from Dublin, Beckett rose to prominence in Paris, France with the production of his play, *Waiting for Godot*. When I teach this play in class, invariably, students either groan, or look quite forlorn, as their eyes become increasingly transfixed on the clock hoping that just this once the great God of time (Chronos) might devour time in record speed.

It makes no difference that Beckett was a Nobel Prize winner. And, who cares, if he was a friend of James Joyce who also worked for the French Resistance against the Nazis. The pedigree of this man does not inspire the slightest enthusiastic sigh.

For one thing, he's so bloody difficult to understand, not to mention, his plays never have a satisfactory ending. Who would ever want to go and see a play about two men waiting for some character who never turns up? It baffles and perplexes their young minds to contemplate why such a topic should be deemed worth the scholastic effort.

While the fainthearted consult Wikipedia (summary), others opt for a Youtube performance of the play; inevitably they give up when they find out that nothing of significance happens. And, who could blame them.

I remember when I was first introduced to Beckett's work. I was a first year undergraduate who was still in love with Emily Bronte and *Wuthering Heights*. For me, the world of fiction was populated with tempestuous stories; structured with a clear plot, rich characters, and of course a sumptuous conclusion. It was how fiction was meant to be; a

call to worship at altar of a well-told story.

Nothing had prepared me for Beckett's *Happy Days*. The title alone was totally misleading. A woman, Winnie, is buried up to her waist in the first act and up to her neck in the second. For almost the whole 80 minutes, she prattles about the most trivial and important things with absolutely no clear sense of direction, apart from repeating the same ideas with slight changes to the language.



Barry "Jazz" Finnegan making good use of his time drawing Beckett at iBAM! www.ibamchicago.com

To all intents and purposes, her speech was like watching a hamster go around and around on its wheel, appearing to move but going nowhere. I swore that I would never read another Beckett work as long as I lived. I looked the booklist for every class like a coeliac looking to spot a gluten filled product. My life had to be Beckett free or I would suffer for it.

It wasn't until I was a post-graduate that my allergy to the playwright was well and truly cured. Now, a bit more mature, and prepared, I took a Masters in Modernism. As we worked our way through Eliot, Joyce, Pound,

Woolf etc., I fortified myself to engage with the absurdity of Beckett. No doubt, our professor looked at us, as I look at my own students, whenever we enter the surreal world of *Waiting for Godot*. I'm sure my eyes went straight to the clock when he started discussing Beckett's existentialism.

The leaden feet of time crawled as we dissected every sentence of Lucky's nonsensical speech. Theology, philosophy, philology, you name it, Beckett had dumped the whole of the ologies into one big soliloquy that didn't even have any punctuation.

While my brain was racking itself to stretch out to comprehend the mystery of Beckett, I had completely forgotten about time. The slow march of ticking hand had somewhere along the line rushed to the finish of class without me even noticing.

Something inside me felt cheated. Had I been fed Beckett and not wanted to regurgitate? Why? It was like a Joycean epiphany. Now, it made sense.

Time is not our enemy, nor our friend, it just is. Between birth and life, we try to create meaning in order to not feel the oppressive force of time and yet, it still haunts us.

I ask my students how many clichés they can think of that deal with time; kill time, waste time, fill in time etc. We are obsessed with time, whether consciously or unconsciously. We hate to become aware of time.

Whenever class is finished, students rush to pull out their phones, checking FaceBook, Snapchat, messages, or simply put in their earphones to listen to music; anything to avoid the sense of being in time. We create little games to help distract us from this oppressive awareness.

When we're younger, we live our lives in the future tense, and conversely, as we get older we look back, since we're running out of years. Time makes a mockery of our existence as we watch old Chronos devour what little time we have.

Suddenly, it made sense. Time is not 'on your side, because none of us can control the time we have.

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



The Narrow Minded Bigotry Doesn't Come from Kevin Myers...

Well, of course, if there was any REAL Justice in this sad old world at all, then Irish journalist Kevin Myers would not only have been sacked from his position with the Sunday Times, he should have been strung up. Hung from the highest tree, I tellz ye, after being chased down the street by all right-thinking, free-speaking folks waving lighted torches, brandishing pitchforks and dancing around like something straight out of Salem during the witch trials. What he said was unforgivable, as you will know if you've been following the Saga of Ku Klutz Kevin and his dreadful, awful, utterly deplorable anti-Semitism.

Except...wait; can I be a dissenting voice here for a minute? May I go so far as to suggest that maybe Myers isn't being pilloried simply for his supposedly outrageous comments? That maybe... just maybe... this is a case of payback with a vengeance? A lot of people don't like Kevin, you see; and they have obviously been waiting in the long grass for just the right occasion to put the boot into him.

The seventy-year-old Myers has been writing an opinion column since around the turn of the century – the previous century, it sometimes feels like. Sometimes I agree with what he's saying. Sometimes I don't. And sometimes he actually makes me want to pull my own teeth out with a rusty pair of pliers. But he'll generally give you a different take on something and he'll always make you think.

His take on Irish history has often been called 'revisionist', for instance. Now if you use the word 'revisionist' in terms of Western movies and sling in the names of Sergio Leone or Sam Peckinpah, you're paying a compliment; but

use that word in conjunction with Irish history and the Tribe of the Perpetually Offended are up on their high horses, fingers pointing at the grumpy guy who can't stick with the official narrative. The giveaway on what Myers is doing SHOULD be in that they are usually called 'opinion pieces'. And whether or not you agree with him then it has to be said that generally he has actually given you an informed one, as opposed to some of the Barstool Philosophers you can hear in your local any night of the week.

However, it was a bridge too far at the end of July when Myers penned a piece on why he thought that women were getting paid less than men. There was a bit in there to offend everyone (well, at least those who aren't having a good day unless they've found SOMETHING to offend them) but most of the ire was centred on the fact that he singled out two women who WERE paid on a par with men: BBC presenters Vanessa Feltz and Claudia Winkleman. In the section that damned him to Eternal Hellfire he wrote:

"Good for them. Jews are not generally noted for their insistence on selling their talent for the lowest possible price, which is the most useful measure there is of inveterate, lost-with-all-hands stupidity."

Pretty innocuous, I would have thought. To me, it even read as a compliment. (Then again, as someone notoriously bad at handling money I would have been happy to have him say this about me, even if he did mention my religion.)

What I found most...oh, I'm trying to be kind here...unseemly were the sheer levels of bile that were turned on him. The piece was pulled almost immediately on

both sides of the Irish Sea; Myers was given the bullet from his job; and blood was smelled in those waters.

"Undiluted anti-Semitism and misogyny" screamed the Financial Times, whilst in Ireland the Sunday Independent worked itself into a right old frenzy as it trumpeted: "London society burns Myers – but why did the Sunday Times publish toxic rant?"

London society? Heck, why don't we just doff the cap and tug the forelock whilst we're at it?

As expected, the ludicrous Vanessa Feltz went completely OTT, calling the article "blatantly racist" and as of today is still rhabbiting endlessly on and on about how damaged she is feeling; on the other hand Claudia Winkleman, as of this writing, has not seemed all that bothered.

Oh, there was blood in the shark tank, no question of that. There was unmitigated gloating that was more offensive to me than anything Myers EVER wrote; and columns of his dating back years were pulled. And yes, you read that correctly: columns that were deemed fit for publication nearly a decade ago were deleted whilst those who should have been defending his right to free speech – his fellow journalists – raised a glass to the uppity git getting his just desserts handed to him. Again, I find the taking of pleasure in a man losing his livelihood just a wee bit offensive; but that's just me.

To complicate matters, the Irish Jewish Council took his side, and quite rightly so. Chairman Maurice Cohen stated that: "More than any other Irish journalist he has written columns about details of the Holocaust over the last three decades that would not otherwise have been known by a substantial Irish audience"; and added that it was his "curmudgeonly, cranky, idiosyncratic style" that had led him to "a real error of judgment". He went on:

"The knee-jerk responses from those outside Ireland appear to care little for facts and pass on (along with media outlets) falsehoods about his previous writings without verification. This has

been exacerbated by a thoroughly misleading headline being sent around the world that is wholly unrepresentative of the article to which it refers."

I would add to Myers the name of another fearless Irish journalist, Ian Doherty, who regularly takes a pro-Israel stand. And that's a position I agree with. For all its faults I tend to side with the only democratic country in that area – itself home to many thousands of Arabs, a fact often brushed aside—which is surrounded by those who have stated that they want Israel wiped off the map.

It's not a popular opinion in Ireland, where only a few years ago no less than 61 Irish academics wrote to the Irish Times asking for a complete global boycott of Israeli institutions of higher education. I'd have to wonder why the names of, say, Saudi Arabia or Sudan or China weren't mentioned first.

But I'm not a learned professor.

Four years ago the Teachers' Union became the first in Europe to agree to boycott Israeli academia. Seriously, what the hell is that about? Passed unanimously, of course. Wouldn't want teachers of all people to think for themselves, would we? That might not suit the European Union, no great friends of Israel.

Or how about the recent nonsense with various Irish city councils voting to fly the Palestinian flag? And nearly having a fit when it was suggested that the Israeli flag be flown alongside – you know, for a bit of balance, like.

Openly supporting terrorists now, are we? Charming.

Myers is no anti-Semite; but you wouldn't have to scratch far beneath the surface in Ireland to find plenty who truly are.

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Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

By Michael Collins,
Executive Director

TRUST ACT & CHICAGO VS. DOJ LAWSUIT

On August 3rd, Governor Bruce Rauner agreed to sign the Illinois Transparency and Responsibility Using State Tools Act (TRUST Act). The Governor is expected to sign the bill in late August which will make Illinois one of the most immigrant friendly states in the country. CIIS is proud to have been part of this effort. We expect this bill to improve the lives of many of our neighbors and community members.

On August 7th, the City of Chicago filed a lawsuit against the US Department of Justice over a plan to withhold grant dollars from jurisdictions with sanctuary city policies in place. The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant was set up to assist local governments to buy police vehicles and other equipment. This lawsuit challenges new grant rules that will include a requirement that localities give federal immigration authorities open access to jails and notify them 48 hours in advance of plans to release an inmate wanted on an immigration detainer. The assistance provided to local governments via the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant is now under threat to most major metropolitan areas in the country as most of them would have "sanctuary" policies in place.

This lawsuit is part of an ongoing feud between the new administration

and the mayors of sanctuary cities. Earlier this year, a federal court blocked an executive order that would

withhold federal funds from sanctuary cities. This is another attempt by the administration to impose its anti-immigrant policies on more progressive localities. The city claimed that this policy will erode the trust of the immigrant communities and make the city less safe. In 2016, Chicago has received \$2.3 million through this grant program. Mayor Emmanuel said that "Chicago will not be blackmailed into changing our values, and we are and will remain a welcoming city." The mayor proceeded to state that "The federal government should be working with cities to provide necessary resources to improve public safety, not concocting new schemes to reduce our crime fighting resources." This lawsuit, although launched in early August, will most likely take months to work its way through the courts. One thing is for sure, this struggle is set to continue.

CIIS UPDATE

CIIS will continue to host free legal clinics for anyone who might have immigration questions. These clinics are 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 mcollins@irishchicago.org to schedule your appointment.



Clutter Buster

By Rita Emmett

Procrastinate No More!

Beware the barrenness of a too busy life. --- Socrates

Oh The Games People Play

Procrastination is a game - a mind game of putting off, delaying, ignoring, forgetting, simply trying to think of something to do instead of what you need to do. One way many people play the game is with a style I call "Hypocritical Procrastination." It happens those times you have something important to do or you'll regret it.

But you don't want to do it.

You can't put it off by simply being lazy, scrolling FaceBook, tweeting, watching TV (and you know all the other excuses) because the task is too important. No, you couldn't face yourself or others if you procrastinated for NO good reason; so you put it off by doing something noble instead.

For example: Back in my procrastination days, I was assigned a typing job for a committee I served on. I'm not a typist - never took a typing course, use the Biblical method, "Seek and ye shall find", make a lot of mistakes.

After typing a while, I wandered into the kitchen to get a cup of coffee. Heading back to that dreaded typing, I noticed something purple on the kitchen wall - maybe grape jelly, surely grape something. I have no idea how long it had been there. I grabbed a bottle of cleanser and squirted that purple blob right off the wall.

The result? A very bright, very obvious, very clean spot on my not-so-clean kitchen wall.

I tried to blend in that clean spot with the rest of the wall; I figured if I "feathered" the dirt just right, I could eliminate that line of demarcation.

It didn't work.

So I poured the cleanser into a bucket and washed the entire kitchen. Later that evening, a committee member called asking how the typing was going.

"How could I type that when I've spent all day on my hands and knees scrubbing the kitchen ceiling & walls?" I said, hypocritically. I couldn't have faced myself or anyone else if I had put off my typing in order to watch TV or take a nap, but it was okay because I had been busy doing something else that was... um.... important.

I call this game "Hypocritical Procrastination" and many of us play it unconsciously but frequently. We have endless variations, such as the "Travelers". That is -- people who decided they have some very important chores to do elsewhere. Or they travel elsewhere hoping to find some very important chores to do. They'll travel anywhere: to the coffeepot, to the basement, to the stock room, to the garage, to the mailbox.

If they're near a window, they'll open or close it. If they're near food, they eat. If they are not near food, they keep traveling until they land near food ... then they eat.

If you don't resonate with this so far, here are a few more "Hypocritical" Games

- Shuffling through the same papers or clutter over and over
- Long chatty telephone interruptions which aren't important to you
- Saying "yes" when you should say "no"
- Doing things that don't need to be done
- Working without a to-do list (no focus, no priorities)

OK, now you get what Hypocritical Procrastination is. But we don't want to stick you reading a long column that takes up the whole page, so for now you get an entire month to ponder and recognize any "Hypocritical Procrastination" in your life. Next month we will tackle solutions to break this sabotaging habit.

Rita Emmett is a "Recovered Pack Rat", Professional Speaker, and author of The Procrastinator's Handbook,

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

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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello Everyone!

Well, I'm back in Chitown, after my summer travels with my young son, Declan. We put up quite a few miles and had a great time. I feel very comfortable gigging along with Declan. He's becoming an accomplished musician and now writer. He got himself signed up with IMRO in Ireland and also Bardis Music Ltd publishers. So not bad for a summer gigging/vacation.

I was lucky enough to meet up with Nathan Carter again and we wrote a few songs together. Nathan will be performing at Copernicus Center in Chicago, on Friday, September 15th. He will also be performing in Pabst Theatre, Milwaukee, on September 14th, and Crystal Grand Music Theatre, Wisconsin Dells, on September 16th. Tickets are still available for these shows. He will also be performing all over North America and Canada. So we wish him great success and I'm sure he will receive a great Chicago welcome. With him will be his full band and also joining him on the tour is Chloe Agnew. Chloe has toured the US a lot of times as one of the Celtic Women. So a great treat in store. Nathan has made an unbelievable impact in Ireland. He is now known as the man who revived the social dancing scene.

While I was in Ireland I contacted a friend on mine from way back, who now works on BBC Radio Ulster. His name is Hugo Duncan and I'm sure a lot of people will know him. Hugo had his first number one hit in Ireland with a song called 'Dear God' in 1971 and he's been singing

and entertaining for many years. He now does a radio show weekdays from 1:30 pm till 3 pm. Well, Hugo was kind enough to ask me to play on his live outside broadcast, which he does about three times a week during the summer. So I got to perform in Portglenone, County Antrim and also Warrenpoint, County Down (Maid of the Mournes Festival). And I got to rub shoulders with some of the top Irish stars, including Foster and Allen and many others. What affected me most about the shows was the way Hugo brought so much joy to everyone. There were young and old and special needs gathered there and it was a special feeling that I'll never forget. The way this man handles a crowd can only be described as saintly. Anyone that brings so much

happiness into the lives of us all and especially God's special people, is a true blessing. Hugo Duncan, from Strabane, I wish you many years of success and thank you for all you do.

This month's song is one Nathan, John Pettifer (Nathan's lead guitarist) and I wrote one evening during a song-writing session at Nathan's house in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh. We had just written two songs and decided to call it a night and go for a pint. Then Nathan started to look out the window, which overlooks the town and said I think we should write a song about Enniskillen. It was then I discovered that Enniskillen is an inland island. It's surrounded by water. Then he said "the lights of the castle wall". So half an hour later the song was born. So we went out to wet its head. I'm so happy that I was there that night to be a part of writing this beautiful song. 'My Own Island Town'.

As always, be good to one another.
Joe

'My Own Island Town'

Written by Nathan Carter, Joe McShane and John Pettifer

Verse 1

The lights from the castle walls they flicker across the water
It seems to me they have a life of their own

The two spires rise so high guarding the town tonight
Watching over me so I don't feel so alone

In the dark of the night, like a beacon guiding me home

Chorus

It's my own island town

It's my own island town

You're forever with me no matter wherever I roam

It's my own island town

Verse 2

I travel far and wide, I laugh, I love and I cry

And on lonely nights, in dreams, she calls to me

A town of strength and pride, who's soul shines as bright

As a diamond, her hearts finally free

Now the tears from the past have long since reached the sea

Chorus

It's my own island town

It's my own island town

You're forever with me no matter wherever I roam

It's my own island town

It's my own island town



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Co. Meath

The next county I will explore is Co. Meath, it is in the province of Leinster and is part of the mid east region. It got its name from the historic kingdom of Meath

The last two being in 1999 and 1996. The 1996 game was Meath vs. Mayo and Meath won.

My older sister Elizabeth was a Nun (poor Clares) for many years
Continued on next page



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from Midhe meaning middle. A few people asked me if I could write about Meath so this is for them. The population is about 195,000. The county is drained by the River Boyne. Speaking of the River Boyne it brings back school memories of history, the Battle of the Boyne where the famous Brian Boru fought.

Meath is the 14th largest Co. in area and the 9th in terms of population. The county town Navan where the county hall and government is located. Although Trim the former co. town has historical significance and remains a sitting place of the circuit court. Co. Meath also has two Gaeltachts in the province of Leinster at Rath Chair and Baile Ghib. When it comes to sport football and hurling. To my knowledge Co. Meath has never won an all Ireland hurling, however Meath has won 7 all Ireland football championships.



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 •Rock of Cashel •Teeling Distillery
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Co. Meath

Continued from previous page

in the monastery in Stamullen Co. Meath called Silverstream priory. The county's nickname is the royal county owing to its history as the seat of the high kings of Ireland. The seat of the high king of Ireland was at the hill of Tara, which is in Meath. The archeological site of Bru Na Boinne includes the sites of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth are also in Meath. Castles in Co. Meath include: Bective, Slane, and Dunmore. In Loughcrew, there is a famous historical site called Dangan castle, stately home, the family home of Field Marshal Arthur, first Duke of Wellington.

In Trim there is Ireland's largest Norman castle it was the setting for many Norman Irish parliaments. Meath has Irelands only inland lighthouse it's called the spire of Loyd. Ireland has over 80 lighthouses in case you want to check any of them out.

In Margaret Mitchell's novel "Gone with the wind" it is mentioned that Gerald O'Hara, Scarlet O'Hara's father was born in Co. Meath. Tara is the name of the Georgina plantation on which the O'Hara family resided. Recently there has been an influx of immigrants from

Poland and Lithuania moving into Meath, and all over Ireland, they are working in construction and catering. There are about 2,600 Irish speakers in Co. Meath. There is very good farming land and the farming tradition has been prominent in Meath, it's the leading county to produce potatoes. Quarrying and mining Europe largest under ground manufacturer of lead, zinc it has operated since 1977 near Navan. Co. Meath was the center of the Irish carpet industry before this was lost to overseas competition. Some famous people from Meath include: Pierce Brosnan (James Bond) and Francis Beaufort.

There is a famous landmark called, Newgrange, archeologists say it dates back 5,200 it's older than the pyramids. Its tomb surrounded by 97 large stones called kerbstones they are carved with megalithic art. It's the crown gem of Ireland's ancient east. If you go to Ireland you should put that on your itinerary.

I will end with the famous, "Book of Kells" it's named after the Abbey where it was stored for many centuries in Co. Meath, it was moved to Dublin in the 17c where it remains in trinity colleges Library. However the Meath people would the Book of Kells back. Questions or comments Kilkennycat1@yahoo.com

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Chicago Hosts Ireland Network USA 5th Annual National Conference September 14-17

Ireland Network USA will host all of the IN chapters across the USA and interested parties at the Drake Hotel in Chicago from September 14th through September 17th, 2017.

With chapters in 22 cities and more than 5000 members all across the USA, Irish Network USA is the most active and diverse organization engaging the "Global Irish" through business, culture, education and sport.

INUSA17 is an opportunity for Irish, Irish Americans and "friends" of Ireland from all over the US to hear from well known speakers from Ireland and the US and engage in high impact networking."

Attendees can attend all or parts of the conference. Those who attend can network with INUSA members from across the United States, attend social events which include

a river cruise, film festival and a networking dinner. Speakers and panel topics on business, the arts and culture will be held as well.

Thursday September 14th
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm Welcome Reception. Hosted by Deborah Ryder and Simon and Rachel

McCormac

Welcome Comments By James Sheehan, President, IN Chicago
Fri., September 15th 8:30 a.m.
INUSA17 - Registration Drake Hotel, 140 East Walton Pl. Chicago, IL 60611 312-787-2200
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
INUSA Plenary Session
Welcome to Chicago -

Consul General Brian O'Brien
INUSA Roll Call
"Who is Irish America?" with Liam Kennedy Director Clinton School for American Studies at UCD

INUSA Conversation with Senator Billy Lawless - Keynote Speaker

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

INUSA Networking Lunch
1:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

INUSA Workshops

7:00 p.m - 9:00 p.m.

Chicago River Cruise

Hosted by IN Chicago

Saturday September 16th

12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

INUSA Mini Film Festival

Sunday September, 17th

10:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m.

INUSA 17 Farewell Brunch at the Farmhouse |

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Billy Lawless - Irish Senator, Businessman, Restaurateur

Joan Freeman - Irish Senator, Founder of Pieta House

Brian O'Brien - Irish Consul General to Chicago

Helen Flynn -

CTO KonnectAgain

Eoin Motherway - Head of Operations for Asset Management Exchange, Willis Towers Watson

Sean J. Conlon - Top Real Estate Entrepreneur and Host of CNBC show The Deed: Chicago

Alison Metcalfe - Exec. V.P., No. America & Australia/New Zealand, Tourism Ireland

Nuala McAllister - Lord Mayor of Belfast

Liam Kennedy Director Clinton School for American Studies at UCD



Pictured (l to r): Ferdia Doherty, Ambassador Anne Anderson, Steve Lenox, Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Rachel McCormac, Seamus Byrne.

From Ireland to Chicagoland

Hailing originally from Arranmore Island, off the Donegal coast, Caroleann has been living and practicing law in Chicago for over 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
312-543-4642
cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com



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, workers compensation law, and wrongful death litigation. Caroleann is committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others

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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Cháirde

September is here, which means that St. Patrick's Month 2018 is only six months away. We will be celebrating halfway to St. Patrick's in the Carraig Pub on September 16th, with some help from the Larkin and Moran Brothers. As always, there is no cover charge for the Carraig Pub, which features live music three nights a week.

For Gaelic Park, September also includes Heritage and Harvest Day on the 17th. We hope you can join us for one of our best family fun days of the year with tractor displays, games, demonstrations, music, dance and more.

Sports fans are looking

forward to the All-Ireland championship finals, with Hurling on September 3rd and Football on September 17th. Telecasts will be shown at Gaelic Park both mornings. The broadcaster charges an admission fee and we provide the coffee and tea at no charge. Irish breakfast will be available for purchase.

As I write this there are still some openings for our very affordable Carraig Pub Golf Outing on September 22nd. If you enjoy friendly competition, prizes and great craic, then sign up soon. Golf talent is not required.

Slán go fóil,
Bill O'Sullivan

2017 CGP Calendar of Events 2017

SEPTEMBER

- Sept 3 All-Ireland Championship Finals Telecast - Hurling
 - Sept 6 Monthly Musical Luncheon*
Music: Joe Cullen
 - Sept 13 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting
 - Sept 17 All-Ireland Championship Finals Telecast - Football
 - Sept 23 K-Nine for Veterans for Warriors
- Save the Date:**
- Oct 1 Victory for Vera Kelly Benefit
 - Oct 8 IMA Ceili

*Reservations Required 708.687.9323

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

- 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



CGP Office 708.687.9323 www.chicagogaelicpark.org

Visit the CGP Library in the Shamrock Room

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Live Music in the Pub

- | | | |
|------------|---|--------|
| Wed Sep 6 | Joe Cullen | 6:00pm |
| | (BBQ on the Patio) | |
| Fri Sep 8 | Ray Gavin | 7:30pm |
| Sat Sep 9 | TBA | 9:00pm |
| Wed Sep 13 | Frank Rossi | 6:00pm |
| | (BBQ on the Patio) | |
| Fri Sep 15 | ZED Frank Sinatra Tribute | 7:30pm |
| Sat Sep 16 | Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Larkin & Moran Bros. | 9:00pm |
| Fri Sep 22 | Jerry Haughey | 7:30pm |
| Sat Sep 23 | Bernie Glim | 8:00pm |
| Fri Sep 29 | Joe Cullen | 7:30pm |
| Sat Sep 30 | Jerry & Kara | 8:30pm |

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Chicago Gaelic Park's

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and fun for all the Family

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Straw Pillow Fight
Art Contest
Music & Dancing

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 Food and refreshments will be sold throughout the day
 Games for ALL AGES including ADULTS which include:
 Straw Pillow Fight, Candy in the Straw Scramble, Three Legged Race, Sack Race, Dizzy Stick Race,
 Barrel Race, Water Balloon Toss, Tug of War, Wellington Toss & Gaelic Sports Skills Test
(subject to change)

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



The Gaelic Park Players are pleased to announce our fall show, "Pretend Sick", a comedy written by M.J. Ginnelly from Mulranny, who also penned the comedy "A Wake in the West." A manipulative mother named Katie pretends to be sick in order to ensure her daughter, Mary, will stay at home to look after her and her brother Sean. Mary endures with the abuse, hoping that some day her long time boyfriend will finally pop the question and whisk her away from her mundane life at home. With newlywed neighbors and a rotating mix of characters

arriving through Katie's door, who know what's in store for all!! The show will play three consecutive weekends, Fridays and Saturdays, November 3,4,10,11,17,18 at 8PM and Sundays, November 5,12,19 at 3PM. Stay tuned next month when we announce the cast and director of this play.

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. Visit us at gaelicparkplayers.org or on Facebook. [Facebook.com/groups/gaelicparkplayers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/gaelicparkplayers).

Friday Sept. 22, 2017

The Carraig Pub's Annual Golf Outing

The Odyssey Golf Club

Shotgun Start 1:00pm
 \$100.00 per person

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Sunday, October 8, 2017
Gaelic Park - Celtic Room
2:00pm - 7:00pm

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*Senior Luncheon
Stouffers Reunion*

*Happy 95th
Birthday to
Mary Leahy!*





I wanted to share our experience performing at Hines with you. As I've mentioned before it's always an emotional day for us. Our resident Marine, Bob Healy, spoke to the Vets about his time in Korea. He was seriously wounded. His story helped us to be more than just a group of people singing for them. One of the Vets was an Irish fellow. He wept during a couple of the songs that had such meaning for him. The best part is after we perform. We go into the audience and visit. Bob met several Marines who really enjoyed spending time with him. The choir does so much more than most folks realize.

We had a short summer break in July. We're now back preparing for the November concert. Mark your calendar. The concert is November 19 at 3:00 in the Erin Room. It's our end of year fundraiser. All of the money we earn goes the programs at the Center. We keep none of it. We will also be asking for ads for our program/ad book. We promise to give you a fabulous afternoon of Irish music and song. We'll even add in a sing along so you can join in the fun! Save the date, November 19.

I often talk about the diversity in the choir. We range in age from 18 to 85. We've been blessed with a highly skilled music director, Paul Matijevec. He believes in us and works us half to death. The payoff is when we hear ourselves perform and then all that hard work is worth the investment.

I love talking about the individual choir

members. We are truly diverse. The common denominator is that most of us are Irish. Let me introduce you to Lornetta Hooks. Lornetta plays both classical and Irish flute brilliantly. She's a choir director at St Luke's Church in River Forest. She's played in a number of professional jazz groups. She's also played with her late husband who was a jazz musician. She has been blessed with a lovely voice. In July she was invited to sit in with The Dooley Brothers. Lornetta spends a lot of time working with the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa at the Mound Center. She's one of the nicest people you will ever meet. She's not a bad fisherman either.

Next you have to meet Richard Anderson. Richard comes from a musical family. He began singing in choirs in grade school, later singing with the Thornridge High School in Dolton and the Apollo Chorus in Chicago, one of the oldest volunteer choral societies in the country. He met music director Paul Matijevec at St. Timothy's Catholic Church in Chicago and has been singing for him ever since. After Paul became music director of The Irish Heritage Singers he asked Richard to sing tenor and he said yes. He joined the ensemble in May of 2012. He also sings with the choir of St Gregory The Great in Andersonville. Richard retired from the Chicago Tribune after 30 years of editing in December 2008.

Hopefully these two bios along with others to follow will help dispel the myth that the choir is made up of non-musical people who just like to sing. Our skill level is impressive. So until next time, "May the road rise to meet you" ...

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Mickey Finns Brewery: Chicago's First Brewpub Going Strong in Libertyville

By *Ryanne Gallagher Johnson*
Photos by *Cathy Curry Carlson*

Brian Grano, owner and operator of Libertyville landmark Mickey Finn's, has spent the

ditionally Irish feel to it, Mickey Finn's isn't specifically an Irish pub.

"I don't want to misrepresent," Grano says of the place. "I would say we're Irish-inspired..."



last decade and a half turning the Irish-themed restaurant and brewpub into a local staple and destination, and himself into something of a local celebrity.

Boasting a rich history, Mickey Finn's was Lake County's first brewpub, started in 1994. It's original location was just down the street from its current home, and had a little less space and a lot less parking. And while the old building had more of a tra-

everybody loves a nice warm atmosphere, and I think people kind of picture that with the Irish pub. That inspires us, but it doesn't make us an exclusive, like the Curragh."

The menu draws from pub food, but across multiple nationalities. "We'll do schnitzel, we'll do pasta, we'll do burgers. But fish and chips is our number one selling entree by far. Nothing even comes close to it."

Previously a manufacturer's rep in the metals business, Grano bought Mickey Finns in 2004 having had no prior restaurant experience, and says that there were a few things that helped him succeed in the business. "For starters, the staff that was there when I took over was an excellent staff. I kept everybody I just watched for a year, basically, and did simple, low-hanging fruit things at first. I was the first restaurant in town to put in flat screen tvs. We redid the banquet room which looked like somebody's finished basement circa 1981. We started doing live music every Friday and Saturday. We started doing better banquets, better private parties. Then I hired a PR firm, and did a lot more branding, changed the logo, and really worked on the menu."

When their scant leased parking for the old location was taken over by different owners, and Mickey Finns Brewery faced having no parking at all for their customers, Grano decided it was time to move. "At the time, we were looking for a different building anyway, because we had issues with the building, the parking, the overall location,



Part of a beautifully decorated room for private parties.

and I honestly (thought that) as long as we kept the spirit of Mickey Finns Brewery, we were gonna be ok. Then, this building popped up, and it's a 27,000 square foot building. We're using about 16,000. At the time, people drove by here every single day and nobody even noticed it. It had a white stucco front, and a green awning. This building is 100 years old this year."

Rather than renting another space, Grano purchased the new location. The brewery, the pizza oven, and the grill, along with the booths and tables from the old Finns made the relocation. There's also a new parking garage directly behind the restaurant, giving the current place 317 parking spaces (a step up from the previous location's 37 spots). "Anybody that's ever been to

Mickey Finns Brewery in the past 30 years always thinks there's a parking problem, and there was forever. Now, the parking garage is literally a stone's throw out our back door."

Mickey Finns Brewery current location, on North Milwaukee Avenue, was opened in April, 2014, just a handful of days after the doors closed on the old building. "When we closed over there and had our last party, we literally moved everything over and were open within a week and a half. Everybody said 'how did you do that?', and I'm like 'because I had to! I did not have a choice'. I had no revenue coming in, and I had to pay people. Probably the most stressful two weeks of my life, and hopefully I'll never have to deal with anything like that again."

Get ready for some
great music when you attend the

Fall Ceili

on October 8, 2017 at Gaelic Park in the Celtic Room from 2pm to 7pm.

Enjoy ceili and set dancing,
old time waltzes a light lunch,
a raffle and split the pot.

Children under 12 free, admission \$20.

*Proceeds support the Irish Musicians Assn,
Contact Mary Carmody at 708-372-6227*

Two weeks after opening in the new location, they had a 2-hour wait, which continued for six months.

Over the years, Grano has worked on simplifying the menu and keeping the quality up. They've gone from serving ninety items to now offering sixty, and all of it is comfort pub food that is sourced locally, serving as much fresh food as possible. "We don't have to be fancy. We concentrate on fish and chips, burgers, wings, and our pizzas are unbelievable, and then we offer lots of fresh specials. The only things we buy frozen are the tenders, because kids like them the way they are, and then the fries. Everything else is freshly prepared," said Brian.

One thing on his menu Grano would recommend, above any other item? The Mickey Burger. "It's our special recipe ground from a butcher in Buffalo Grove. We get it delivered three times a week. Fresh ground, our recipe, never frozen, hand pattied, said Grano."

And something kind of different you can try, that he's also proud of, are their Irish egg rolls. "(They've been) knocked off by other restaurants. They were supposed to be an Irish potsticker, and my guys just couldn't do it. So my chef, Greg Browne, said 'do you mind if we just try to make an

egg roll out of this?' and I said of course. So they made an egg roll and we put it on the menu, and it's been our top selling appetizer. It's not fancy, but it's fresh. Our chef has been here for 28 years. We don't have a lot of turnover in our kitchen."

Grano also prefers to allow patrons to take their time eating and drinking, rather than hustling them through and getting them out the door to turn over more tables in a shorter amount of time. "It's like downtown Dublin. If you don't have a seat at the bar by five o'clock, you're not getting a seat at the bar."

Between the restaurant and the heated beer garden, they can seat between 200-220 people, and there's something for all ages, depending on the time of day. "Mickey Finns is like Wrigley Field," Grano jokes. "Any age can enjoy it, it just kind of depends on what time you come. If you come here (Tuesday nights), kids eat free, so at 5 o'clock, this place will be packed with families with kids.... Then you get business happy hour people... then you get hipsters and 30-somethings without kids who come a little later. Then the weekends, much later, when the locals leave, it gets super young. 25 year olds, 30 year olds."

The rear of the restaurant holds a larger



Mickey Finn's Brewery owner, Brian Grano

he first bought the place. "If I've been here thirteen years and one month, he's been here thirteen years. We hired him just after I took over."

Brewing thirty beers a year, they use no artificial flavors or preservatives, and currently have six of them on tap. They also offer brewery tours, and most of their handcrafted beers are available for purchase.

Looking ahead for Mickey Finns, Grano says, "They have these things now called crowlers... it's a 1-liter can, two pints. And basically, we buy the cans, and we fill the cans like we would a growler... So now, you have beer-to-go in a can, which you can bring on a boat or by a pool, or put in a cooler. And it lasts more than two days. It's good for four-to-six weeks, as opposed to a 64-ounce

jug (growler), which is basically good for 24 to 72 hours. That's probably the next venture this fall." So, why visit Mickey Finns, aside from the great food, great beer, and fantastic atmosphere? "I always say that there's a zillion restaurants, but when you come here, you really have an experience. There's fancier food, there's cheaper food. (But) we give a full-rounded restaurant experience." In his personal life, Grano is married with children, and is very active in the Libertyville community. He sponsors little league teams and the basketball program at the rec center. He and his wife are also big supporters of Misericordia.

space for private parties, and remains closed off unless there's an event. They host roughly 20-30 weddings a year, and are proud of the space they have to offer for those special occasions. "People don't want to spend thirty grand for a wedding, and they don't necessarily want it in a vacuum banquet hall. They want some place with atmosphere. And, a lot of the couples that get married here are customers, so it's nice to get married in a place where you love hanging out. And they can keep coming back after it's over. The kitchen is right across the hall, so they're getting freshly prepared food. Our kitchen has a full-time banquet staff, so we don't hire temps to work the parties. And I can't say this will go on forever, but every wedding we've had here, my wife, Jetta, and I have worked. Because we care and we know it's a big day for them."

On top of the wonderful restaurant space, Mickey Finns Brew is also the oldest working brewpub in Illinois. Grano's head brewer has been with him since

Visit soon and mention this article!
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Good Morning Ireland Radio Irish Party and Sweepstakes

The Irish Party & Sweepstakes drawing will take place on Saturday October 21st from 7pm at The Irish American Heritage Center - and you're invited!

The Irish Party is a CELEBRATION of our 12 years on the air - bringing you the Weekly Irish News, Sports, Music & More. The program is made possible by the loyalty and support of our wonderful advertisers and listeners like yourself who have supported our

previous fundraising efforts - without which, we would not be here.

In exchange for your \$100 donation, we'll enter your name in our sweepstakes with a chance to win the grand prize of \$10,000 or one of the many runner up cash prizes. Not only that, each ticket is good for ENTRY for TWO to our BIG Irish Party on October 21st featuring the very best in LIVE music, complimentary refreshments and a cash bar.



Piper, Tom Finnegan, and boxer, Henry Coyle at the rededication of the Grainne statue across the street from Old St. Patrick's Church, Chicago.



In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Chicago and Galway, the Grainne Sculpture and Garden has been rededicated.

Galway Sister City Chicago members listed with (GSCC)

Pictured (l to r): Councillor Pearce Flannery; Mayor of Galway City, Senator Billy Lawless; (GSCC), Donal Lyons; Galway City Council, Galway Bay FM's; Keith Finnegan, Toni Preckwinkle; Cook County Board President, Bill Gainer (GSCC); Ciarán Cannon TD; Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland, Lettie Close (GSCC), and Cyril Reagan (GSCC).

This is a wonderful opportunity for YOU to support the program, be in with a chance to win great prizes and attend the biggest Irish Party of the year!

This year we have a great lineup of musicians that promises to make it a night to remember. Country & Irish Star John Staunton will be doing one of his rare LIVE performances in Chicago. Joe Cullen, Kathleen Keane and Jerry Haughey will keep you waltzing and jiving all night long.

If you are in a position to help support the show by pledging \$100 in exchange for a Sweepstakes ticket and entry for two to the Irish party then please respond to this email, sean@goodmorningirelandradio.com, and we can send you a ticket.

You may also mail us a check and we will send you a ticket.

The Good Morning Ireland Radio Show 6706 N. Oliphant Avenue, Chicago IL 60631

Or Call Sean at (224) 715-8292

We'd like to thank you in advance for your support in making the program possible. We hope that with your help, we can continue to keep Good Morning Ireland on the air for as long as possible.

Irish Film Maker Taps Into Cuban-American Relations Through Lens of Tumultuous Elián Custody Battle

Elián, a documentary film about the young Cuban boy caught in the center of a tumultuous custody battle between his Cuban-based father and US relatives at the turn of the millennium, first aired on CNN Aug. 24, 2017. Here, its producer, Trevor Birney, of Belfast-headquartered Fine Point Films, reveals the sequence of events that led a group of Irish film makers to help produce this most American of stories.

By Trevor Birney

I happened to be in Miami on the night that President Obama was elected, and in Havana on the day he was inaugurated.

I watched the inauguration with Cubans in a small bar in Habana Vieja (old town) with everyone asking the same question: Would Obama be the President to end the embargo?

In Miami, I had read a story in the *Miami Herald* that reported a change in the Cuban American demographic. More & more young Cuban Americans were voting along different lines - not as their parents and grandparents had, simply voting for candidates who promised to bring down Castro.

These two experiences stuck in the recesses of my brain. I had followed the Elián Gonzalez story and I became convinced that he was the way to tell a story about American-Cuban affairs.

Having been a journalist covering the Irish peace process for many years, I could see the same mistrust, resentment, and open hostility that had been created from years of conflict. Families and governments had become estranged and the vacuum had been filled with half-truths and suspicion. Something was needed to break that deadlock.

In March last year, I was lucky enough to be back in Cuba for President Obama's trip. I was in the audience at El Gran Teatro de Havana to hear the President say that he'd come to Havana "to bury the last remnant of the Cold War in the Americas". It was a very powerful message. In the same speech he spoke of a "an evolu-

tion taking place inside of Cuba, a generational change."

Elián Gonzalez represents that change like no other in Cuba. He was virtually adopted by Fidel Castro after his return home in June, 2000. He's now in his early 20s, has graduated, and is just setting out on his own life's journey.

He's recognized wherever he goes and his opinions are respected. He could become a very significant figure in the future of Cuba. For the young people enjoying access to the internet and to the world outside Cuba, he represents strength of character, someone who respects and loves his family, and has always shown deep appreciation of the role of the Cuban people who came unto the streets in their hundreds of thousands to demand his return.

Just a few weeks after Obama had visited, we sat down with Elián and his father, Juan Miguel, for a day-long series of interviews in their home town of Cardenas. Juan Miguel wept as he heard his son recount the ordeal of experiencing his own mother's death at sea.

They hadn't talked about the crisis that had erupted after Elián was found floating in a tractor tube off the coast of Miami on Thanksgiving morning in 1999. For Juan Miguel the memories remain painful. It was his family on the other side of the Florida Straits who attempted to keep Elián in America.

We had been developing the project since spring 2013, and began filming in late 2015 with our final shoot at the time of Fidel Castro's death in November last year.

We had an Irish co-director in the hugely talented Ross McDonnell, from Dublin. Oisín Kearny from South Down was assistant producer. In total we made five trips to Cuba on the film.

Oscar-winning director, Alex Gibney, was executive Producer. And CNN Films came on board right at the outset, which helped make the documentary happen for us at Fine Point Films in Belfast.



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CULINARY ARTS: Kevin Dundon



MEDIA/JOURNALISM: Frank Mathie



VISUAL ARTS: Philip Gray



PERFORMING ARTS: Jim Sheridan

**PERSON OF THE YEAR: Joan Freeman,
Founder of *Darkness into Light***



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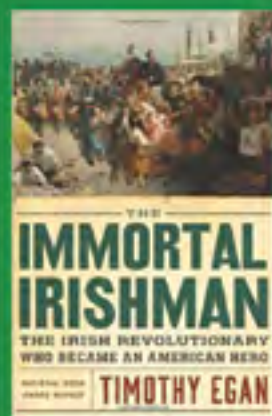


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Irish Navy Diver and Extreme Artist, Philip Gray, To Paint Live at iBAM! October 28-29

Philip Will Receive the iBAM! Award for his Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Art

By Cliff Carlson

Enterprise Ireland holds a January tradeshow in Dublin at the RDS (Royal Dublin Society Arena), and that's where I first met Irish artist, Philip Gray, in the late 1990's. It's a great time of year to get out of Chicago's Winter, and enjoy temps that can reach 55 degrees!

Philip is an unusual artist because he knows how to market, and he's comfortable in a crowd, and addressing a crowd. When an artist has great ability, can market and can communicate, it's a sure thing he or she will be successful!

Philip is going to be our featured artist, painting live in the art gallery at the Irish American Heritage Center over the last weekend in October, so we agreed on an interview

IAN: **Philip, what made you get into art?**

PG: When I was five years of age and very knowledgeable, (haha) I told my parents all I wanted to be an artist. So, I had a genuine interest in art and I used to use my art in church. I was sent to church three times on a Sunday and my little art notebook kept me entertained because the ladies in front of me used to wear these floppy hats that were decorated with fruit hanging out of them, so I had the perfect still life to sketch in church. That was my first element of wanting to be an artist.

IAN: **Where did you grow up in Ireland?**

PG: My parents moved quite a bit. They moved from Cork to Dublin and I remember when I was ten I used to pack a lunch on a Saturday and I used to cycle seven miles into the city and I would go to the National Gallery and sit there and eat my lunch while my buddies were out playing football, and then I would cycle seven miles back home.

We moved from Dublin to the Midlands in Ireland. The schools weren't great there and I had difficulty learning the Irish language. In order to complete my schooling, I would need Irish as one of the

subjects. So, I was sent to Belfast to a home for missionary children and I went to a day school. Unfortunately, it was very strict from a religious perspective. My sister went there as well. On one occasion both of us were politely asked to leave. Our father came to collect us. I then went to a school run by Americans in Kells in County Meath called Drewstown. There were only 28 students and that's where I finished my school-



ing. In that school, I failed my art exam. We didn't have a qualified art teacher in the school, and my work came back as a fail! When the school was asked why he failed, they said that they thought Philip was assisted by a tutor! They suggested that he not do as well on the retake of the test. So, I retook the test and I didn't do as well as I could. I did that and it's the first and last time I ever did that in my life! So I passed in the end by NOT doing as well as I could. I had secured a place in art college in Dublin, but I was so disillusioned in the art world relative to that so I decided not to go to art college.

I decided to have a bit of fun for the next few years. I love the sea so I joined the Irish Navy but trained with the British Navy as a diver. I only intended to spend 4 years, but I ended up spending 17 years in the Navy! During that

time I started to avidly paint again. Initially, I was only drawing, so I taught myself how to paint, and that progressed to the point where I started a little cottage style industry where I marketed my work of Irish scenery in Irish format. We did that for many years.

I took a break from the Navy for three years, and after the time was up, I just couldn't go back. I had to forfeit my Navy pension which I would have got in two and a half

years if I had continued. I had to sacrifice that if I were to continue my dreams as an artist. I viewed it as a monetary sacrifice, but it wasn't a direction sacrifice. Honestly, I never really thought about it. I had this kind of firm belief that if you love what you are doing and you do it well, the antidote of that is financial. During the time I was in the Navy and operating on the fringes outside of the Navy with my art, I was earning about twice the amount the Navy paid me, and my pension would be equivalent to someone I was already employing. Do I sacrifice the next two and a half years not to follow my dream just to get a pension? I suppose with the type of person that I was, it wasn't difficult to throw caution to the wind.

IAN: **Your style of marketing must have worked very well right from the beginning. I noticed the**

displays around Ireland with your art and no one else was marketing that way. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

PG: You're correct. I found a natural ability to be able to market. I had a flair for design and presentation and that obviously helped. I didn't know I had that in me. But I found that I did, unlike a lot of artists, as much as I wasn't the greatest in math, I understood a profit and loss and a balance sheet.

I found that interesting. I actually took to that like a duck to water. The minute you put a dollar or a pound sign in front of numbers, it kind of makes sense, you know?

IAN: **So you were marketing around the country, is that right?**

PG: Yes. It's interesting because they did a survey of the top ten brands in the country at that time and Waterford Crystal was number one and we were number 10! How that happened I don't know. It was interesting because they recognized the name, Philip Gray, as a

brand and not an artist. A lot of time people said, "is there really a Philip Gray?"

IAN: **Your art displays were in the Irish shops in America. When did you start doing that?**

PG: I suppose it was around 1999 or 2000. Then we started dealing with QVC in America and we did quite well with QVC. The interesting thing though is to be very careful about what you wish for because I ended up with 28 people employed and absolutely no time to paint. You know how you get those lightbulb moments? I used to go away to the beach around Christmas on a sun bed and I remember saying to myself, this is no good. I need

to change my life. I thought about how I could create the perfect life. I struggled with that question because it's almost too big a question so I said, well, . . . break it down. Design your perfect day. So I designed my perfect day and it had to include all the perfect balances in life, but equally, it had to include what I loved doing. So I multiplied that by seven and I had my perfect week, and then I multiplied that by 4 and I had my perfect month, and then I multiplied by 12 and I had my perfect year, and that was nearly 15 years ago. Now my perfect day/month/year/life incorporates, art, travel, and adventure.

Philip Gray didn't follow the rules. The first place I saw his art was in a building in Cobh where the ships always sailed to America and far away places, and where the Titanic left Ireland for the first time. The next time I visited Philip his uniquely designed office was in an old dockyard.

IAN: **You worked in Cobh in an old dockyard. How did that work?**

PG: Yes it was an old dockyard, and interestingly, the last ship that was built on that slipway was a ship called The Le Eithne, and it was that ship that I sailed on to America for the Statue of Liberty celebrations in 1986.

Little did I know that when I sailed on that ship from that dockyard that it would become my

studio. I subsequently moved my studio to Kinsale three years ago. What's even more amazing about my ship/office is the fact that The Le Eithne was recommissioned and was just recently used to rescue 712 people off the Libyan coast near Somalia! No one died in that rescue.

IAN: **How have you incorporated your perfect life into your work.**

PG: I expanded my art by painting

Continued to page 29

"FLOWING THROUGH THE VEINS OF OUR INNER BEING LIES A FIRE THAT WISHES TO BE BORN."



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VISUAL ARTS AWARDEE

Philip Gray

NEW DOCUMENTARY

In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America



CULINARY ARTS AWARDEE

Kevin Dundon



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in a different environment. I wanted to push myself physically, mentally, and spiritually. I thought it would be wonderful if I could combine my painting with my diving, and paint under the water. I told my buddies that I was going to try and do that. They said this won't take you out of your comfort zone because you used to be a diver and now you're an artist. If you did it with sharks running around then you would be out of your comfort zone. So, I said, okay! Let's do that.

So I set it up to dive in the Bahamas and dived where the sharks were while I painted.

IAN: Tell us about some of those adventures.

PG: Well, Iceland would be one. We dived in the cold water, and the dive included painting 1000 meters under the earth's surface in a lava tube created by one of Iceland's powerful volcanoes. The whole idea of that was when the volcano erupted in Iceland in 2010 it indicated to me that there is a lot of power under the earth that we don't realize. What does this all mean to me? I wrote the words, "flowing through the veins of our inner being lies a fire that wishes to be born." That indicates that we as individuals have a fire within us and all we have to do is find the right buttons to push.

Then there was Mount Everest. I was pretty naive at the time. I thought I could just go there and do it in a week and come back. I met up with a wonderful guy who had been there four times, and had buried friends on the mountain. He put me through a training regimen for a year in order for me to be able to paint at an altitude higher than anyone had painted before, 22,000 feet. The cold gets to you when you are that high up. It can go from +15 to -25 in the space of ten minutes! Your sweat turns to ice!

I was supposed to go back to Everest, but

unfortunately, a friend of mine that I had been training with died 50 meters from the summit. I was asked if I wouldn't go.

Later on, I was watching a video of Michael Jackson's "Earth Song," about the rain forest. I realized that in my lifetime maybe rain forests won't be in the next lifetime so I need to record that and experience the rain forest. I worked with a team and we went deep into the Borneo rain forest to meet up with the remotest tribe there, the Penan Tribe. I spent a month with them, and it was phenomenal. Philip also went diving to paint in the Cenotes Caves in Tulum, Mexico.

IAN: You were able to do all of this because of your art.

PG: Exactly. I suppose the art is the catalyst. It's wonderful because you are creating a new collection, and, because of the people I work with now, it allows me more time to paint. All I have to do is find my new collection, create my new collection and they do the rest.

IAN: I imagine your advice to people is to follow your dream as early as you can?

PG: Absolutely. Without a doubt. Never give up.

After Borneo, there was Antarctica where I wanted to paint under an iceberg. There was a team of about 16 divers that went to dive in Antarctica and I joined them. My objective was to paint under icebergs and I did.

Unfortunately, on the first day I was there we lost a Japanese diver, and the expedition was a big question mark because we were out in no man's land. We got permission to keep her on the boat in the freezer for the 10 days we were out there.

IAN: I have to ask the question. That could happen to you too? How are you with that?

PG: Oh, absolutely. I'm fine with it. I'm not reckless. Far from it. We put all safety factors as much as we can in place. Now, I'm heading out to Egypt's desert to dive in the Blue Hole which is named as the diver's graveyard because so many divers have lost their lives there. But, they have lost their lives because they haven't been careful.

You dive down and you can travel through this archway into the open sea. It lies at 50 meters and I think what happens because the water is so clear there they can see the archway, and they think, ah it's just down there and they go through it and don't have enough air to get back.

I'm training on new dive equipment

which is called a rebreather. We will be using mixed gases which with be nitrox and helium. I've been diving since I was in the Navy, but it's very interesting. It's almost like I'm right back at the beginning of school because learning trim and buoyancy in the Irish Navy wasn't a major factor. Basically, we were told, go down to the bottom, find what you are supposed to find, whether it was a body or whatever, and bring it up. Now in technical diving your trim and all of that is vital.

IAN: Tell us about your new gallery?

PG: We welcome visitors from America and of course, everywhere to the gallery. The UK is now my biggest market. They have my work in all the major galleries in the UK. They will buy everything that I paint. For me as an artist, when I put a blank canvas up on the easel, before I start, it's sold!



IAN: You have a new book. Tell us about it.

PG: The company that represents me wanted to do a book for the galleries so that it would record the different trips. It has sold out. They are reprinting and re-editing the book to include my trip to the Cenotes of Mexico.

It was in New York where I had my very first exhibition on the ship Le Eithne in 1986. Between the Twin Towers and the Statue of Liberty. Interestingly, on another trip to New York in 2001, I arrived back in Ireland on September 10th two and a half hours before the towers were hit. I'd been to the Twin Towers just the day before.

IAN: I see you've done a lot of charity work.

PG: Yes I have. Quite a bit with India and the Hope Foundation. I went through Calcutta, India with my daughter, and it was an eye opener to see how other people live and survive. I couldn't get my head around over 200,000 people in one location that are effectively homeless. Almost all of them have no passport, no birth register, no anything.

They are born, they die and no one knows.

It was Dolly Parton that actually embarrassed me into using my art for charity.

IAN: What did she do?

PG: She basically asked me, "What are you doing with your art? How are you using your art to help other people?" I said, "well I'm selling it." she said, "no no no! I don't mean that!"

She talked about her charity and told me I could do a lot of good with that. I thought, wow! Here is an amazing lady, Iconic, and the only thing that keeps her going is the fact that she is using her

talent to help other people. She donates millions to her charity.

When Philip comes to paint live at iBAM! he won't be bringing prints. He plans on painting a "special edition" just for iBAM! attendees to order, and it will be something that no one else will ever have except the person who buys the original.

If you are this far into the article, you probably have some questions of your own for Philip! If so, visit him on Saturday and Sunday, October 28th and 29th at the Irish American Heritage Center in the Art Gallery on the second floor! The Center is at 4626 N. Knox Avenue, Chicago IL 60630.

www.ibamchicago.com

www.philipgray.com



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Daniel O'Donnell

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The Genealogy of the House of O'Reilly

While on a trip to his homeland in 2008, Nikolaus Grüger, a renowned orchestral musician and book collector, discovered an Irish Eighteenth Century manuscript in an auction in Munich. Buy the Book!

Though from Germany, he had made his home in Ballycastle, Co. Antrim where he lived with his Irish wife, soprano Angela Feeney until ill health forced him to return to Germany. An affordable publication of this manuscript is the fulfilment of his most cherished dream.

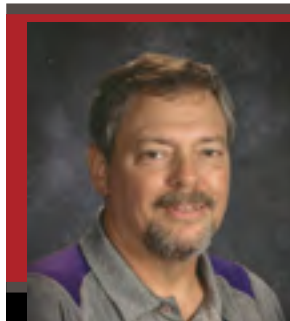
How the manuscript arrived in Munich is not known as the auctioneer had been sworn to secrecy

about its provenance. However, we know it was compiled by Chevalier Thomas O'Gorman, an Irish exile, prominent in the Royal French Court, and an avid collector of Irish manuscripts and Annals. It was commissioned by the Count Alexander O'Reilly, then a high official and diplomat in the service of the Spanish Crown, on the occasion of his eldest son's marriage to the aristocratic Countess Buenavista as proof of his family's nobility. It appears three copies were deposited in archives in Spain and Ireland and three copies were retained by the count and his family; apparently it was one of these which turned

up mysteriously at the auction in Munich.

Thomas O'Gorman took a scholarly approach to his work, avoiding outlandish claims and relying on an extensive range of the annals and sources available to him at the time. Using these, he traced the origins of the House of O'Reilly to several centuries before the coming of Christianity, outlining how Heber, Herimon and Ir came to Ireland from Spain and took possession of the country, ruling as monarchs and provincial kings of Ireland until Norman times and beyond. The House of O'Reilly, it is claimed, descends in a direct

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3:00 pm To 12 Midnight

line from Herimon through the O'Connors, Kings of Connacht and High Kings of Ireland. O'Gorman outlines how the legitimacy of this descent is validated in a detailed discussion of the Laws of Tanistry. There is also an interesting discussion of the emergence of Irish surnames from the period of Brian Boruma, with the application



of the patronymic name of Ua or Ó to the descendents of the 'valiant Chief Raghallagh'.

From this period and up to the Ulster plantation, the O'Reillys ruled Breifne, through internecine warfare with their neighbours and struggles with the English Crown. In hard times they found sanctuary in the woods, lakes and bogs of Breifne. In the good times they were shrewd managers of finances. The fourteenth and fifteenth centuries saw them coining their own money in defiance of the authorities in Dublin. They finally surrendered East Breifny to Queen Elizabeth in 1609 and their position was further undermined through the Ulster Plantation.

To this day O'Reillys and Reillys abound throughout Breifne. Countless numbers also inhabit the entire English speaking world, eminent in all areas of modern life. This manuscript is a reminder of who they once were.

About the Author

Chevalier Thomas O'Gorman was a native Irish speaker, born in 1732 in Clare into a prominent Catholic family. He went into exile, being barred from advancement in Ireland by the Penal Laws to study medicine in Paris and entered military service in France, earning the title Chevalier. *More at www.clachan-publishing.co.uk*

An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



Time Wasting

The failure of the Republican controlled Congress to pass even "a skinny version" of their health care bill is proof once again of the broken political system in Washington.

John McCain the seasoned Senator from Arizona cast the deciding vote that dealt another blow to the party's efforts at delivering on an oft-repeated promise, namely, to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. I don't always agree with Senator McCain, but on this occasion, I admire his strength of character and his statement in the Senate is worth remembering: "We must now return to the correct way of legislating and send the bill back to committee, hold hearings, receive input from both sides of aisle, heed the recommendations of nation's governors, and produce a bill that finally delivers affordable health care for the American people," he said. "We must do the hard work our citizens expect of us and deserve." And so say all of

us, it is past time for our legislators to leave aside party politics and work, as I have often stated in the past across the aisle, to achieve real results for all our citizens.

Speaking of wasting time, one has to question the actions and policies of the Trump administration and how they are wasting time on issues that are of no benefit to this country. For one, the senseless calls for the prosecution of Hillary Clinton. This pandering to his base may be of some use to Donald Trump's self satisfaction but Mr. President, you won the election, move on and put more energy into promoting policies that would make a real difference in the lives of hard working people across our nation.

Turning to immigration, Mr. Trump would do well to engage with Senators, McCain, Graham or Flake instead of giving air time to Senators Cotton and Perdue. Cotton and Perdue have a plan to slash legal immigration to this country. It would change the way green cards are issued from a system that largely favors a family based approach to one that is very heavily based on skills.

In studying this issue and listening to experts for fourteen years, I have never read or heard a convincing argument for what Senators Cotton and Perdue are proposing.

Fortunately, this bill is headed nowhere in the Senate. So, again, I would advise the Senators to heed Senator John McCain's advise and return to regular order in the hope of doing something meaningful for immigration reform.

Life Is Like A Journey On A Train

Life is like a journey on a train with its stations, with changes of routes and with accidents! At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. As time goes by, other people will board the



train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize that they vacated their seats! This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all the passengers...requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way - Love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life without us. I wish you a joyful journey for the coming years on your train of life. Reap success, give lots of love and be happy. More importantly, be thankful for the journey! Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on my train!

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

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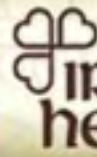
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UPCOMING CONCERTS AND PROGRAMS



PIOBAIRÍ

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, Free**



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. **Thursday, September 14, 7pm, Free**



Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party

The celebration features music from The Tossers, the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band and the Chancey Brothers. **Friday, September 15, 6pm-1am, \$10**



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, 6:30pm, \$5**



An Afternoon with Mark Twain: Life on the Mississippi

The IAHC's Gene Cooney portrays the American icon in a solo performance with music by Kathy Cowan and Chris Walz on vocals and banjo. **Sunday, September 17, 11am, \$20, Children 12 and under \$5**



Na Gaeil's Irish Language Classes

Learn the first language of Ireland in an informal and fun setting with the fall semester, which runs through mid-January 2018. **Saturday classes: 11am-1:30pm, beginning 9/16**
Wednesday classes: 7pm-9:30pm, beginning 9/20
\$100-\$125



Memoir and Creative Writing Classes

These ongoing workshops help fledgling and accomplished writers hone their skills in telling their stories for print. **September 19-October 24, Tuesdays, 4-6pm**
September 21-October 26 Thursdays from 7-9pm, \$60



Breakfast with the Board

Meet your 2017-2018 IAHC Board of Directors for Mass, a full Irish breakfast and the Chicago Bears game. **Sunday, September 24, 10:30am, \$12 adults and \$8 children 12 and under**



An evening with Author Karl Geary

Dublin born Karl Geary visits the IAHC Library to read from his novel, *Montpelier Parade*, his powerful debut about a doomed romance in 1980's Dublin. **Tuesday, September 26, 7pm, Free**



Tea with Hedda Hopper

Have tea with Gossip's Queen of Hollywood at another in our Saturday Morning Tea Series. Enjoy tea, sandwiches and scones while learning about the gossip columnist, notorious for her influence during Hollywood's Golden Age. **Saturday, October 14, 11am, \$25**



That Belongs in a Museum

Enjoy a show-and-tell program infused with Irish and Mexican music with the Chicago Cultural Alliance and Casa Michoacan, as part of the Inherit Chicago's city-wide series. Tell your own story by bringing a special object that represents your culture. **Friday, October 20, 6:30pm, Free**

iBAMI Irish Books, Arts and Music Celebration

In its 8th year, iBAMI Irish Books, Arts and Music Celebration brings authors, artists, musicians, lecturers and filmmakers together for a weekend of Irish culture. Highlights include a John Hume documentary, a reading with *New York Times* columnist 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, ibamchicago.com**



LÚNASA
LIVE at the IAHC
in a **FREE ALL AGES** show
Thursday, September 14, 2017 • 7pm

Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party

The Tossers
Shannon Rovers
Irish Pipe Band
Chancey Brothers

GUINNESS
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Friday, September 15, 2017, 6pm-1am

MARK TWAIN
Life on the Mississippi

A solo performance featuring
IAHC President Gene Cooney
Sunday, September 17, 2017 • 11am



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President's Message

As families get back into the routine of school and activities, here at the IAHC, we are back to the business of hosting a full roster of classes, concerts and programs that represent the best in Irish culture. We have exciting programs planned for this fall



and kick it off with our first-ever partnership with the City of Chicago's at the World Music Festival. We're bringing legendary band Lúnasa here on Thursday, September 14 at 7:30pm for a free, all-ages concert celebrating this epic band's 20th anniversary. The next night, we honor the halfway mark to the High Holy Days with the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party with the Tossers, Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band and the Chancey Brothers. The party is from 6pm to 1am and tickets are \$10.

On Sunday, September 17 at 11am take a steamboat ride down the Mississippi River with yours truly as I embody the wit and spirit of Mark Twain with a solo program, *An Afternoon with Mark Twain: Life on the Mississippi*. Tickets are \$25 for this program of stories and live music.

Bring your appetite and firm handshake to

meet members of the 2017-18 IAHC Board of Directors at the 3rd annual Breakfast with the Board on Sunday, September 24. I will be serving, not cooking, so fear not. It's a great way to catch up with the IAHC community and meet your new board. Mass is at 10:30am and the breakfast follows

at 11:30am. Stay for the Bears game at noon. Tickets are \$12 for adults and children 12 and under are \$8.

The craic gets better each Thursday night in the Fifth Province at our Thursday night Irish music sessions and The Craic Radio Show. We tape the show with special guests at 6:30pm and the live music starts at 7pm. The show airs each week from 8-9pm on WSBC 1240AM.

I want to thank the Building Committee for the installation of the new cooling unit in the Fifth Province, replacing the original unit after some 25 years. The reconstruction of the women's bathroom is delayed due to all the activities that we have planned this year, but is one of the next projects we have planned for the future.

We look forward to a great fall here at the IAHC.
Eugene M. Cooney
President

September 2017

9/1	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	Room 111	8pm
9/2	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Am Room	8pm
9/6	Tara Club Mass	Room 304	10am
9/9	Piobairi	Fifth Province	6pm
	St. Patrick Fathers Social	Fifth Province	8pm
9/10	IAHC Book Club <i>The Trespasser</i> by Tana French	Library	1pm
9/14	Lunasa in Concert	Auditorium	7pm
9/15	Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party	Auditorium and Fifth Province	6pm
	Shamrock American Club Meeting	Sham Am Room	8pm
9/16	Anam Cara Storytelling	Library	6:30pm
9/17	<i>Life on the Mississippi</i>		
	Mark Twain Performance	Fifth Province	11am
9/19	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7pm
9/20	Tara Club Monthly Musical Gathering	Room 304	11am
9/24	Breakfast with the Board Mass	Auditorium	10:30am
	Breakfast with the Board Breakfast	Fifth Province	11:30am
	Genealogy Workshop	Library	1pm
9/26	Karl Geary Author Appearance	Library	7pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Mon-Fri	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	4pm-8pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
	Memoir Class (beginning 9/19)	Library	4pm
	Set Dancing	Room 111	7:30-9:30pm
Wed	Traditional Irish Music Session	Room 311	7pm
	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
	Na Gaeil Language Class (beginning 9/16)	Library and Room 306	6:45pm
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
	Memoir Class (Beginning 9/21)	Library	7pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	10am-8pm
	Na Gaeil Language Class (beginning 9/20)	Library	10:45am

Library Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 2pm | Wednesday 4pm to 8pm | Saturday 10am to 2pm

No Cover

Free Parking



the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

SEPTEMBER ENTERTAINMENT

- 9/1 The Harp and Shamrock Band
- 9/2 Kieran Byrne
- 9/8 Joe McShane
- 9/9 St. Patrick Fathers
- 9/15 Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party 6pm, \$10
- 9/16 TBA
- 9/22 Jeff Ward
- 9/23 the Dooley Brothers
- 9/29 Francis O'Neill Ceili Weekend Music
- 9/30 Francis O'Neill Ceili Weekend Music



Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions: September 7, 14, 21 and 28; 7pm



Classes in music and dance for children are back for the fall. Visit www.irish-american.org to view the schools who make the IAHC their home.

The Heritage Line Staff

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor
Contributors: Meg Buchanan, Gene Cooney, Laura Coyle, Ellen Folan, Catherine Kelly, Sheila Murphy, Mike Shevlin, Becky Tatz



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Hibernian Transmedia and
Gene Siskel Film Center present
3rd Annual**

**Irish American
MOVIE HOOLEY**

**September 29, 30, and October 1, 2017
moviehooley.org**

The Dunning Man

USA • Chicago Premiere

Friday, September 29, 8:00 pm

Writer / Producer Kevin Fortuna in Person!



Emerald City

USA • Chicago Premiere

Saturday September 30, 8:00 pm

*Writer / Director / Star Colin Broderick
and actor John Duddy in Person!*



The Young Offenders

Ireland • Chicago Big Screen Premiere

Sunday, October 1, 5:00 pm

Producer Julie Ryan in Person!



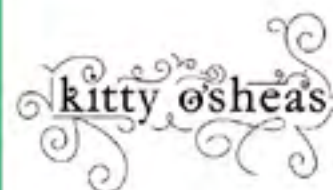
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Wanted: Information on Irish Jews in Chicago From About 50-60 Years Ago

My family came over from Ireland to America in 1854. They were starving in Ireland and they were Jewish. My father, Alav Basholom, used to take us to an Irish synagogue in Bridgeport, on Emerald Avenue & 33rd Street.

I grew up in Armour Square and Bridgeport. This was about 60 years ago.

I am interested in finding out more about Irish Jews in Chicago. Please send any information you may have to editor@irishamericannews.com.



The Marble Jar

More than ever, in our modern and fast paced society, it is important that we slow down now and again to take stock of what is really important in our lives. The following anecdote was relayed by a friend of mine who happened to hear it on the radio some years ago.

One day a very successful entrepreneur in his mid forties was being interviewed on the radio and was talking about all the millions he was making for the company he worked for and all that he could buy with his salary. The telephone rang at the radio station and a caller asked him did he ever hear about the 'marble jar'? The caller said it was proposed to him when he was 52 years old, and it went like this.....

The average male lives until he is 75, and with 23 years left this was about 1000 weeks. He went into town, bought 1000 marbles and placed them in a large jar. Each Saturday he threw one out. As the contents of the jar began to go down he became more focused on the important things in life such as his family, their health, and making time for his friends and other important stuff like that. Today was Saturday and he had just thrown away the last marble.

The radio interviewer asked the man what he was going to do that day. He said that he was

going to bring his wife a cup of tea to wake her up and then later they would go out for some breakfast, do some shopping, meet some friends for lunch, have a nap at about 3pm, and afterwards go into the garden to smell the flowers, listen to the birds and do a small bit of gardening. That evening he would read the paper, have dinner, and hopefully God would wake him up again the next day.

Watch the marbles go down and focus on what is really important to us. Life does not last forever and sometimes we have to be visually reminded of this fact. Pull on the brakes now and then, step back, take a good look around, enjoy what you have and make the most of the time remaining. Of course, if people concentrated on the really important things in life, there would be a shortage of fishing rods!

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 resident in Connemara, Co. Galway since 2009.

Irish American Movie Hooley to Present 3 Film Premieres In 2017

By Mike Houlihan

When a party gets rowdy, the Irish call it a "hooley."

Barbara Scharres, program director of The Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago, and Irish American radio personality Mike Houlihan announced their three selections for the upcoming third annual "Irish American Movie Hooley" at the Siskel Film Center



Colin Broderick

September 29, 30th and October 1st 2017.

2 Gingers Irish Whiskey will once again present the Movie Hooley, opening Friday night, September 29, 2017 at 8Pm with the Chicago premiere of *The Dunning Man*, the brilliant cinematic debut of Irish American writer Kevin Fortuna. *The Dunning Man* tells the tale of Irish American lad Connor Ryan; out of a job and dumped by his girlfriend, he returns to Atlantic City to try to rebuild his life. In the midst of naked hip-hop groupies, gangsters, gambling, and gunplay, comes one helluva scary, sexy, and very funny love story. The screening will be followed immediately by audience discussion with writer/producer Fortuna and follow up with an opening night reception at The Emerald Loop Pub on Wabash.

Saturday night September 30th at 8pm, the Hooley will present the Chicago premiere of the award-winning *Emerald City*, Colin Broderick's keen portrayal of Irish emigrant construction gangs in New York that debuted at the London Irish Film Festival and most recently at the Belfast Film Festival and 2017 Manhattan Film Festival. New York Irish Arts called it "a cinematic gem that may speak for a generation."

The Ulster Herald called it "an emotional haymaker" and *The Irish Echo* said it delivers "colossal laughs and monumental heartbreak". Writer, director and star of the film, Colin Broderick will attend the screening and discussion.

Sunday afternoon October 1st will host the big screen Chicago premiere of *The Young Offenders*

at 5pm, the hit comedy currently breaking box office records in Ireland and all over the world. *The Guardian* said, "An Irish buddy movie that has already set domestic box-office records, this tale of a pair of gloriously feckless 15-year-old aspiring drug dealers has a homegrown charm that is hard to resist." Producer Julie Ryan will be in attendance for the screening and discussion afterwards.

Hooley producer Mike Houlihan says, "All 3 films bring their own cheeky spirit to the Hooley, and we're thrilled with this trio of dazzlers to showcase our festival that weekend."

Now in its 45th year of public programming, the Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) has presented world-class independent, in-

ternational, and classic cinema. Renamed in honor of the late film critic in 2000, the Gene Siskel Film Center presents approximately 1,500 screenings and 100 guest artist appearances each year to over 65,000 film enthusiasts at its unique, sophisticated, modern facilities, which have been operating since June 2001 at 164 N. State Street in Chicago.

"We at the Gene Siskel Film Center are pleased to once again team up with Hibernian Transmedia presenting the latest and the best work by Irish and Irish American filmmakers. The 2016 Irish American Movie Hooley played host to enthusiastic audiences eager to discuss the films. It's a great way to create community around the work and to provide a boost to emerging talent. This is what our mission is all about." said Siskel Program Director Barbara Scharres. Sponsors of The 3rd Annual Irish American Movie Hooley include 2 GINGERS Irish Whiskey, The Hilton Chicago, McCann's Irish Oatmeal, and The Emerald Loop Irish bar and grill around the corner from the Siskel Center at 216 North Wabash.

For more information about the Movie Hooley, visit: <http://moviehooley.org>

All screenings and events are at the Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 164 N. State St.

Tickets at the Gene Siskel Film Center's website www.siskelfilmcenter.org Discounted parking is available for \$18 for 10 hours at the InterPark SELF-PARK at 20 E. Randolph St. A rebate ticket can be obtained from the Film Center Box Office.

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The Dunning Man Kicks Off 3rd Annual Irish American Movie Hooley

By Mike Houlihan

We chose Kevin Fortuna's new film *The Dunning Man* to open our 3rd Annual Irish American Movie Hooley. Though it's the work of a first time filmmaker, Fortuna's flick bears the confident Irish swagger of a great storyteller. But what's with that last name, Fortuna?

"My mother is an Irish citizen, and her family hails from Cobh, County Cork."

I'll attest to his Irish bonafides as well, because with this film he has created a memorable young Irish

But unlike Rodney, Kevin got respect, turned his thesis into the critically acclaimed story collection, financed his film and hired his old buddy, high school lit teacher Michael Clayton, to write and direct the screenplay based on the lead story, which everyone kept telling him, "this is a movie."

It is now, we believe, a classic Irish American movie.

Clayton has done a masterful job of opening up the story for the screen and delivering a powerful punch to an already affable yarn.



American character, Connor Ryan, who fights almost overwhelming odds to discover a better version of himself. And Fortuna pulls it off in a very funny, scary, and sexy love story, *The Dunning Man*.

The film is based on the lead story in Fortuna's celebrated short story collection that Esquire lauded in 2014, calling *The Dunning Man*, a "funny, explosive, and disarmingly moving" story about "people like you and me."

I was sold on the film as I watched a huge, snarling Russian gangster with a bullwhip in one hand, wrapping his other hairy mitt around Connor Ryan's throat trying to get what he wants and Connor snarls back at him, "I'm Irish. You have no idea how stubborn I can be!"

Fortuna's personal story is cinematic as well. He left the MFA Creative Writing program at the University of New Orleans in 1995 to go build high-tech startups, made a boatload of dough, and returned 13 years later to finish school. Sounds like Rodney Dangerfield in "Back to School".

Fortuna tells me, "Michael Clayton is a genius."

I'd say they both are.

The Dunning Man takes place in Atlantic City, where Connor is clinging to some old real estate trying to survive with wack-job tenants trying to kill him, a rap mogul on sabbatical with his harem of groupies, and a single mom who moonlights as a dealer at the casino next door, who steals his heart.

When Fortuna signed up his friend Clayton to write the script, he took him to Atlantic City for a weekend, to meet his uncle Harry Sweeney, a legendary Atlantic City character, who took the lads on a tour of all his old haunts.

Kevin says, "Atlantic City is a weird place, it's a land of dreams tried...and dreams failed."

"AC" as they refer to it, becomes a character in itself in this stunning first feature, and Fortuna takes us back to the halcyon days of the gamblers paradise with spectacular archival footage of those bad old days.

Harry Sweeney inspired a key character in the film, as Uncle

Bishop, an older mentor who took Connor under his wing when his folks died, and tries to steer him clear of the bad guys who seem to be around every corner in *The Dunning Man*.

Director Clayton speculates on this earnest Irish American lad's journey in the film, Connor keeps trying to do the right thing but the world keeps getting in the way. "Being the good guy is harder, it always is."

But he continues trying to do the right thing. For almost a decade Kevin Fortuna has served on the board of the Irish-born charity, Concern Worldwide US, the American division of the international humanitarian organization that works to transform the lives of the world's poorest people (www.concernusa.org).

How Irish is that?

The Dunning Man makes its Chicago premiere at The Gene Siskel Film Center on Friday, September 29th. Please join us! (<http://moviehooley.org>)

Emerald City Sneaks Up On You

By Mike Houlihan

Colin Broderick's film *Emerald City* sneaks up on you.

You're watching a gang of a half dozen or so New York City construction workers starting their day, shaping up for the job, each of them is unique, all of them Irish emigrants. You've seen it all before of course: the laughter, the fights, the boozing. But suddenly, simple moments of pure honesty break through the bravado. Maybe a look, a smile, or a character telling somebody, "I was lonely."

Then just like that, you're hooked on this compelling story of Irish men at work, struggling to find their way in America.

Writer, director, and star Colin Broderick tells me, "People get somewhat inadvertently involved in these guys lives. It's not like they're the nicest guys. They're troubled, there's alcoholism, depression, there's elements of racism, all the kind of stuff that sort of exists in an Irish workplace, unspoken, but yet its somehow all forgiven, when you view them as a

whole, as a unit, so much gets forgiven, because what you eventually wind up seeing, and I think people recognize it, is their humanity."

Colin arrived in New York from County Tyrone in 1988, after too many close calls in Northern Ireland where several of his friends were killed in the Loughgaul ambush in '87. His mother's family had a history of IRA involvement. "My uncle Paddy Joe McLain is one of the 'hooded men'. He was captured and tortured by the British. He's one of six of them still alive."



Colin's mother saved his life when she urged him to emigrate. "She pretty much laid the gun in my lap, and said 'Here's what will happen.'"

His cousin hooked him up with a construction job when he got to New York. "When I arrived there was 15 of us cousins living in a two-bedroom apartment in Yonkers."

He lived several lifetimes in those next ten years plus in New York; working construction, reading, writing, doing drugs and drinking; mostly drinking. Thank God he stopped doing that. He wrote a critically acclaimed memoir "Orangutan", that documents it all and left this reader thinking that maybe Colin Broderick has had a guardian angel looking out for him.

Another memoir, "That's That", was published in 2013, about The Troubles and growing up in Tyrone.

And lately his life has been all about this terrific new film, *Emerald City*, which Colin wrote, directed, and starred in, along with his brother Brendan, former Irish boxer John Duddy, and a crew of unforgettable actors, many of whom will be joining us in Chicago for the premiere at The Third Annual Irish American Movie Hooley.

"Filmmaking and writing is a much tougher racket ...I certainly made more working construction as a carpenter in one year than I've made in years as a writer. The only way to survive really is to keep moving."

Two days before shooting began on *Emerald City*, one of Colin's investors pulled out, along with the sixty grand he had promised to kick in. Colin says, "I had an 18-day shoot lined up with a full production company and I don't have any money."

But Colin had done a short film called SMILE and actor Brendan Coyle, Mr. Bates from Downton Abbey, had seen it on YouTube and said "if you're ever making a movie and you need help, reach out to me."

It was Mr. Bates to the rescue and Coyle became executive producer of *Emerald City*. There's that guardian angel of yours again Colin Broderick, sneaking up on you.

Please join us in Chicago on Saturday, September 30th at the Gene Siskel Film Center for the Chicago premiere of *Emerald City*, and meet the gang!

The Irish Fellowship Club Hosts New Members Reception at O'Brien's Riverwalk Cafe

Board members of the Irish Fellowship Club take time out to meet new members at a reception held at O'Brien's Riverwalk Cafe, Chicago. "It's important that the new members have an opportunity to meet the Irish Fellowship's Board of Directors, and know how important they are to our club," said Chris Kozicki, Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago President, 2017.



(l to r): Vince Winters, Kevin Conlon and Peter O'Brien.



(l to r): Hon. John Griffin, Bill and Mrs. O'Sullivan Dianne O'Connell (redhead).



(l to r): Lyn McKeane, Peg O'Ryan Lombardo.



(l to r): John David Mooney, Siobhan and Chris Kozicki, and Irish Counsel General Brian O'Brien.



(l to r): Kathy Taylor, Katina Panagopoulos.



(l to r): Vince Winters, Jack Hartman, Tim Fitzgibbon.



(l to r): Bryan Lynch, James Burke and new members of the IFC.





The GAA's Continental Youth Championship (CYC) was held in Buffalo NY July 27 - 30. The CYC is with largest tournament of Irish sports held outside of Ireland with 2,500 youth participants from cities throughout the United States and Canada. Three Chicago Irish youth football clubs participated in the four day tournament - the Windy City Gaels, Chicago Celtics and the St. Jarlath's. The four day tournament includes hundreds of Irish football, hurling and camogie games for youth aged 6 years to 18.

Nathan Carter North American Tour Includes Chicago Special Guest Chloë Agnew

2017 has been an exciting year for the Irish singing sensation Nathan Carter, as he embarks on his debut tour of North America and Canada from 8th September – 24th September. Nathan is a huge star in Ireland, and just can't wait to bring his music to the USA, and he plays the



Copernicus Theatre Chicago on Friday 15th September!

Nathan's USA /Canada tour follows the release of his hugely successful PBS TV show 'CELTIC ROOTS', which has received great reviews since its initial broadcast in June of this year - it's a non stop show of Irish favorites, such as Home to Donegal and the Irish Rover , big ballads like Caledonia and the Town I love so well, and features the golden voice of special guest Chloë Agnew [formerly of Celtic Woman] performing 'Grace ' and another old favorite 'Hard Times`.

Nathan's Celtic Roots Tour begins on 8th September in the Hochstein theatre Rochester, with shows in Kingston Ontario, Toronto, Detroit, Milwaukee, Chicago, Wisconsin Dells, Davenport, Pittsburgh, Scranton and Boston.

Don't miss this huge talent when he appears in the Copernicus theatre Chicago on Friday 15th September at 7pm.

Box Office: 1-877-987-6487

www.copernicuscenter.org/nathan-carter
www.nathancartermusic.com

Review: Nathan's recent appearance on

BBC 1's The One Show caused OK magazine to state 'viewers were left swooning over a dishy singer named Nathan Carter', and it's not hard to appreciate why.

Nathan's voice has a mellifluous clarity and tone which, on occasion emotes clearly his own passion for the songs and what being Irish means to him. His voice almost falters as he sings a cover of Bagatelle's Summer in Dublin recorded live at The Three Arena, Dublin. On Jen Bostic's Jealous Of The Angels, which features on his latest album one can imagine Nathan thinking about the loss of those close to him, enough to bring the most stoic of us to tears.

In the grand tradition of Country music Nathan's selection of tracks on Livin' The Dream tell stories. The title track encourages us to get up and start the day, its catchy beat already a toe tapper than cannot be ignored. Its video is filmed in Nashville as if to endorse his arrival in both senses.

Never more so does Nathan's voice evoke the Irish folk tradition than in the sombre Ned of the Hill (Eamonn an Chnoic). Covered by many before him, including the Pogues

Holdin' A Good Hand a cover of Rob Crosby and Jonny Few's song recorded backing the early 1980s by the controversial Lee Greenwood, Rollin' Home is a cover of the Status Quo track.

With many other gems to uncover, this album is by far one of Nathan's best and shows a vocal maturity and personal growth for which he is yet to receive recognition.

Nathan is not your run of the mill pop star. Yes, he has youth and model looks, an army of female fans, many crave. It is what he performs that sets him apart from his peers. - Irish/ Country music with a fine voice which stands apart whether complimented with his live band or against solo piano accompaniment.

In Ireland Nathan outsold One Direction, Pharrell Williams and Michael Buble, and became the first country act to reach number one in the Irish charts

Continued on next page

Nathan CARTER

Debut North American Tour

"He has taken the Irish music scene by storm. Now it's time we shared him with the rest of the world."

Daniel O'Donnell



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Tickets at nathancarter.ca

Presented by Attila Glatz Concert Productions

Nathan Carter

Continued from previous page

in 2013 after Garth Brooks, six years before.

He topped the Irish charts with his fifth album 'Where I Wanna Be', and again with his recent Irish disc 'Livin' The Dream' which is released in the UK on the 29th September 2017. Each disc features Nathan's unique blend of Celtic, country and pop sounds! Not bad for the cherubic former head choir boy who sang for Pope John Paul II in Rome and President Bill Clinton.

'Livin' The Dream' contains a strong message to aspiring singer/songwriters. As one who is now enjoying the fruits of success, it's been a long journey which began aged four with a visit to the local Irish Centre in Liverpool with his grand parents, along with hard graft over the years.

In the great tradition of Country music singer/songwriters, Nathan was brought up as Roman Catholic and started out 'in the church' as the expression goes. The Catholic guilt never so strong as when he lost a medallion icon his grandfather gave him; a 'good luck' gesture. When he finally 'fessed up, expecting some form of remonstrance his grandfather's response took him by surprise. 'Maybe the charm is now giving the finder good luck?'

Nathan's family originate from Newry, Co. Down but he was born on the 28th May 1990 and grew up in Liverpool. He soon learned to play the accordion and trips to Ireland to compete in Fleadh Ceoil's became a regular feature of young Nathan's life. By the age of 12 Nathan won All Ireland medals for singing, and accordion. He became a member of the Liverpool Ceili band, playing accordion and piano, and solo performances soon followed.

On a trip to Donegal in 2009, Nathan was appearing in concert in Buncrana, where he met with songwriter John Farry. So impressed was Farry that representation soon followed and the rest, as they say, is history.



On the Upbeat

By Maryann McTeague Keifer

These are busy months with almost overwhelming opportunities to enjoy live music and the many new albums being debuted. I am just going to be able to scratch the surface, but let's give it a go!

On their first US tour, the talk of the summer has been the incredibly talented group Connla who hail from Armagh and Derry. Featuring Paul Starrett on guitar, Conor Mallon on uilleann pipes and low whistles, Ciara McCafferty on vocals and bodhran, Emer Mallon on harp, and Ciaran Carlin on flute and whistles, this band's songs, tunes, and craic have wowed audiences! Their CD River Waiting was released in 2016, and if you do not have it, you are missing a gem in your collection. Their arrangements and compositions are interesting and exciting, and each song takes you on a journey. All are masters of their instruments, and it was such a pleasure watching people walking by the stage tent, stopping in their tracks, and coming in when they heard the music. Even better was seeing the guys in the beer line turn, stop talking, and face the stage when Ciara started singing "Julie". I, myself, cannot get "Saints and Sinners" out of my head. Connla is well on its way to being the highlight of fests and venues here and abroad. They are "The Buzz"!

For those of you who lament not having music sessions near you, Kevin Crawford of Lunasa fame and ace on flute and whistles, has joined much sought after guitarist Patrick Doocey and last year's All Ireland fiddle

winner Dylan Foley recently releasing THE DRUNKEN GAUGERS. No frills or extra musicians here, and definitely not needed, the tunes are well chosen, and throughout the



album, feature each of these three on their instruments. You can't do better, and this brilliant collection of excellently played tunes is a definite must own for Trad lovers.

A recent arrival has been a real pleasure and has already been played multiple times at my house. Paving and Crigging by Patrick D'Arcy, Kira Ott, and Jimmy Murphy, known as Rattle the Knee, have put together a brilliant collection of tunes and songs. Based on the B pipes, Patrick has featured tunes inspired by the playing of Seamus Ennis and Liam O'Flynn, and influenced by Isaac Alderson, Jimmy O'Brien-Moran, and others. They live in California, but Patrick's wife is a Vogt, one of the founding families of Tinley Park, so there are Midwestern roots, so perhaps we can get them here to play for us soon!

I am always amazed at what a big sound can come from the tiny concertina. The recently released The Lane by Liam O'Brien is an absolute joy for all of us who love this instrument! Listening to Liam play,

one begins to believe that his concertina is an extension of himself. Smooth, fluid, at ease yet powerful are all ideas you get as you listen. Liam is truly one of the best! A student of Noel Hill, Liam is now a teacher at the Willy Clancy School and was recently named TG4's Young Musician of the Year. The Socks lads were staying with me a few weeks ago, and Fiachra was going through my pile of new cds. He lit up when he saw Liam's and told me I was going to love it. "Brilliant, he is just brilliant!" were his words, and he is. Another musician who felt the same way was Maurice Lennon who wrote album introduction—quite a tribute! I am having trouble choosing a favorite cut, but "An Buachailin Donn" and "Lizzy in the Lowground"

are leading the list.

For those of you who love fusion, there is a group you'll

want a "heads up" on, and that is Pete's Posse. Folk fiddler Pete Southerland along with fiddler Oliver Scanlon and guitarist Tristan Henderson have produced an album that fuses Trad, folk, jazz, and rock. The Conversation is a delight to listen to either trying to figure out just where the tune is going, or sitting back and letting it take you on its ride. With depth in several genres, these three have created a very different, very interesting and exciting sound. Let their music grab you and stretch your listening.

Last, but certainly not least, is Cordeen's Musical Bridge. Comprised of Danu's Benny McCarthy, Graham Wells, Conor Moriarity, and Billy Sutton, Cordeen is the native term in Newfoundland for the button box, and that is exactly what this album is all about. Slides, hornpipes, jigs, reels, and polkas are featured by these master accordion/melodian players. The tunes are varied as are the styles, and the album is quite a treat to listen to!

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Don't Let Your Job Search Get You Down!

I have been an executive outplacement consultant for a lot of years. Once when I was looking for a job myself I developed a list of things that I could do to keep my spirits up during this potentially humbling process. Perhaps my list will be of value to you.

It's a list that comes after the obvious "technical" steps you need to succeed in the interviewing process: a great resume, development of an excellent verbal presentation, and the acquisition of pertinent information regarding your potential employer. Such preparation will also likely be of some real value once you have won the job.

Develop a mantra that will assist you in maintaining a positive mental attitude. Professional speaker Brian Tracy recommends repeating the same phrase over and over, such as "I am a great salesman" before every sales call, major presentation or interview. It is hard to feel badly about yourself while you are saying such a phrase over and over. If you try this, you will very likely come across better in any discussion. Always project the appearance that you are doing well. Do not allow your conversational tone to become whiney or negative. Not many people want to engage with a complainer.

Seek out and spend time

around people who reinforce your positive image, whether they be family, friends, colleagues, or former/future clients. Create a calendar for meeting such people. They will remind you of those outstanding aspects of your background. You sometimes tend to forget your own achievements when you are under pressure driven by the job search environment.

Create situations in which you can achieve some victories. We all need to be reassured about our competencies. A friend of mine took a French lesson (his passion) every Tuesday afternoon during his outplacement process; it fed his "soul". Set a goal for yourself and then achieve it. Make a game of it. Succeed in these games.

Maintain your physical health as well as your mental health. Eat properly: five or six small meals during the day, rather than the traditional larger three. This regimen helps control your blood sugars keeping them from becoming extreme. Exercise regularly. Subject your body to some rigors, whether it is running, swimming, weight lifting or other aerobic exercises. Not only will it keep your muscles toned, it will also help keep your mind toned. Get 7 or 8 hours of good sleep every night. Go to bed and get up on a regular schedule. Sleep is a great restorer of energy and perspective. Fatigue makes

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



cowards and idiots of us all.

Be sure that you don't lose your laughter. Work at maintaining it in your life. Adults only laugh about 15 times a day; while children commonly laugh 400 times each day. Be a child....in this matter.

Establish a support group of 3-4 people who are also in the job searching mode. Create an agenda for monthly meetings with these individuals that do not allow for any carping or complaining, but rather focus on your achievements, however small. All conversations must be positive in their orientation.

Listen to audio recordings by people like Wayne Dyer and Peter McLaughlin. Read their best-selling books, such as "Mentally Tough" by McLaughlin & Loehr. Watch positive, upbeat videos by inspirationalists like Zig Ziglar and Frank Bucaro. TED has some terrific presentations that could give you some ideas you could use during your interviews. Read upbeat biographies of highly successful people in the field to which you aspire. Besides being inspiring and uplifting, it will also expand your knowledge in the field.

Read basic primers on the job search process. You may lose some of the impact of your presentation by shortcutting it a bit too much. If you doubt the value of thorough follow through, watch how a professional golfer executes his backswing each and every time; or, how good basketball players go through the same routine before shooting a free throw.

Help another job seeker. Psychologists say that this act is most particularly effective if the other job seeker is NOT in a position to help you. Keep your assistance to yourself.

Part of the joy comes from knowing that although you're under a lot of pressure, you have helped somebody else. It will make you feel better about yourself.

Develop a system for rewarding yourself. If you have a particularly good interview, pat yourself on the back. Take your significant other out for dinner at a nice restaurant. Go for a walk and try that double dip yogurt treat. The job search process is notorious for removing celebration from our lives; don't let it do that to you.

Establish a "job talk free zone". Have an agreement with your significant other that you will not discuss the job search during a selected 24 hour period during the week. It may take some of the strain out of your relationship.

Put yourself firmly in charge of your job search. Too often people allow others (search consultants, human resources officials, or personal contacts) to control the tempo of the process.

Establish a target date for accepting your new position. It will feed your ego; it will reinforce the self-control concept. It will create a sense of urgency and energy. Consider it your horizon; the start of your new business life. CARPE DIEM

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: "Don't sweat the small stuff....and it's all small stuff." Check out "Simple Ways to Keep the Little Things from Taking Over Your Life" by Richard Carlson, Ph.D. and author of this Best Selling book.

James F. Fitzgerald is 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.

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



Found a Gem in the Michigan Pineywoods

Having survived August, or most of it as I write this, I look forward to one of my favorite festivals this month, the Michigan Irish Music Festival in Muskegon, MI, September 14 thru the 17th at Heritage Landing in downtown Muskegon. Great folks, great music, great food and great fun overall is



what's on offer there. In August we stumbled on another delightful small festival, the Sparta Michigan Celtic Festival, 2nd weekend every August. Now you can practically throw a stone from Sparta to Muskegon, so I figure it's something in the water that results in a cluster of nice festivals like that. They both leave me feeling good. So if you're looking for a late summer getaway, try Muskegon, and remember Sparta next August. For more info check out www.MichiganIrish.org.

Got an interesting trio of cds to discuss this month, one Scottish, one Irish and one Canadian, all very unique, different and appealing. First off, from Scottish label Temple Records, www.templerecords.co.uk, comes the latest in a long list of recording from Gaelic singer Christine Primrose, "Love & Loss - A Lone Voice". A master in the art of solo unaccompanied singing in Scots Gaelic, Christine Primrose possesses a fine clear and strong voice that I find mesmerizing. My Uncle John used to sing Gaelic songs for me and, while he sounded nothing like Christine Primrose, the same respect for the tradition, respect for the language was there as it

is here in this recording. While you can put my knowledge of Gaelic in a thimble and still have room for your finger, I find myself captured by Christine's hauntingly beautiful voice. This is

a rare piece of work and something that doesn't come down the road every day.

Now for our Irish recording, the Jeremiahs new cd, "The Femme Fatale of Maine" (www.thejeremiahs.ie). A couple of years ago they released their first self-titled cd and everyone felt that this was the new supergroup come down from the mountain. This was followed shortly by a breakup of the band members and silence. Luckily for us, and music in general, the band reformed, better than ever and have released this cd to prove the fact. The band now consists of Joe Gibney, who dazzles with his vocals, James Ryan on guitar, bouzouki and harmonica, and Jean-Christophe Morel on fiddle and bouzouki. Trevor Hutchinson guests on the recording on double bass and did the recording and mixing, an impressive job, by the way. All tracks were written and arranged by the band except for one tune by John Spillane. These are songs done so well that you have to stop and pay attention, grabbing the lyric sheet and



following along because you don't want to miss a drop of the honey they produce. They're a Dublin based band, with the exception of JC Morel who's from Bordeaux, France. This is a band that has the power to rip your soul out or restore your faith in mankind, depending on the song they choose to play. I look forward to seeing them in person and experiencing their power in person.

Now for our Canadian contribution. Matthew Byrne (www.mattheewbyrne.net/music) has released his third cd,

and where the heck are the first two? Anyway, this release, "Horizon Lines" is enough to hook me on the voice of this Newfoundland-born singer/songwriter. Strong, clear and butter-smooth, Matthew's voice will drag you into the story songs that he performs. You know there are iconic renditions of certain songs that, when you hear the title, start playing in your head. For "Farewell to Tarwathie" it was always Judy Collins' version that played for me. Matthew Byrne has booted Ms Collins out of my brain and now that song will be sung by him in the music hall in my head. "Kitty Bawn O'Brien" as well is now firmly in Matthew's possession. Such a singer. His songwriting contribution, "Adelaide" is well written and destined to be a classic. This is a singer that will work well in small intimate settings. Luckily he's being booked by Sean Boyd of Wooden Ship Productions and that means we should be seeing him soon.

That's it for now, see you at the festivals, listen to Blarney on the Air Monday nights 8 PM CST or listen online at WDCB.org. Catch me in the store, 630-834-8108 or online at store@rampantlion.com.

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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



No Easy Answers

There is no magic bullet to end the threat from fundamentalist Islamic terrorism. There seems no shortage of impressionable individuals sufficiently duped into being willing to murder other human beings, killing themselves or being killed in the process, on the promise of some form of paradise in the next life. There have always been those with no moral compass, who have seen nothing wrong with murder, but usually society – every society – has coped with the threat they represented. On occasion this has taken time, particularly where a madman has succeeded in gaining political or military power, requiring considerable effort and bloodshed to bring him down.

But grafting religion onto regular fanaticism produces a formidable combination indeed, ruthlessness allied with zealotry and bolstered by self-righteousness. Lest we forget, killing people of a different religion was once common in Europe. The century and a half following the Reformation (the Quincentenary of which falls this year) was replete with wars of religion as Protestants and Catholics fought for superiority and hegemony, conflicts exacerbated by the simultaneous separate evolution of the nation state. Eventually the religious factor waned in lethality, though not necessarily in importance.

With a few exceptions Europeans ceased to murder or make war on their neighbours just because their religion was different. You might not like them, you might find clever ways of discriminating against them but you didn't kill them. There were plenty of wars but not over religion, though religion remained a convenient label for identifying or defining enemies.

The second half of the Twentieth Century has seen a further evolution in Western society. Post-1945, with the ignoble exception

of the Yugoslav Wars and several small internal conflicts, Europe has been at peace. And, over this period, European and Western Society generally – loosely defined as the countries of the First World – has become, for want of a better word, secular. This is not to deny that there are many millions of Western Europeans who hold firm and sincere religious views. But in the main our societies are defined, not by adherence to any particular religion, but by being democratic, tolerant of other opinions, espousing freedom of speech and expression and having regard for the prevailing system of laws. We live in effect in a post-religious society.

While this last assertion might be disputed, the point I wish to register is that there is a near consensus in our societies, embracing alike Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Atheists, Agnostics and whatever. That consensus puts religion – and for that matter political ideology or other belief – firmly in a place circumscribed by obligation to and tolerance for other viewpoints. There are, of course (always) mavericks who do not subscribe to this – Neo Nazi groups on the right, extremist groups on the left – but they are normally inconsequential or easily dealt with (witness for example the Baader-Meinhof group in Germany in the seventies).

ISIS and its acolytes are the latest mavericks but with distinctive features which render combatting them difficult. Let me state the obvious. ISIS is not mainstream Islam. The overwhelming majority of Muslims, in every country, are totally opposed to the acts of murder and terror carried out by fanatics, whether it be the recent mass murders in Barcelona, Manchester, and London or the mass murder of Coptic Christians (28 shot and murdered) in Egypt three days after Manchester. They are equally totally opposed to the

terror attacks perpetrated on other Muslims which happen almost daily in the Middle East. Indeed though we tend to focus on attacks in the West, the scale of murders of Muslims by other Muslims in sectarian terror attacks dwarfs by far what has occurred in Europe.

ISIS and its associated jihadi groups, like Boko Haram in Nigeria -which has killed 20,000 (!) people in its eight year campaign to turn Nigeria into an Islamic state - have their roots in the Salafi or Wahhabi branch of Sunni Islam. These groups comprise a small minority of Salafis (most Salafis shun politics) and follow an extremist interpretation of Islam, which promotes religious violence and regards other Muslims as apostates or infidels and just as fair game for attack as non-Muslims. Hence the atrocities against other Muslims. The Jihadis are a lethal offshoot from the Sunni side of the great divide in Islam between Sunni and Shia. Currently this divide is to be seen in the struggle for domination in the region between the Sunnis (championed by Saudi Arabia) and the Shias (represented by Iran) with political, religious, social and civil conflict, and proxy wars in several countries. Shades of the Christian Wars of Religion of 400 years ago.

Inevitably, given their ideology, ISIS and the other fundamentalists have focussed sharply on the

West, re-igniting the ancient embers of conflict between Christians and Muslims. Hence Nine Eleven. Hence the terror campaign in Europe. If not a popular cause it's one that appeals to some. It is after all not hard to find reasons why the West should be resented in the Middle East. The Western powers picked over the remnants of the Ottoman Empire and, since the Crusades, the West has intervened militarily when its interests were at stake. Then it was religion. Now it is oil and economic imperialism. The West's dramatic economic growth and prosperity since 1945 is seen as underpinned in part by the exploitation of the one major natural resource the region has – Oil.

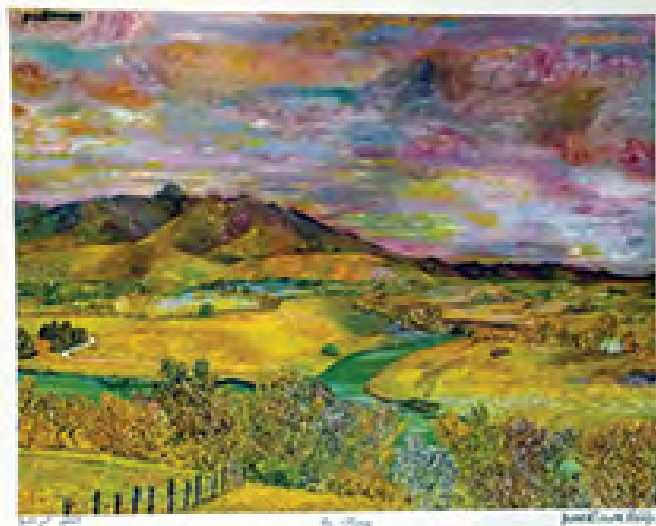
Most of the oil wealth has accrued to feudal and despotic ruling elites, shored up by the West, with very little trickling down to the impoverished majority populations. The invasion of Iraq, the intervention in Libya are seen as the most recent examples of the West's continuing interference. All this has been compounded by Western support for Israel while the plight of the Palestinians is ignored. Some of the resulting brew of humiliation, resentment, and frustration has been imported directly into Europe by large scale immigration from North Africa over the last half century. Here it festered among

some, providing fertile ground for jihadist recruiters. The mix of ample funding, religious zealotry, articulate radical preachers, modern communications and a simple clear message and cause on top of patriotic and social frustration and alienation has produced results and recruits.

ISIS operatives have proved flexible and innovative, switching tactics, using a combination of "Lone Wolves" and organised terrorist cells. Whatever weapons are to hand have been employed, guns and explosives when available, anything else otherwise, including knives and, ominously, ordinary everyday trucks and cars, driven at speed indiscriminately in crowded areas with horrendous results. There appears no adequate defence against attacks of this sort by people prepared to die in the attempt.

There's no easy answer. The first priorities have to be containment and prevention, all great in theory but difficult to achieve total success. The check list of preventive measures is easy to compile and more and better of the same can be calculated to make life and operations more difficult for the extremists. But it won't win over any hearts and minds. That will take time. And, rest assured, ISIS will continue to improvise and hone their methods. We are in for a long haul.

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Senior Groups and Events

Wednesday 6th September
-Tara Club - 10am- 12pm at the IAHC

As usual we welcome you all back from the summer break with a celebration of mass with our very own Fr Mick Madigan. Be sure to join us as we get a new year of great programming underway!

Wednesday 13th September
-Emerald Club - 10am -12pm at Gaelic Park

Following summer recess the



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Emerald Club is back with a new schedule of programs for everyone to enjoy. We mark the return to our regular programming with a celebration of mass with Fr. Mick Madigan.

Wednesday 20th September—Monthly Musical Gathering – 11am – 1pm at the IAHC

The wonderful Joe McShane will join us to perform at the first ever Monthly Musical Gathering at the Irish American Heritage Center! Join us for what promises to be a morning of good company and great entertainment.

Wednesday 27th September – Emerald Club – 10am -12pm at Gaelic Park

What to do if you're in a car accident - Donegal born attorney Caroleann Gallagher is back again to share more of her legal wisdom – this time about how to be prepared if you should ever be involved in a car accident.

Join Caroleann as she talks us through what to do at the scene of an accident as well as issues like how to talk to your insurance company.

Wednesday 29th September – Irish Cultural Hour - Mount Greenwood Public Library - - 11am-1pm

You're invited to join us for the very first monthly Irish Cultural Hour program taking place at the public library (11010 S Kedzie Ave, Chicago, IL 60655) in the southwestern neighbourhood of Mount Greenwood. This program will feature music from the talented Ray Gavin.

Welcome to Our New Intern

As many of you know CIIS prides itself on providing training opportunities to those training to work in social services and community development. We are delighted to be able to welcome a new trainee social worker, Bridget Murphy on

Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



board who will be working with us over the course of the fall and spring semesters.

My name is Bridget Murphy, and I am currently Pursuing a Master's Degree in Social Work at Dominican University. I am excited for the opportunity to do my field placement with the Chicago Irish Immigrant Support working in the Senior Outreach Program and look forward



Bridget Murphy

to being of service. My goal as a social worker is to provide direct care while also engaging in research and evaluating policies that influence service delivery and access to services. I attended Roosevelt University with a dual degree in Sociology and Women's Studies. I previously worked in mental health and child welfare as a caseworker. I grew up in the Roger's Park neighborhood and attended St. Margaret Mary Grammar School and St. Scholastica High School.

As the daughter and granddaughter of Irish immigrants, I have often felt a strong connection with my Irish heritage and am thrilled to be given the opportunity to work with Irish immigrants and Irish Americans. My mother is from Derrassa and attended Srah school in County Mayo. My paternal grandparents were from North-

ern Ireland. I recently had the opportunity to travel to Ireland for the sixth time through a study abroad program. However, my most cherished trip I took to Ireland was in 1998 for the Srah school reunion. It was a true testament of family, friendship, culture, and community. It was the moment I realized that leaving Ireland for greater opportunities also meant leaving home. I had a new understanding of the term "back home" which often was a longing to be back with family, but also rendered a feeling of comfort for my mom. However, "back home" was also accompanied by laughter and many, many stories. I am grateful that I have had several opportunities to visit Ireland and have a greater understanding of the many meanings of "back home."

I look forward to being of service and please feel free to contact me via telephone (insert phone number) or email murpbrid@my.dom.edu.

Survey for the Undocumented Irish

University College Dublin, in conjunction with the Government of Ireland, is undertaking a survey of the undocumented Irish in Chicago. They are hoping to capture information that they can use to advocate on behalf of the undocumented Irish for policy change that could benefit them and their families. While we know there is a great deal of anxiety and dejection among our undocumented we encourage them to complete the survey. All the data gathered is confidential and no identifying information is asked for. Please spread the word! This is an on-line survey that can be accessed at www.irishundocresearch.com. If you'd like more information or have questions call the office on 773-282-8445.

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Profile on Elaine Murphy

By Sharon Johnson

The Irish American Heritage Center has been graced with another Galway girl, Elaine Murphy. When asked why she chose Chicago, Elaine says, "Chicago was by a lake and it offered a large Irish community."

Brave and adventurous are two words that describe a girl who moved six thousand miles without knowing anyone until the IAHC snatched her up, gave her a job and welcomed her into the family.

Elaine attended the National University of Ire-



Elaine Murphy

land-Galway, where she earned her Master's degree in pharmacology. After graduation, Elaine worked for Galway University Hospital in a clinical research facility as a research associate. Her decision to move came shortly after graduation and being hired by Northwestern University as a clinical research coordinator. Her area of interest is in cardiovascular research. While in Ireland, Elaine loved doing different things. She says a scenic car ride with friends is always good.

She loves being outdoors visiting parks and beaches. However, her first love is sports. It doesn't matter if it is going to the gym, out running or just working out at home with her sister. "I love the positive feeling exercise give you!!!" Camogie is a special interest of Elaine's and she trains weekly. When asked if she is any good she laughs and says, "I train!" Her competitive spirit quickly helped her find a new team after moving to the U.S.

Working in various bars and restaurants was a great way for her to develop people skills. A lot of the things she learned helped her choose her career path.

Elaine has one brother and two sisters back in Galway.

When asked if she planned to stay in the U.S. she said "no, but ask me again in twelve months as I may change my mind."

We are lucky to have someone with a positive attitude and a desire to help people working at the center. It is a pleasure to meet someone with a desire to have an adventure and still help others along the way. Elaine says she wants no regrets and that is what makes her special.



Professional Irish Women of Chicago Business Awards

On July 19, Irish women of Chicagoland gathered together to enjoy the Professional Irish Women of Chicago Luncheon and Fashion Show at UI Labs in Chicago.

One of our longtime advertisers, Cathy O'Hara of Hair by O'Hara, whose shop is at 5418 W 127th St, Alsip, IL, won in the category of Professional in Hair and Beauty. Her salon has been voted the Best of Chicago's Southland by the Daily Southtown 2014-2017 and counting!

Eimear received the Woman of the Year Award. Eimear leads the Meals Business at Kerry Taste & Nutrition (Beloit WI). Kerry delivers great tasting food made with trusted, authentic, wholesome ingredients & flavors.

After graduating with a degree in Food Science from University College Dublin, Eimear joined Kerry and relocated to the US in 2004. Building on a foundation of product development, she has taken on progressing roles - in sales and business management over the last 13 years. Eimear's professional passion is rooted in bringing new products to market. *Picture (l to r): Cathy O'Hara, Eimear Robertson, and Mary Kay Marmo, producer of the event.*



Vera Kelly Benefit 10-1 Gaelic Park

We are planning a benefit to help our dear friend and family member Vera Kelly who was diagnosed with MDS – a form of blood cancer in July of 2016.

Vera, she hails from Bofeenaun, Ballina, Co Mayo and has been very active in the Irish community. Vera played football with St. Brigid's LGFC at Gaelic Park for many years.

She has worked for Premium Sports, (formerly Setanta), facilitating live soccer, rugby and Gaelic football and hurling games at multiple locations throughout the city.

Vera is also a wonderfully talented actress with many awards to her name. Audiences have enjoyed her award-winning performances with Gaelic Park Players and Shapeshifters Theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center amongst a host of other venues around Chicago. She has traveled throughout the US and Canada participating and frequently winning at the Acting Irish International Theatre Festival, has the distinction of having had a part written especially for her in *The Cheek* and brought the play to Ireland where she rocked the house in Tourmakeady, Co. Mayo.

Because of the advanced nature of her illness, she required a stem cell transplant. Fortunately, her brother Martin was a perfect match as coincidentally were all her five siblings.

In February 2017 Vera's transplant was performed successfully at Northwestern Hospital. Since then her medical course has been fraught with various setbacks. As with any complex medical condition, Vera is still experiencing multiple side effects as she navigates this roller coaster journey.

There will be a fundraiser held on October 1, 2017, 3-9 pm, at Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 147th St., Oak Forest, IL 60452. There will also be a Quiz Night on November 10 and a traditional Card game on November 12, 2017, both at Gaelic Park, organized in support of Vera. We thank you in advance for your support. You can donate online at YouCare page, or send check to: **Victory For Vera Fund** c/o Countryside Bank 15980 S Parker Rd Homer Glen, IL 60491 Attn: Mary McNally, VictoryForVeraFund@gmail.com.

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



I've been thinking about money lately as prices for things have been going up and we're getting taxed on different things. And who knows what else is around the corner with the medium of exchange, maybe we won't be using cash much longer. I have a friend from India and she said they have a pending tax on feminine products. Naturally communities are upset saying no to what they call a 'blood tax'! In our house we have the old Irish money framed and sometimes people will ask, "how much is it worth?". I wonder what if Ireland had opted out of joining the "Euro zone" (19 countries) the universal bank. Just as England and 8 other countries did, including Poland and Sweden. England still uses their pound sterling and their finance life went on as normal. (or maybe it didn't) I wondered if it would have helped

or hurt Ireland's finances to continue with their pound. I am not a financier so it might even be a silly question. I am someone that loves tradition and the old money has a lot of nostalgia and historical weight to it.

History of the Irish currency got me thinking of the question, how many different currencies are in the world today? (about 180) England's currency being the oldest. Kuwait has the strongest currency in the world. Just to name a few different currencies in the world, in Armenia they have the Dram, Thailand the Baht and Saudi Arabia, they use the, Saudi riyal. I'm sure you've come across different currency and wonder how it compares to the dollar or Euro. It's interesting and amazing how money is weighed, regarded and worth more or less in

different places. For ex. If you go to another country that doesn't use dollars you might be getting more for your money or less depending on where you travel. It's an interesting concept because the currency value changes and their different exchange rates and sadly half the time people could be getting ripped off. I think the Euro is a little more valuable than the dollar again maybe that fluctuates, you can use a currency calculator if you are curious. The old Irish money was much bigger in size than today's Euro.

The history of Irish money reflects Ireland's political development over 1,000 years, The Vikings created the first coin in Dublin about he 10 century. Coins minted in Ireland were easily distinguishable from English equivalents, their inscription was usually specific and their weight and design were different. In the 13c a triangle rather than circle enclosed the reigning monarchs head this was only in Irish money. At different eras different coins were struck. In the 16c the Celtic harp emerged and still appears

on Irish Euro coins today. There were centuries of political turmoil therefore the coins had little artistry and there were periods the money was nicknamed gun money. For many years Ireland had to use the British sterling money because Irish money had no value.

When Ireland became the Irish free state it issued new coins and a range of bank notes were introduced. The designer was a Belfast born artist named, Sir John Lavery. The money was known as the Saorstat or free state pound after 1938 it was known simply as the Irish pound. (punt)

The coins have a harp (national instrument) on one side the other side an animal. The denominations included: 1 pound note, 5 pound note, (queen of Connaught on it) 10 pound note (Jonathan Swift), 20 pound note (WBY), 50 pound note. I don't think there was a 100 pound note ever issued.

1 pound (punt), farthing (woodcock, a quarter of a penny), half penny, (sow with piglets) threepence, (hair, 3 pennies) six-

pence, (Irish wolfhound), I will have a sixpence in my left shoe on August 19th as I'll be getting married that day. The florin has a salmon on it, equaled 2 shillings), halfcrown (horse, equaled to 2 shillings and 6 pence), shilling (bull, 12 pents), pingin- (1 penny), hen). The English pound was accepted in Ireland but generally not the reverse.

The Euro was introduced in 1999 but it wasn't until 2002 that it started to circulate. If you have any old Irish money, you can cash it in, it's exchangeable indefinitely for Euro at the central bank in Dublin.

Some Irish quotes about money: "Money makes the horse gallop whether he has shoes or not", "all I ask is the chance to prove that money can't make me happy", "if you want to feel rich just count the things that money can't buy", "don't be impressed by money, degrees and title, be impressed by humility, integrity and kindness".

Gaelic for the Month: money-airgead value-luach

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



The Liberty of the Press

George Orwell put it well when he wrote: "If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear". That right can be contentious when a commercial entity such as a newspaper or a television channel employs a columnist or presenter who says things that raise the ire of the public. Then, one hopes, a debate will ensue rather than the frenzy of loathing that was visited upon, for example, Kevin Myers over the past two weeks.

In case you were on holiday in a very distant outpost, there has not been a dull moment since Kevin Myers wrote a column in The Sunday Times on Sunday July 30th in which he said some really crass things about women and also something crass about Jews. Then the balloon went up on social media—J.K. Rowling, of Harry Potter fame, who has north of 11 million twitter followers reacted: "This filth was published in @thesundaytimes. Let that sink in for a moment". Sink in it did: Myers was peremptorily fired by The Sunday Times on the very day the column appeared. Rowling's twitter audience amounts to more than six times the readership of The Sunday Times. Her influence on public opinion is therefore considerable and cannot easily be ignored.

On RTÉ Radio the next day, the chairman of the Press Council of Ireland, Seán Donlon, criticised the column for being in breach of the Press Council code. So it is. Donlon maintained that The Sunday Times had "taken appropriate steps so far"—it had issued an abject apology and sacked Myers. For good measure, Donlon also said that he

could not now "see any newspaper wanting to employ" Myers.

Donlon holds an official role as chairman of the Press Council and he is also an occasional commentator in a private capacity in Irish newspapers and on national radio. What he says has resonance and his comments on Myers for many blurred the distinction between his public and private roles.

A founding member of the Press Council of Ireland, John Horgan, criticised Donlon in The Irish Times for prejudging the case against Myers by speaking about it on national radio before it went to the Council. Donlon maintained that he had spoken about his decision to criticise the column and agreed that he would recuse himself from any complaint that might arise from it before the Press Council. Still, the question begs: why would the chairman wish to recuse himself rather than act on complaints if and when they were made? Such was the intensity of the backlash over Myers' column that this question has been entirely ignored. But it bears remembering that the Press Council's mandate is to "promote press freedom and the right to freedom of expression"; its impartiality is a fundamental feature of its makeup. Yet Donlon condoned The Sunday Times' dismissal of Myers on the grounds that public opinion is "at least as effective as the court of law". Maybe it is as effective, but is it just?

Consider the record of The Sunday Times in these matters. The Sunday Times editor Martin Ivens, who apologised for Kevin Myers' article, stated that the article was "unacceptable and should not have been published". Yet Ivens stood by journalist A.A. Gill who brought controversy after controversy

upon The Sunday Times, and still Ivens maintained that Gill was "a giant among journalists". Ivens' predecessor as editor of The Sunday Times, John Witherow, also upheld Gill. For example, when, in Gill's review of a television programme entitled Britain by Bike, Gill referred to the presenter as a "dyke on a bike", Witherow defended the article thus: "In my view some members of the gay community need to stop regarding themselves as having a special victim status and behave like any other sensible group that is accepted by society. Not having a privileged status means, of course, one must accept occasionally being the butt of jokes. A person's sexuality should not give them a protected status".

Frank Fitzgibbon, the editor of the Irish edition of The Sunday Times, regretted publishing Myers' July 30th column which "contained views that have caused considerable distress and upset to a number of people". If The Sunday Times editorial policy has shifted from urging people to stop "regarding themselves as having a special victim status" in 2010 to not wishing to cause "considerable distress and upset to a number of people" in 2017, that is an enormous shift. It is improbable that there is a detailed editorial policy that does not admit of huge room for interpretation. What has shifted, above all, is the climate of opinion.

Columnist Fintan O'Toole criticised Myers for failing to be "'politically correct', aka in line with the most basic standards of decency and good manners". True, Myers' column was, not for the first time, lacking in decency and good manners. However, to equate the political correct line with manners and decency is to conceal another agenda of political correctness which is to gain the power to condition people's responses. PC diktats have no monopoly on good conduct and the reason PC attempts to skirt around clear objective criteria is because (as the stealthier proponents of PC understand) it has no basis in the law. This

explains why public opinion is presented as a basis for making decisions that otherwise would, in a court of law, be subject to the demand for objective substantiation. PC values do not derive from a democratically accepted text and as such they give their propounders a free rein to define those "values" as they go along, to impose penalties as they see fit

and to ignore codes of practice so long as public opinion seems to be with them.

The right to tell people what they do not want to hear is being cleverly and steadily eroded. Columns such as the one by Myers serve as a convenient pretext to advance that agenda. That is the central consequence of the Myers incident.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Maeve Binchy: A Person Needed for Our Times

Maeve was open-minded, humane, and generous of spirit. Her novels and short stories show those qualities.

She showed openness and kind approachability to me, even though her novels had sold millions of copies. And she was one of the most widely published, and read, authors in the world.



1939-2012

She and her husband, Gordon Snell, were here for a speaking appearance and I interviewed her at their hotel. I was impressed how open-hearted and friendly she was. She had no pretension and I felt like I had known her for years.

Her novels offer us hope and they encourage us to live fully. She wants us to think for ourselves and to think fluently and honestly. But, she wants us to be kind and forgiving to ourselves.

Other reasons Maeve Binchy's novels were so popular, I believe, is because she wrote about people we identify with. And she wrote about topics that are important to all of us, such as how to have friends and how to be popular.

Another factor that made them popular is her writing style. It is almost conversational. The reader immediately feels included in the story and we have the feeling that we are listening to a conversation.

Quoting Thrift Books about Maeve Binchy: "Born in a small town in Co. Dublin, Ireland in 1940. Maeve Binchy earned a B.A. degree from University College Dublin. She worked as a history and Latin teacher in Dublin, then as a news reporter at The Irish Times. In the early 1980's, she published her first novel, *Light a Penny Candle*...She was the author of seventeen novels, many of which were international bestsellers, as

well as radio dramas and television screenplays. She passed away in 2012. Her last book, *A Week in Winter*, was published later that year. Last year it was published in the U.S. and I'll review it in a future issue.

Her husband Gordon Snell says: "Maeve followed the advice she gave to aspiring writers—to write as you speak. Her view of the world, and of people, was the same in her writing as it was in her life: she was compassionate and perceptive, she treated everyone with the same considerate interest."

She offered no magic solutions to life's problems. Quoting Good Reads: "I don't have ugly ducklings turning into swans in my stories. I have ugly ducklings turning into confident ducks."

Binchy's novels are stories of hope and contain great psychological insight. About story telling in Irish culture, she says: "I do love telling stories...there used to be a rule in etiquette books that you should invite four talkers and four listeners to a dinner party. That doesn't work in Ireland, because nobody knows four listeners...I am edgy and anxious when people just nod and smile instead of having views on every subject under the sun."

John Banville, renowned Irish novelist and author of sublime detective fiction, praised Maeve. He "contrasted Binchy with another novelist, who died the day after her, observing that the novelist used to say that it was not enough for him to succeed, but other must fail. Maeve wanted everyone to be a success."

Penance of the Damned

By: Peter Tremayne
Minotaur Books

This rich and powerful mystery is set in the Ireland of 671 A.D. It features Fidelma of Cashel.

She is intensely observant of people and places and she has a strongly disciplined mind. Fidelma believes in the community based laws of Ireland. These Brehon laws are based on the dignity of each person and the equality of men and women. Those are Fidelma's qualities of character. Those qualities are the result of her years of study to become a Brehon, or advocate of the Brehon court (like our Supreme Court).

Fidelma has fiery red hair, green eyes, and is tall. She is in her 30's or early 40's. She is the daughter of an Irish king and the sister of a current one.

The mystery book is set in the Ireland of 671 A.D. It opens with a "locked room" mystery where it appears that the commander of the king's elite guards has murdered a beloved abbot. The murder could be a cause for war.

The king mourns the abbot, who was his trusted advisor. But he also realizes that the murder could lead to war. This is because a fragile peace between his kingdom (Munster today) and the often rebellious land where the murder happened.

The king asks his sister, Fidelma, to solve the murder and maintain peace. Evildoers beware: Fidelma is relentless in finding the truth.

This wonderfully rich mystery book was written by Peter Tremayne. That is the pen name of Peter Beresford Ellis. He has written 98! Many are scholarly studies of the ancient Irish. I keep several of them for reference. I reviewed his sublime Celtic Myths and Legends.

This is the 27th book Tremayne has written featuring Fidelma.

About the society Fidelma lived in: "Celts encouraged self-control, meditation, self-awareness, and fairness for women."

She says: "Among my people, women can fulfill any profession, including kingship and the leadership of their people in battle. Who has not heard of Macha of the Red Tresses, our greatest warrior queen?"

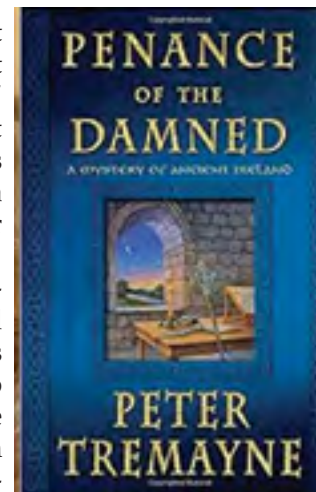
Referring to religious hierarchy: "The Celtic Church was humane and open-minded." "Live and let live" is the attitude of the Celtic Church.

About this realistic and humane attitude of the Celtic Church she says: "It deals with people as they are and not as...some Roman Church would like them to be"

It took great study and discipline to become a Brehon. To become a Brehon, Fidelma "had to have studied at a bardic school for seven to nine years."

A Brehon had to be deeply knowledgeable about the laws of Ireland, but had also "to be knowledgeable in poetry, literature, medicine, speaking and writing with authority...and being eloquent in debate."

A powerful force in this mystery are the Penitentials from Rome. These



were a system of laws and punishment that came from the middle-east, the land of an "eye for an eye."

The Penitentials were "often brutal and approved of maiming and execution." They were attractive to some corrupt and power-hungry churchmen. These rules would make them powerful as they would become judge, jury, and executioner. The Penitentials were finally outlawed by a church council

in 829 A.D.

A church man in the Celtic Church asks about the Penitentials: "Doesn't Christ demand that we be kind to one another?"

About them, Fidelma says: "Paul tells us that the whole of the law can be summed up in a single commandment—that you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

The Celtic Church in Ireland existed from the 400's A.D. to 1111 A.D. In 1111 A.D. it was destroyed by Rome. This is the social and religious background that influences Fidelma as she hunts for the murder and searches for the truth.

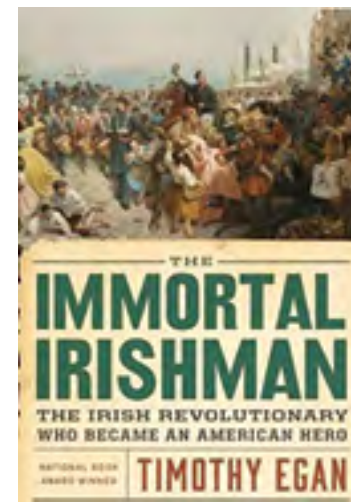
The Immortal Irishman: Irish Revolutionary Who Became an American Hero

By: Timothy Egan
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

When President Kennedy visited Ireland he said: "What was it...that got some many families through subjugation, starvation, and eviction...What was it that made people like Thomas Francis Meagher to never give up? The quality of Ireland, he concluded, is the remarkable combination of hope, confidence, and imagination."

The Thomas Meagher he refers to was a young man with amazing ability to inspire people. Thomas Francis Meagher was born in 1823, the son of a wealthy Waterford merchant. He received the best education and seemed destined for a life of ease.

However, he had a





Paraic McDonagh Family Benefit

Sunday, September 24, 2017

Irish American Heritage Center
4626 N. Knox, Chicago, IL
2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Paraic McDonagh was a great family man, husband, and father. Tragically, his life came to an end on September 9, 2016, when, at the young age of 34, he died of a pulmonary embolism. He leaves behind his wife Tarah and four children: Amber, Nolan, Paddy, and Connor. Paraic was viewed by many as being a big kid at heart; his laugh and smile were contagious and his love for his family knew no bounds.

Paraic, the youngest of three children, was born to John and Abbie McDonagh, who are both from Connemara, Co. Galway and have a huge close-knit family in Chicago. He grew up and went to grade school in the Our Lady of Victory Parish.

Paraic's sudden loss brings a great uncertainty for his family's future. The cost of raising a young family and the added stress of being reduced to a one-income household creates an enormous financial strain for Tarah. Losing a father, husband, son, and brother brings unspeakable grief. As Tarah and family continue to mourn their loss, please join us at a benefit to create a fund for the McDonagh children.

For more information:

Visit [facebook.com/paraicmcdonaghfamilybenefit](https://www.facebook.com/paraicmcdonaghfamilybenefit)
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passion for Irish nationalism. The nationalist leaders were old, powerless, and been subsumed by the British. And by the time of the Great Hunger (1845-1851), he realized he had to do something to help starving Ireland.

He led the Young Irelanders in a hopeless struggle against the huge British Army. The year was 1849. Meagher was defeated, arrested and "transported" to VanDieman's Land (Tasmania

today) near Australia.

He escaped from there in 1852 and came to the United States. There, Meagher pursued careers in publishing and law.

During the American Civil War (1861-1865), he encouraged Irish immigrants to support the Union. Meagher recruited Irish immigrants in New York City and formed the Irish Brigade. During the war, he rose to the rank of Brigadier General.

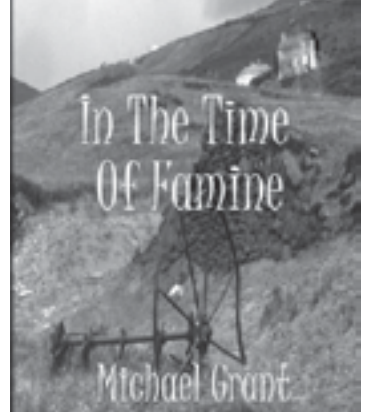
After the war, he was appointed acting governor of the vast Montana Territory. Only forty-four years old, he died at Fort Benton, Montana in the summer of 1867.

Timothy Egan is the 2017 iBAM Awardee for Literature and will receive his award at the iBAM Gala Award Dinner on Friday night, October 27, at the Irish American Heritage Center. www.ibamchicago.com

In the Time of Famine:

In 1845 a blight of unknown origin destroyed the potato crop in Ireland triggering a series of events that would change forever the course of Ireland's history. The British government called the famine an act of God. The Irish called it genocide. By any name the famine caused the death of over one million men, women, and children by starvation and disease. Another two million were forced to flee the country.

With the famine as a backdrop, this is a story about two families



as different as coarse wool and fine silk. Michael Ranahan, the son of a tenant farmer, dreams of breaking his bondage to the land and going to America. The passage money has been saved. He's made up his mind to go. And then—the blight strikes and Michael must put his dream on hold.

The landlord, Lord Somerville, is a compassionate man who struggles to preserve a way of life without compromising his ideals. To add to his troubles, he has to deal with a recalcitrant daughter who chafes at being forced to live in a country of "bog runners."

In The Time Of Famine is a

story of survival. It's a story of duplicity. But most of all, it's a story of love and sacrifice.

At Amazon.com

Manhattan:

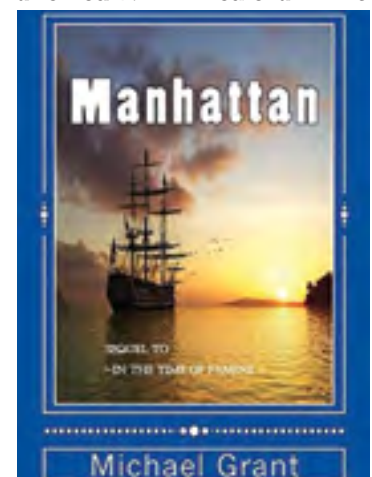
Manhattan, a sequel to In the Time of Famine, is the continuing saga of Michael and Emily Ranahan's life. The time is 1850. In fleeing the famine in Ireland to find a new life in the New World, they come ashore at New York City on an island called Manhattan, a chaotic, odiferous city filled with rascals, ne'er-do-wells, rascallions, and corrupt politicians.

As they form their new life together they will experience the horrors of the infamous Five Points, the challenge of No Irish Need Apply signs, the Great Panic of 1857, the frightful Civil War riots, and finally, the building of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Michael and Emily will experience all the joys and sorrows that a city like Manhattan can offer.

At Amazon.com

Author, Michael Grant, who lived in Ireland for two years, is a retired NYPD Lieutenant who



has written 16 books. He lives in Knoxville TN with his wife Elizabeth and their golden retriever Beau. Mr. Grant can be contacted at: mggrant08@gmail.com



It's not often Irish American News has two columnists getting married on the same day, but these two did! Here is Mike Leonard and Tina Butler right after tying the knot! Mike writes 'An Immigrant's Musings' and Tina writes 'Getting to Know the Irish.' It was a lovely event held at the Gage Restaurant in downtown Chicago. May they enjoy many happy years together!



pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



These are some wild days. One Facebook, the only social media, I can make sense of, the bile is real tick. People get their shorts in knot when they learn that someone they have loved all their lives, shared bottles of Kayo at Millie's on 79th Street, walked home from Little Flower Grammar School and later attended Mount Carmel football games at Eckersoll Stadium under a thick woolen blanket together and smooched on the van bus going home, voted for Hillary, is a Nasty Woman and wears a Pink P-Hat. Others get vitriolic with their comments against the Orange One and find that they have been unfriended by their date to prom in 1968.

Wild, and stupid days, these be. Everyone is, or wants to be an activist, or a Social Justice Warrior - on line that is. Not much risk, other than getting

'unfriended.' Better than losing a job, I suppose.

I post a blog read by a legion of reader most mornings. I write words fashioned by what I have read, what I have learned, what I continue to hold dear and what most strongly offends me in what I hope are honest sentences.

I try not to offend, but always manage to do so. I write behind my own name. I am always Pat Hickey - no one ever good-news'ed me with Patrick.

Some people say that I have I changed, but I am still the acid tongued loud-mouth pointing out ludicrous hypocrisies and the bloated egos committing them.

I hate abortion, always have, and came to admire the courage and wit my Uncle Larry Hickey displayed when he sealed the doors of the Cook County Hospital Crematorium. My political hero remains my uncle who was Hickey family patriarch after the death of my grandfather - Larry "Bud" Hickey. Bud was the oldest male child of Laurence and Nora Hickey -7535 S, Marshfield, Chicago Zone 20. Bud's six brothers and six sisters were equally as centered as the white-haired guy with a permanently ironic look of quizzical sarcasm. Bud was white haired from his teens and when the draft started in 1941 before the war started, an old biddy remarked to Granny Hickey, "thank the Good Lord, your boy Larry is too old." He became a U.S. Army master sergeant (naturally) and fought in the Pacific.

Uncle Bud was the Chief Engineer for Cook County Hospital from the 1950's until the 1980's. He was then made the Chief Engineer of Cook County by George W. Dunne. Uncle Bud and his large family lived in Meyer Hall - the former Cook County Hospital Doctors Residence at Taylor and Wolcott -because Uncle Bud was on duty 24 hours a day. The great surgeon and former Director of Admissions for Loyola Medical School, the late Dr. James H. Kennedy, MD once told me that as young resident at CCH he was told, "See the Medical Director, but, above all, pay attention to Larry Hickey."

When Abortion, got its bloody foot in the door of the American soul in the late 1960's, Progressive forces, like the bed bugs now scourging urban Americans, bullied politicians with Policy, False. tickling Policy. In the late 1970's, Cook County purchased an incinerator for the sole purpose of burning aborted fetuses.

Uncle Bud installed the gas operated incinerator and welded its doors shut. No human beings would be burned in Bud's Cook County Hospital. The incinerator - it operated, but absolutely no babies were burned. The children would be buried with human dignity. You see, Uncle Bud was a Catholic, when that meant something, and Catholics, at that time, were prohibited from cremating the human body. All of that was parsed out by clerical Vatican II Cupcakes, don't you know.

News of this got out. The Policy hit the fan. Uncle Bud told Dunne, "Fire Me, but those doors stay welded shut."

George Dunne ended abortions at Cook County Hospital, except to save the life of the mother, because he agreed that Cook County Hospital had become no

more than, in the Cook County President's own words, 'an Abortion Mill,'

Uncle Bud and George Dunne were Democrats. both were 'retired.' New Cook County President Dick Phelan bowed to Planned parenthood as Cook County President and the soul of the Democratic Party was sucked out of the husk of the automaton that knows only dollars and the brute exercise of monolithic political power. The very slippery slope of American Progressive secularism got slicker with the blood of the innocents.

Uncle Bud's story is from the late 1970's.

So, I am deplorably old fashioned, or so Hillary remarked to Barbra Streisand and six figure ticket holders at her HRC fund-raiser in 2016.

Deplorable ideas? Abortion is evil, not health care. Abortion is a big one for me.

So is using children to fight evil. In 1983, me and my big mouth objected to the promotion of a Pro Life Activist at an all-school assembly, not as a teaching instrument against the evils of abortion and the dangers to women, but in order to call high school kids to follow him and disrupt, or destroy.

This guy is a Pro Life hero, but to me as a teacher no different from a bomb tossing anarchist whose ends justify any and all means. This Jovian gent wrapped himself in the mantel of John Brown and Martin Luther King and wanted 'action squads' - a term the Nazis used -of high school kids to hit the pavement for him.

I stopped his recruitment drive and he proved himself to be a strident cry-baby.

The week before my confrontation with the activist my wife had given birth to my beautiful daughter Nora. Mary, an Art teacher at Bishop McNamara with her windbag husband, was on maternity leave and began getting threatening, including death threats, phone calls even before the Pro-Life Jeremiah had hit the county line. These threats lasted from November 1983 through March 1984 - we did not change our phone number and took the calls with some good humor, which really pissed off the callers.

There were any number of editorials in the Kankakee Daily Journal and the Bourbonnais Herald calling for my dismissal as an English teacher. Never happened.

My nemesis continues to fight abortion and so do I. He's an activist.

My Uncle Bud risked his job. So, did I.

That is activism, as well. Maybe it means something. Maybe not. I know this, when I trot down the stand four concrete steps of my home and out onto the street, I do not encounter racism, sexism, or homophobia; nor do I run into, genocidal supremacists, or identity-politics activists. ... try as I might.

I meet all kinds of people working to make a better home for their kids, a safer street for their neighbors and a more pleasant way to enjoy the breathing air around us.

Activists need networks and plenty of bile.

People need neighbors.

Huge difference.

Things are happy and helpful among neighbors.

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Deirdre of the Sorrows at CityLit

by J. M. Synge

Directed by Kay Martinovich

John Millington Synge, the Irish playwright who so singularly combined gritty realism and haunting spiritualism, penned one more play before his untimely death: *Deirdre Of The Sorrows*, drawn from the legends of ancient Ireland's great heroine. Infrequently produced but no less a masterpiece than Synge's *The Playboy Of The Western World*, City Lit invites DEIRDRE back after last being seen in Chicago 100 years ago, in a production by the Chicago Little Theatre. City Lit's staging will be directed by Kay Martinovich, whose equally singular qualifications include directing the multiple Jeff Award-winning LA BETE for Trap Door Theatre and a doctorate's expertise in Irish drama. Martinovich says, "Deirdre of the Sorrows is one of the all-time great love stories. It's a beautiful play whose imagery and language are at once powerful and haunting."

Deirdre since birth has been promised in wedlock to the King of Ulster because her incomparable beauty was foretold in prophecy. But when she comes of age, she rejects the arranged marriage and flees with her lover, the King's fierce rival warrior Naisi. In doing so, she tempts war

among her people, also foretold in prophecy. A classic tale of romance and treachery, Deirdre, Naisi and all the rest meet their tragic fates.

Natalie Joyce plays the title role, and her lover Naisi is played by Alex Pappas. Tim Kidwell will play Conchubor, the King of Ulster. Completing the cast are Curtis Dunn (Ainnle); Andrew Marikis (Owen); Morgan McCabe (Lavarcham); Marssie Mencotti (Old Woman); Mick La Rocca (Ardan); and Mark Pracht (Fergus).

Previews from September 1st - 9th. The regular run will continue through October 15th at City Lit Theater, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. More information



and ticketing www.citylit.org or 773-293-3682.

John Millington Synge, (1871-1909) was an Irish poet and playwright who by the start of the 20th century had helped rediscover and redefine the spirit of native Ireland, and introduce to its theatre a realism sympathetic to the working class. A founding playwright of the Abbey Theatre, a.k.a. the National Theatre of Ireland, his best-known work is perhaps *The Playboy Of The Western*

World, a landmark exploration of morality and romance that resulted in Irish nationalist riots.

October 15: Fridays-Saturdays at 7:30 pm, Sundays at 3 pm, plus Mondays, October 2nd and 9th at 7:30 pm

Preview ticket prices \$28.00, seniors \$23, students and mili-

tary \$12 (all plus applicable fees) Regular run ticket prices \$32.00, seniors \$27.00, students and military \$12 (all plus applicable fees) Performances at City Lit Theater, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. Chicago 60660 (Inside Edgewater Presbyterian Church) Tickets at www.citylit.org or 773-293-3682.

MARGARET COYLE'S GOLDEN FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Would love to have you join us for these end of the year events

Danny o' Donnell Thursday October 26th
at the IAHC *waiting list
There will be a bus from south side

Drury Lane Tuesday December 5th lunch and show
Gaelic Park lunch wednesday **December 6th**
Christmas lunch- lots of christmas decorations to admire
Paddy Homan Christmas Variety Show
Friday December 15th tickets will go fast
Tuesday December 19th Peoria taking in the casino in the day and in the Evening taking a tour of the christmas lights

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