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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Do You Really Celebrate Thanksgiving?

As Thanksgiving approaches I found myself wondering about how many of us actually THANKED those people who have helped us over the years, I am sure that I have failed to fully and properly thank some of my dearest friends and teachers in my life. So I decided to use this column to thank those important people in my life as a reminder to all of us to express our genuine thanks to those who have helped us.

First, my thanks to my wife, Sandee Wask Fitzgerald, who has mentored me throughout our long and happy marriage. She has helped me to become more sensitive and aware of other people's feelings and for that I am deeply grateful.

Of course my first teachers growing up were my family. My thanks to my dad who demonstrated what the responsibilities of a bread winner were. To my beloved mother who showed me the importance of unconditional love. To my sister, Mary, who helped me understand how a gentleman should conduct himself with a young lady. To each of my four brothers, who all taught me what they knew best: Edward (courage and independence), Tom (toughness and leadership), John (charm and a pleasant manner), and finally, Joe (scholarship and friendship). It has been my good fortune to have such amazing, loving mentors in my family.

Our four children have been a great joy. Mychelline, our first, fondly known as Rosebud, demonstrated a great intellect from a very early age. Damon has been a joy his whole life with his thoughtfulness and love of his family. Erynn has manifested a wonderful passion for life coupled with great acceptance and

inclusion of others. Neal has been the traveler and adventurer of the family; yet, he is also a kind, gentle and thoughtful soul. Our daughter, Julie, has helped our family in countless ways. As for our two granddaughters, Janna Marie and Alecia Grace; they are simply "perfect".

Since I was four years old Bill Puschak has been my buddy and has always been in my corner offering support. Because the good sisters at St. Theodore grammar school wouldn't accept me into first grade at age four, our landlady, Eleanor Macak, became my first "formal" teacher who taught me how to read and do basic arithmetic.

Once admitted to St. Theodore, I have to thank Sister Paula and Sister Maria Gemma, my 2nd and 7th grade teachers, respectively. Sister Paula taught me that a little extra effort can make a major difference in the outcome of a project; Sister Maria Gemma drilled us tirelessly on the importance of knowing the English language which has served me well ever since.

To Jim "Red Dog" Kelly, my high school classmate who stood with me against some angry fellow students and made it clear he had my back, no matter what that took. God bless you, Red Dog.

Dr. William Raleigh Trimble and Father Fred Bergesich, SJ of Loyola University who helped me acquire an understanding of scholarship. Thanks also to my dear friends: Gene Croisant who taught me about style and class, Harold Fremgen for his friendship and his counsel on a dark day when I was a freshman, and Charlie Ptacek, for his unwavering support, and another frat brother, Captain Thomas Flatley, who demonstrated patriotism and loyalty as he served our country in Vietnam. He died

there living up to his ideals.

To my fellow soldiers: OCS candidate Jim May, Colonel Bishop and Lieutenant Richard Fullman who helped me more fully understand my responsibilities as a junior military officer.

In terms of personal growth, there have been so many people I have reason to thank, especially the women who were vital in my development as a gentleman. At the top of the list is, of course, my wife, Sandee, but my thanks also to very dear old friends: Sheila, Lori, Gretchen and Peggy who helped me along the way as well.

Professional growth came with help from so many other friends and acquaintances, particularly; Curtis F. Moore and William R. Hindman who helped me gain a deeper understanding of the business world. Curtis was the model of proper professional conduct. And Bill was probably the best boss and advisor I ever worked for, he was also very instrumental in stirring my passion for writing. Dr. Thomas E. Murray has been my friend and counselor since we met at Loyola University. His calm demeanor has allowed me to hear things that previously passed over my head. Dr. Kenneth W. Perry of the University of Illinois, whose commitment to his teaching profession was an inspiration to me.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of counseling with some other wonderful individuals, including Dan Josephs, Ed Buron, Bob McCoy, Pat Johnston and Phil Gresh. As it sometime happens in life, I got so much from these relationships I feel privileged to have worked with these men.

As I prepared this list, I became increasingly aware that I have left out numerous others who have helped shape my personal and professional life. Due to size constraints there simply isn't enough room to thank everyone who deserves it, so I apologize to anyone in my life who felt they should be included but wasn't. What I have learned writing this article is how much of my development came about through the help and mentoring of people in

my life. A huge thank you to each and every one of them for all that they have given me, perhaps most particularly, Bob Hurley, who saved me from drowning when I was 19. Maybe when you sit down for Thanksgiving dinner, you will think of those who nurtured you and say a prayer of thanks for them. CARPE DIEM.

For Your Consideration

Treasure the love you receive above all. It will survive long after your gold and good health has vanished. Og Mandino-a best-selling American author.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., a Naperville, IL-based senior executive coaching & career transition firm. #630-420-0362 Jamesffitz37@hotmail.com Jamesfitzgerald.com

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By Judith Loevy

We're at that time of year when the focus is on fundraising. Each year in November, the Singers have an all-out effort to raise money to help us cover our expenses and to be able to contribute to the Center. This year, our concert, "Letters from Ireland," is on Sunday, November 19 at 3:00 PM in the Erin Room.

We always have tickets for sale. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$5 for children 5-12. There is no charge for children under 5. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more by emailing irishheritagesingers@irishahc.org. To purchase tickets go to www.irish-american.org or

call 773-282-7035 ext 10. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

To say we're working hard on the new music we'll be presenting is an understatement. The concert will be one of our best performances. The music is terrific. Paul Matijevic, our music director, spends so much time looking for interesting Irish music. As I've said a million times before, Irish music isn't just pub songs.

As part of the fundraising effort, our program is an ad book as well. Each year, it has been very successful. Truly this is the time when we do a full court press to earn the lion's share of our income. The

goal for us is to cover our expenses without burdening the Center.

So what's next? Well, Advent Sunday is on the horizon. We sing at Mass and we hold our annual bake sale. I have to tell you, not only can we sing our Irish hearts out but we can bake too! Our team, led by Michael Griffin, starts setting up on Saturday and arrives with the crew at 7:30 AM on Sunday to get ready for the sale. In addition to our baked goods, we offer bagels, donuts and hot dogs along with coffee and tea. I was bringing my breads to the bake sale table before Mass and I was amazed to see the numbers of people who came early to make sure they got what they wanted. The soda bread and brown bread are big sellers. We've been doing this bake sale for so long that we now have bake sale groupies. How good is that?

While our friends and family are working at the bake sale tables after Mass, we sing Christmas carols. We have a huge sing-along crowd that we love. We sing a number of everyone's favorite carols plus

several popular tunes like "White Christmas"; God bless Bing Crosby! We're moving into my favorite season. I love that time between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We celebrate our Lord's birth and our love for our family and friends. I love the perpetrations, the cooking and the baking. I love all the smells of the season. So with that in mind, we wish all of you a joyful holiday. We thank you for your support. We look forward to singing for you on November 19.

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By John Griffin



Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago

fáilte
FAIRCE

While the Irish Fellowship Club has been around since 1901, its charitable arm, the Irish Fellowship Club Educational and Cultural Foundation, is celebrating its 40th anniversary of providing grants to Chicagoland parochial high schools. The Foundation held a reception at St. Ignatius High School on October 23, 2017, to recognize this milestone. Since 1972, the Foundation has donated over \$2,300,000 to high school scholars. Presently there are 36 schools receiving grants.

Approximately 30 schools were represented at the reception. Irish Fellowship Club president, Chris Kozicki spoke of the challenges facing the Irish when they came to America and the importance of faith and education to them. "Catholic Education was very important to help catholic immigrant's children become successful in society. Many past and current leaders and members of the IFC have attended many of these great high schools that are here today. Forty years ago, under the direction of President Art Dunne and Don Ryan, the club made a commitment to fund scholarships for children of Irish decent at our local Catholic high schools. Through the years there have been demographic shifts and some schools no longer have children of Irish decent but the IFC is proud to honor our commitment to these schools."

Foundation President, Jack Hartman echoed Kozicki's theme and emphasized the Irish Fellowship's commitment to Catholic education and the effect it has had on its graduates.

Maura Gribble of Mother McAuley, Dan O'Leary of St. Ignatius and Tim Sullivan, a graduate of Marist High School, expressed their gratitude and the impact their grant and Catholic education has had on their lives.

The keynote speaker was Mary Dempsey, president of DePaul College Preparatory. Ms. Dempsey pointed out that 79,000 students attend 229 schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The graduation rate is 98% and over one billion dollars of taxpayer money is saved by Catholic education. She joined in thanking the Irish Fellowship Club for its support.



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Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



Senior Group Events

Wednesday 1st Nov. - Tara Club
- 10am- 12pm at the IAHC

It's not always easy to make the right choices when it comes to food. It can also be difficult for us to take the time and energy to make nutritious meals and not depend on unhealthy convenience foods. But it doesn't have to be as hard as we think to prepare meals that will help us remain as healthy as possible. Learn more about easy healthy meals at today's meeting.

Wednesday 8th November -
Fall Trip to Milwaukee

We think it's about time to get out of town! We're headed north to Milwaukee where we'll sample the delightful cuisine at the famous Mader's German restaurant which has been serving hungry customers since 1902. After lunch we'll take a fascinating tour of

the old Pabst mansion. There will be coach pick-up at Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center. Call the office for availability and further details.

Wednesday
15th November- Monthly
Musical Gathering - 11am -
1pm IAHC

The Monthly Musical Gathering is an opportunity for members of all the different Irish organizations to get together to share some good company and some great music. We want the Tara club to come along to represent our

group at these musical meetings and enjoy all that's on offer. This month music will be provided by Joe McShane.

Wednesday 1st - Irish Cultural
Hour - Mount Greenwood Public
Library - 11am-1pm

Join us for the very first monthly Irish Cultural Hour program at the library (11010 S Kedzie Ave, Chgo, IL 60655) in Mount Greenwood. This program will feature music from the talented Ray Gavin.

Given the relatively recent popularity of reality television shows dealing with the subject, hoarding has become an issue that the general public is more aware of now than ever before. In 2013 the American Psychiatric Association added 'Hoarding Disorder' to its widely used guide on mental illness called the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). This familiarity with the condition has led the term 'hoarder' to make its way into the everyday lexicon of America. However, the term is often used incorrectly or applied in an exaggerated sense to a situation that doesn't really warrant its use.

The DSM criteria for diagnosing Hoarding Disorder is;

1. Persistent difficulty discarding or parting with possessions, regardless of their actual value.

2. This difficulty is due to a perceived need to save the items and to distress associated with discarding them.

3. The difficulty discarding possessions results in the accumulation of possessions that congest and clutter active living areas and substantially compromises their intended use. If living areas are uncluttered, it is only because of the interventions of third parties (eg, family members, cleaners, or the authorities).

4. The hoarding causes clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning (including maintaining an environment safe for oneself or others).

5. The hoarding is not attributable to another medical condition.

6. The hoarding is not better explained by the symptoms of another mental disorder (eg, obsessions in obsessive-compulsive disorder, decreased energy in major depressive disorder, etc).

The definition offered above really is intended for use in the clinical setting to diagnose Hoarding Disorder and as such might be a little difficult for many of us to digest. There are, however, many other more accessible definitions of hoarding. A large portion of these other definitions are similar in how they characterize the behavior of those who hoard, describing it as a compulsion to acquire objects, a failure to discard of these objects, and the accumulation of object to such as to prevent rooms and spaces from being used for their intended purposes.

While most of us now have some familiarity with the issue of hoarding, the reality shows have made hoarding a household term providing a very dramatized account, but they have been useful in highlighting just how debilitating this condition can be.

There are several strategies that can be used to help those who hoard, from very practical methods of assisting with cleaning and the discarding of objects, to more therapeutic approaches that seek to change the emotional attachment that some suffers have to the objects that are unable to get rid of.

The City of Chicago offers the Heavy Duty Chore (HDC) program to seniors who are receiving assistance through the state. I've witnessed this program first hand and have seen the positive impact that it has on those who avail of it. The HDC program provides a small team of cleaners who can spend up to two days in the home assisting with clearing out and cleaning. While the process is usually very difficult for the senior, if they can be supported through the ordeal, the benefits can go beyond simply having a more functional home. Often the senior finds themselves with a renewed, more optimistic outlook on life. For more about Heavy Duty Chore program call 311.

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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello everyone,

I hope you didn't get scared out of your britches too much around Halloween. I just spent most of the month at the Irish Cottage, in Galena. If you haven't been, I highly recommend it for a visit. It's one of the warmest welcoming places that I've ever been. You can always tell a place is running well, when the owners are so friendly and really take time out to chat and make everyone feel at home. That comes down the line because all the staff is the same. I enjoyed being part of the staff, singing and playing for the month of October. Basil, Jack, and Debbie and all the staff, thank you for a lovely stay. Another highlight of October was the iBAM! ran by the Irish American News. You do an outstanding job and help promote Irish culture in every sense of the word. Long may it continue Cliff and Cathy Carlson.

I found a very interesting story, but I'm going to ask the man that is closer to it than I. That man is a good friend of Chicago for many years. He hails from Fanad, County Donegal, and maybe you guessed already that it's Joe Cullen. I have giggered, drank and had many's a craic with him over the years. I'm sure you have too. I was telling Joe, that I'd been reading about a man from Tory Island, (island of the coast of Donegal) who is actually the King of Tory Island. It was so interesting that I started to write a verse of a song about him. Then I realized that Joe Cullen, has connections on the island, so I called him and said: "I think we need to write this song together because you know the people and I don't want to get any facts wrong". So we wrote this months song, which is titled "The King Of Tory Island". I'm glad I got in touch with Joe, because not only is he a very talented writer and musician, but he will make sure the story is authentic. You can read a thousand books but to meet a native is the best education of all. So I'll hand you over to Joe Cullen, to tell you about "The King Of Tory Island".

My only claim to royalty is that my cousin, Daniel Cullen, is married to the King's daughter on Tory Island. Patsy Dan Rodgers is the current King since 1993 having been chosen by the Islanders for the job. In that role, he greets visitors to the island and has always been a fierce advocate of island-

ers needs and rights. He is one of a handful of people who fought The Irish government's attempts to move all the island-

ers to the mainland a few decades ago. He fought them and he won. He is an artist, a musician, a storyteller and a native speaker of the Irish language. Daniel's father, the late Paddy Cullen was also a native speaker from The Rosguill peninsula, as was my father and Paddy was also a singer, musician, and storyteller beyond compare. Either one on their own could entertain a gathering but when Patsy Dan and Paddy were in the same place at the same time, the entertainment value and the craic was taken to a whole other level. Jokes, stories, songs, tunes and no ego.

Patsy Dan has done more than probably any other person for the people of Tory Island. Stepping onto Patsy Dan's Island is to step back in time and into a whole other world. You should take a trip there and Patsy Dan will be the first to greet you when you step off the ferry onto the pier. He will be genuinely happy to have you visit and proud to show you his Island home. The tiny dot of land northwest of the Donegal mainland battered by fierce Atlantic waves but unbowed.

Thank you, Joe Cullen and I really enjoyed writing the song with you. I was reading, there's has been a King of Tory Island since around the sixth century, started by St. Colmcille. There is so much to know about this island that the best way is to put it on your list of places to visit. In the meantime, you can find lots of information on the internet. I will most definitely be taking a trip there.

Hope you have a very happy and peaceful Thanksgiving and as always, be good to one another.

Joe

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King Of Tory Island

Written by Joe Cullen and
Joe McShane

Verse 1

We're not leaving the island says, Dan
For no mainland thoughtless
government

Cromwell tried before and failed
And his ships were lost out in the gale

Verse 2

Paddy Cullen says I'll stand beside
you Dan

Let's ride the storm and sing a song like
dacent Irish men

Them quare boys up in Dublin tried to
drive us all

From our lovely Island off the coast of
Donegal

Chorus

So rosin up the bow and let the wild
winds blow

We're all here together through all kinds
of weather

Where the Corncrake can be heard and
the family's dearly loved

Where the wind blows ore the sea
On the island that's still home to me

Verse 3

When Paddy and Dan got together
There was never a tale left untold

Great friends and lovers of the music
Entrhalling the young and the old

Verse 4

The sound of the Squeezebox by the

fireside

Dancing and playing tunes, from long
long ago

Singing songs of the warrior people
Who never would bow to the throne

Chorus

So rosin up the bow and let the wild
winds blow

We're all here together through all kinds
of weather

Where the Corncrake can be heard and
the family's dearly loved

Where the wind blows ore the sea
On the island that's still home to me

Bridge

So here's to the people of Tory
Independent and true to the end

And Patsy Dan Rodger's their leader
A stalwart and trustworthy friend

Chorus

So rosin up the bow and let the wild
winds blow

We're all here together through all kinds
of weather

Where the Corncrake can be heard and
the family's dearly loved

Where the wind blows ore the sea
On the island that's still home to me

(Tag) Raise your glasses to the men who
took a stand

And Slainte to the King of Tory Island



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Green September

It is 1993 as the head of a secret section of the British Ministry of

Defense, begins to execute a masterful plan he feels is the only way to break the cycle of violence in Northern Ireland and pave the way for a united country.

Major Kevin MacAllister is not the man everyone believes him to be.

Because he is a highly regarded

mistress for quite some time. As MacAllister's plan unfolds, emotions

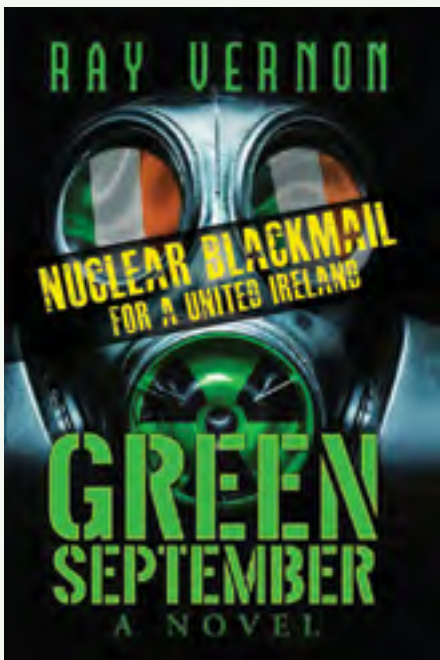
run high and tensions mount as he prepares to sacrifice his friends, upstanding career, and the love of his life—all to pursue his dream. Now only one question remains: Will he be successful or will his dream die with him in the open sea?

In this international thriller, an extraordinary nuclear terrorist unfurls a plan with the power to instill fear in millions of Londoners and bring the British government to its knees.

Ray Vernon grew up in Ireland as the youngest of eight children. After graduating from Cork University, he lived in London, Germany, Italy, and eventually the United States where his sales and marketing career took him to over eighty countries.

He is now a real estate broker who serves Boston's South Shore and Cape Cod. Ray resides in Plymouth,

Massachusetts. This is his debut novel.



expert on small-scale nuclear weapons on

both sides of the Atlantic as well as a well-respected family man, no one suspects that, in just seventeen days, MacAllister is planning to implement the first act of nuclear terrorism on the world or that he has had a beautiful



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On the Upbeat

By *Maryann
 McTeague Keifer*

I was in the middle of doing a final edit of this month's article, when the mail lady rang the bell with a few packages, one of them a CD. Seeing the return address, I knew the final edit would be changing to an entirely new column. I had mixed feelings for sure, but I had been anxiously waiting for Open the Door for Three's new release, and there it was in my hands!

In case you are newer to Trad music, Open the Door for Three is Liz Knowles on fiddle and hardanger, Kieran O'Hare on uilleann pipes, flute, and whistles, and Pat Broaders on bouzouki and vocals.

Liz Knowles, who hails from Kentucky, is a classically trained violinist who has performed in many venues, including Carnegie Hall. When she decided to take up fiddling, she worked with Eileen Ivers and Brian Connolly, and before long was the fiddler for Riverdance. She has played on the sound track of Michael Collins, performed with Bobby McFerrin on NPR, is a member of The String Sisters, Cherish the Ladies, the new Martin Hayes Quartet, and has played with and produced Celtic Legends. Liz often teaches at the Catskills, Swannanoa, and O'Flaherty Irish Music Weeks. She also did extensive research, and with Liz Carroll, arranged, produced, and performed on the album which was part of the Chicago Art Institute's exhibit "Ireland: Crossroads of Art and Design 1690 - 1840".

Kieran O'Hare, who is a master of the concert flute, uilleann pipes, and whistles was the first American born musician invited to perform in Ireland's "Ace and Deuce of Piping Concert". He has played all over the world with Mick Maloney, Greenfields

of America, Jerry Holland, JP Cormier, Liz Carroll, Anuna, in The Road to Perdition, and with Celtic Legends to name a few...He sits on the Board of Na Piobairi Uilleann, a group dedicated to preserving and promoting the uilleann pipes. Kieran is also a much sought after teacher, composer, arranger, and author. His Eirways magazine



story on Chicago's Kevin Henry was epic!

Dublin born multi instrumentalist Pat Broaders began his musical life playing whistles and uilleann pipes, which brings fond memories back for me, as we would often go downtown to listen to he and Jimmy Moore playing together. Pat added the bouzouki when he began listening to groups such as Planxty, and his singing came following in the footsteps of his Dad. We are very fortunate that he followed his love Sara here to Chicago and decided to stay to raise his family and become a huge part of the Chicago Trad music community. Pat is a member of Bohola with Jimmy Keane, and has played with Dennis Cahill, Liz Carroll, John Doyle, Danu, and the Celtic Legends among many others. He owns Pipedream Studio and is a great support for other musicians.

Put these three incredibly talented musicians together and magic happens. (Along with some

wicked good senses of humor...) I had a quick worry that their first two albums Open the Door for Three and The Penny Wager were so good, that I might be disappointed—Pffft, perish that thought with the first cut! The Joyful Hour is a collection of 11 sets and songs that will take you on a very special musical journey. In the opening set "Boyne Water," Kieran's whistles will have you tapping your toes and ready to dance, and you are then led into Liz' fiddling which makes you feel you are riding horseback with wild abandon. Add the pipes and Pat's bouzouki, and you are already hooked into this album.

In "Heavy Is My Fate," Liz pulls on all the sadness and cares in your heart. The tune and playing make you "feel". The following set "The Boy in the Tree" brings the joy back with its lighthearted and jubilant melody.

"Carrig River," a song learned from Pat's Dad, tells of the beauty of the area and of those who came before. There is also "Creeping Jane," a fun fiddling song about a race horse. "Clyde Water" is running as my favorite right now.

The Joyful Hour is a labor of love which you can hear in their tune and song choices, arranging, and outstanding playing

Those of you in Chicago will be able to attend a CD Launch at Chief O'Neill's on November 11th. On the 10th, they are at The Focal Point in St. Louis. For other towns, keep an eye out on their website. Make sure you order this album for your collection—it is five star brilliant!

Remember to tune in on Mondays at 9PM to IRELAND TONIGHT on WDCB.org, 90.9FM (90.7FM in Downtown Chicago). Check in on my Facebook page to chat during the show. Shay Clarke & Jack Baker are on just before me with Blarney on the Air and Bill & Imelda follow with House Party. As you celebrate Thanksgiving, know I am so very thankful for all of you who read this column, listen to the radio show, and, especially, support these musicians who work so hard and share their talents and music with us.

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RAISE Act

In August, President Trump endorsed a proposal by Senator Tom Cotton (R-AK) and Senator David Perdue (R-GA) that seeks to cut legal immigration in half over the next decade. The RAISE (Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment) Act seeks to reduce legal immigration by sharply curtailing the ability of American Citizens and legal residents to bring family members into the United States. This bill would limit pathways for siblings and adult children of US citizens to apply for permanent residency.



Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

By Michael Collins,
Executive Director

The bill would also put a 50,000 person cap on refugees that are allowed to settle in the United States and abolish the Visa Lottery program. This would signal a break from the long standing family reunification focused immigration system that the US is accustomed to. The RAISE Act, if passed, would be the most significant change to the US immigration system in decades.

Supporters of this bill argue that the US has admitted too many low skilled

workers, and this would give more opportunities to American workers. Critics of the bill state that the RAISE Act would widen the already large workforce gap, tear apart families, and punish those who make a significant contribution to the

American economy. Critics of the bill are also quick to point out that not all family based immigration petitions are low skilled or uneducated.

Each year more than one million people are granted legal residency to the United States. In 2014, 64% of immigrants permitted with legal residency were immediate relatives of US citizens or were sponsored by a family member. This is compared to just 15% of people who entered with employment based applications. This bill would, for the most part, keep the number of employee based admissions around the same number. This legislation would convert the US to a points based immigration system. The points based system has been criticized for being discriminatory mainly for its age and English language preferences but also for having pre-determined categories such as education, income, entrepreneurial initiative, and more. It is not expected that congress would vote on

a comprehensive immigration bill before the New Year but it remains to be seen how hard the administration will push for this. One thing is for sure, restricting legal immigration is a step in the wrong direction.

CIIS Update

SAVE THE DATE! CIIS will be hosting our second annual casino night fundraiser on Saturday February 24th 2018. This event will be held in the Erin Room at the Irish American Heritage Center and doors open at 7pm. This is CIIS' headlining fundraiser and raises essential funds for CIIS to continue to serve the community. For more information or to learn more about ticketing and sponsorship options please call our office or visit our website.

CIIS is continuing to host free legal clinics for anyone who has immigration questions. These clinics are held two to three times per month by appointment only. We host legal clinics on both the north and south side of the city. Each clinic provides a client with a 30-minute face-to-face consultation with an immigration attorney. Call today to reserve your place!

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Time Passage

One morning, as I attempted the dreaded school run, I was stuck in the usual traffic chaos at the bottom of Maryborough Hill. As the cars whizzed by from all directions I started to notice the local skyline punctuated by Douglas Court, the Watergold Building, Mc Donald's and various apartment blocks all around. I reflected that the suburb of Douglas in Cork is quickly crystallizing out of its suburban shell to take on the spreading wings of an urban city. The drivers seemed tense at that time of day and many had that 'hunted look' as they thought of confronting their employees and peers at the morning meeting and also what might be in the E-Mails received from the corporate overlords across the pond. Amongst all of this modern

turmoil, there is a house at the fingerpost roundabout with a stone wall that leads on to Tramway Terrace. Inside this stone wall, there is a vision of Ireland's past, a small vegetable garden with rural characteristics nestled in an urban landscape, almost defying time. I noticed it earlier in the summer when the potatoes were shooting above the ground and there were cabbages, onions, carrots and lettuces in abundance also. These gardens are a rare sight in urban landscapes these days and they have started to tail off in the countryside also in recent decades. These have, in most cases, been replaced by decking and BBQ areas.

They are part of another era and conjure up images of, rising to the potato drills, the big barrel of bluestone mix to prevent the blight, which was replaced by the

yellowish looking dithane in the latter years. Shaking the spuds out of the stalks and digging a trench in the ground, this was covered over with straw and clay to ward off the severe winter frosts.

In days gone by, especially in country areas, the vegetable garden was a necessity. The wages were generally low and it helped the household budget along enormously. If the family provider happened to lose their job, at least the family could continue to eat in the interim. These gardens have rapidly disappeared over time as people became more affluent, had less time on their hands, and as the large stores and supermarkets started to spread their commercial web across the landscape.

Well done to the people in the house at the fingerpost who are continuing with this tradition and hope you will keep it up for many years to come. If we could have the benefit of the crystal ball to visualise Douglas in 2037, we would possibly see a proliferation of high rise apartment blocks and offices, with the smaller dwellings

on Tramway Terrace and Douglas West sucked into the vacuum of progress. Change is advancing towards us at a rapidly accelerating

and simpler days. We tend not to see the changes from day to day and no one notices the customs of the past slipping away.

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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
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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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Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler

This month I will cover Co. Laois, it's located in the province of Leinster, formerly known as the Queens county. It's a small county of about 85,000 people. Ireland's first farmers during the Neolithic period (4,000-2500 BC) cleared forests and planted crops. They also produced weapons, tools and golden objects. Visitors to the county can see a stone circle they left behind at Monomoy. There are several remains. When Ireland was Christianized by holy men and women founded religious communities in Loigis, St. Ciaran called the Elden to distinguish from the younger St. Ciaran of Clonmacnoise founded his monastic site in the Bloom mountains. As the Bishop of Ossory but speaking of St. Ciaran my father Michael attended St. Ciaran's College in Kilkenny. Although St. Ciaran's college was best known for the priesthood it also hosted teaching regular (secular) college students. I went to St. Ciaran's and I skipped the 3rd class year, I went from 2nd to 4th class. My uncle Tom Byrne lived very close to the border of Laois/Kilkenny, it was called Chatswith clough. When I'd visit my uncle he would always like us to go to Timahoe. Richard Nixon's wife's mother came from Timahoe, Laois and while Nixon was in the white house he had a dog named Timahoe. What a tribute to his mother-in-law. The Norman invasion of Ireland around 1170 affected Laois as it was a part of the Kingdom



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was given in marriage in 1170 to the Norman warrior Strongbow. Several of the towns in Laois were first established as Norman boroughs including Castle-town Durrow and Timahoe.

A few famous people from Laois include: Oliver Flanagan (Min of Defense), Valentine O'Hara, (Author all things Russian), Bernard O'Shea (Comedian), and William Cosby (Gov of NY). Laois is also famous for First Ireland Spirits and cream liquor, for some of the largest retailers and drink companies, it's located in Abbyleix, Co. Laois. On a different note our only & lovely daughter Tina got married to a outstanding gentleman named, Mike Leonard. It was a beautiful occasion and held at a classy place in Chicago, The Gage. Congrats to them both. I was proud to make a toast & speech and to sing the Irish anthem. I sang a few songs: Green Glens of Antrim, Rose of Mooncoin, the Boys from the Co. Mayo and Give me Memphis Tennessee. Some say it's easy to get and speak before a crowd but it's easier said than done. But it was a great crowd, very gracious and the room was full of love and support



for the new couple and we couldn't be happier for them and wish them a life of love & laughter. I want to wish everyone a most abundant and Happy Thanksgiving. Up Laois! Questions or comments please send to Kilkennycat1@yahoo.com

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Unity and Division

At time of writing Hurricane Ophelia is suspending everything moveable (and many things that were apparently immovable) in Ireland, disproving Hamlet's description of his girlfriend: there is nothing 'fair' about Ophelia. It is noteworthy that President Bill Clinton's appointment to meet the Northern Irish political leaders on Monday October 16th was cancelled due to the ferocious gusts. These tempestuous circumstances provide pathetic fallacy for the political climate just now—in Northern Ireland, Britain and, most recently, in Spain.

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Northern Irish leaders have not sat together to administer since the Assembly was suspended in January of this year. Sinn Féin maintained in recent days that 'any notion that an agreement is imminent and that the Assembly will meet next week has no basis in fact given the present state of the talks'. The DUP is equally eager to dispel to any hint that agreement is nigh. Is it entirely lost on Sinn Féin and the DUP that they have the biggest electoral mandates in the North of

Ireland and that failure to resuscitate the Assembly reflects very badly on them?

Undeterred, Sinn Féin president, Gerry Adams, wrote an article in The Guardian on October 9th in which he was very explicit in urging leadership on all sides to confront the constitutional crisis in Catalonia. Adams argues that what is required to resolve such problems is 'a preparedness to engage in an inclusive process of dialogue'. That is a message he might wish to communicate to his Sinn Féin colleagues in Belfast.

Catalonia, a very prosperous part of Spain, has been edging towards a serious independence bid for several years now. Its citizens encountered extreme violence from the Spanish police when they attempted to hold a vote on independence on Sunday October 1st. Even granting that holding the election was an unconstitutional act, the international community was appalled at the level of violence visited on Catalan voters and, consequently, considerable sympathy has transferred from the dilemma faced by the Spanish government in confronting Catalan separatism to the people of Catalonia.

The Spanish government's reaction could hardly have been better for Catalan separatists, who have hardened their stance with the fresh stimulus of state violence against them. Their counterparts, Spanish 'unionists', are on the streets to resist any move towards independence for the region. As a result, Spain faces its biggest constitutional crisis

since General Franco's rule.

In the past two weeks, Catalonia seems to have gone through a new constitutional status with every change of socks. The leader of the Catalonia region, Carles Puigdemont, whose sails were fully inflated due to the brutal tactics of the Spanish police, declared independence in Catalanian parliament: 'Today I assume the mandate for Catalonia to become an independent state in the form of a republic'. Then he declared that he was 'suspending the declaration of independence for a few weeks because we want a reasonable dialogue'. In a letter to the Spanish Prime Minister on Monday October 16th, he asked for two months of such dialogue. Madrid's response so far is that the declaration must be revoked or Catalonia will face direct rule from Madrid—the regional parliament would be void.

As in the case of Northern Ireland if it were again ruled directly from London, so in the case if Catalonia were ruled directly from Madrid: the result would be a disaster. Catalan political separatism is in considerable measure based on cultural separatism: the Catalans have their own language and they are fiercely proud of the way in which they have successfully fostered its use in all spheres of public life in recent decades. If Madrid directly rules Catalonia, many of the Catalan language rights in public areas could be rescinded. That would be very unwise on the part of Madrid, but there is a bad precedent of such practices historically (during Franco's dictatorship); and, in recent weeks,

Madrid's insensitivity to Catalonia's sense of cultural distinctiveness has been marked. It is almost certain that the Spanish government will be intolerant of the rather forthright way the regional Catalan parliament has asserted its linguistic rights.

So, in an instant, Catalonia would be politically at war with Spain and its separat-

ist leaders and thinkers could demonstrate that its culture is being suppressed. Secondly, since separatism by no means receives unanimous support in Catalonia, division between those who wish to remain Spanish and those who want to establish a separate Catalan nation would clash. To add to this potent political cocktail, the local Catalan police could well side with the Catalans and resist the national police. Already, the Catalan chief of police, who did not support the national police in their response to the election on October 1st, faces the threat of a trial for sedition.

Close to 10 million tourists visit the Catalan capital, Barcelona, every year—a staggering figure, well higher than the city's population. Its art, music, football, food and dance draw people from all over the world. For Catalonia to be drawn into both internal schism and a face-off with Madrid was hardly thinkable until weeks ago, and yet now it is urgent that Catalonia and Spain find a diplomatic solution or face years of anguish.

We will only fully see, with the passing of years, the degree of disunity that the Brexit decision by the British electorate last June has introduced to Europe. What is certain is that the option of secession, be it from a European country or from the European Union itself, is more conceivable now than it was before June 2016. It is also clear that what enables the biggest parties in Northern Ireland to dally over negotiations to restore the Assembly is the full scale constitutional crisis impending in Britain. The DUP's strategy is to consolidate its own standing and help to bring direct rule. Sinn Féin's strategy is to wait it out until (and it is just a matter of time) the DUP / Tory government collapses—in the hope that, in the midst of the instability in Britain, a more All-Ireland political structure may result. Irrespective of what happens, the parties surely must see that they will need to sit down and practice politics. So isn't it high time that they resolved to just get on with their jobs?

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Lazy, Hazy Thinking

The words, "I don't know" are appropriate for certain questions – such as "How were the pyramids made?" or "Why don't we ever see the headline Psychic Wins Lottery?" or "Why do The Alphabet Song and Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?". (Or even the question: "Why did you just try to sing those two songs?")

But I digress. Any time questions about procrastination and clutter are answered with "I dunno", there is no progress, no solution, no personal insight.

Why did you give up your dream of going to college? I dunno.

How come you never pursued your hope to learn to play the piano? I dunno

What keeps you from re-connecting with your old friend? I dunno

How come you still haven't started writing that book? I dunno.

Why are you keeping all this clutter? I dunno..

Do you really believe you'll ever need it? I dunno.

With procrastination and clutter, that miserable, mealy-mouthed phrase "I dunno" reflects a brain too lazy to search for an answer or too hazy to clarify a thought. Yet these are questions that only YOU can answer.

I encourage you to no longer accept that phrase. When I hear it, I think to myself "You DO know the answer. You ARE the answer. But ya gotta work to think about it. There is a reason WHY you put off what you need

to do, and WHY you hang on to your clutter. Nobody can answer that but YOU."

Yes, that type of thinking can be hard work. That's why I call it "Lazy, Hazy Thinking". I'm convinced that for everyone, the answer is within you. You ARE the answer. All I have to do is figure out how to convince you.

Now something amazing happened. I was given a CD called "The Further I Travel ..." by my favorite Irish entertainer, Tom Sweeney. The songs are fantastic, and my favorite is one that Tom wrote called "The Question and the Answer". The closing lyrics are: Do you long to take your life back and for once to gain control

To chart the course of your own destination

Are you weary of the helplessness you feel each passing day

It's time you gave it some consideration.

CHORUS:

There's a way to find the rainbow, a way to find the sun,

A way to find the freedom of the dancer.

Never give up on the dream and listen to your heart

For you are both the question and the answer.

So you must make the change you seek and find it on your own
The courage of your heart will make you stronger

For no one else can ever know what's right for you alone

Though the road back to yourself is often longer

But be the journey long or short, you'll end where you should be

The joy of life is that each one should find it

And you'll never get the answers from what other people say.

The key to life's your heart and what's behind it.

CHORUS:

There's a way to find the rainbow, a way to find the sun,

A way to find the freedom of the dancer.

Never give up on the dream and listen to your heart

For you are both the question and the answer.

Did these words inspire you as much as they did me? Even though you are answering only to yourself, PLEASE don't say "I dunno".

(By the way, if these lyrics "speak to you", you can either

buy Tom Sweeney's CD "The Further I Travel ..." because you'll probably love all the songs OR go to iTUNES so you can hear this one song or go to www.tomsweeneymusic.ie.)

May you joyfully find your answers.

Rita Emmett is a "Recovering

Procrastinator", *Professional Speaker*, and author of *The Procrastinator's Handbook*,

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

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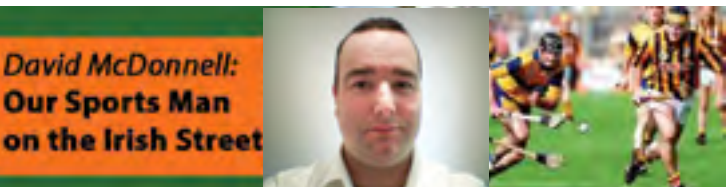
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Our Sports Man
on the Irish Street

Ireland Can Land in the World Cup

After a dramatic victory against Wales in Cardiff last month, Ireland are now a competitive toss of a coin away from the World Cup next summer.

Heads it's Ireland, tails it's Denmark.

They are a few flips and turns before fortune favours one nation over the other in the shape of an away fixture in Copenhagen on November 11 followed by the return leg in Dublin three days later.

An historic match-up where the victor will land the spoiliest of spoils that the international football calendar has to offer and while trying not to sound over-zealous or turbo-dramatic, this is the Republic of Ireland's

best opportunity of reaching the greatest football tournament since they last managed such a feat when reaching the World Cup in 2002.

Victory against the Danes will give not just football in Ireland a colossal lift, but it will add excitement and joy to the lives of all Irish people, both young and old at home and abroad for several months in the build-up to the tournament.

Crest of a Wave

Although still considered outsiders in the bookies, Ireland come into this game on a crest of a wave after a heroic defensive display saw them victorious in a must-win game against Wales in Cardiff last month.

A solitary second-half goal by James McClean proved the difference as Ireland saw out victory despite a Welsh onslaught in the last 20 minutes. It was a terrific team performance and Irish heroes were aplenty.

Darren Randolph made some crucial saves when the score was tied, while Shane Duffy was a rock in the centre of defence with a man-of-the-match display. He relentlessly showed how dominant he can be in the air as many premiership strikers are finding out this season.

Cyrus Christie against deputised for injured captain Seamus Coleman while Stephan Ward had his best defensive display in an Irish shirt. The back four were protected by a midfield combination of David Meyler and Harry Arter, who both shut down the threat of Aaron Ramsey throughout the contest.

That said Ireland had their luck too when Welsh midfielder Joe Allen had to leave the action with a concussion, which stifled the



Stephen Ward

Dragons passing game and gave the Irish side more encouragement in pressing the opposition.

It was during once such play that Dubliner Jeff Hendrick turned over a sloppy touch by

Welsh defender Ashley Williams and from this, Hendrick's cross finds its way to McClean who directed the ball with his right foot to the back of the net.

It was a great night for the players and the supporters, but also for the management team of Martin O'Neill and Roy Keane. It is the second time in two attempts that collectively Ireland have reached the play-offs and this time with a side that was seeded fourth in the group before any of the games were played.

In hindsight the away victories against Austria and Wales proved crucial.

This is not the best Irish team since 2002 in terms of talent. The squad consists of Premiership and Championship players and there is no member of the panel outside of the aging John O'Shea with Champions League experience.

However, traits and characteristics that this group has in abundance is courage, determination

Continued on next page



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and team work. Even more significantly, when the stacks are higher, the 'Boys in Green' seem to play better.

These players realise the enormity of the task in hand and will approach these games with relish. For many this will be their only crack of making a World Cup tournament.

So, what of our upcoming opponents?

Although, Denmark were the seeded team in the play-off draw, they have had a difficult qualifying campaign.

At the halfway stage, as Shakespeare would allude; there was 'something rotten in the state of Denmark.'

A loss to eventual group winners Poland coupled with a surprise defeat to Montenegro had Denmark positioned fourth in the group with four matches to play. However, they finished like thoroughbreds with three wins and a draw which included a 4-0 victory against the already quailed Poles.

Their talisman is Tottenham Hotspur's Christin Erikson, who scored eight goals in 10 group matches. He has been in terrific form for Spurs this season and should be partnered in attack by the young Ajax striker Kasper Dolberg, who was sensational in his club's run to the Europa League Final last May.

At the back, Leicester City's Kasper Schmeichel tends the goals while expe-

rienced Sevilla defender Simon Kjaer captains the side. In midfield the Dane with the Irish name Thomas Delaney is an exciting prospect who plies his trade with Werder Bremen in the Bundesliga.

On paper Denmark have a more impressive resume but Ireland have every chance to make it to the Big Show in Russia next summer.

This will be a series of games that will captivate the country and the whole island of Ireland as our neighbours in football, Northern Ireland also take on Switzerland in the World Cup play-offs.

Again, Michael O'Neill has worked a mini-miracle as manager of the North, and his side will fancy their chances against an unpredictable Switzerland team of whom Granit Xhaka and Xherdan Shaqiri are well known from their Premier League exploits with Arsenal and Stoke respectively.

This Northern Ireland side have an excellent defence led by Jonny Evans and are dangerous at set pieces, but it would be great for the island of Ireland if both teams qualify for Russia.

Whichever way the penny drops, be assured that the two games both Irish teams play this November will live long in the memory. And if both teams qualify for the World Cup next year, they will never be forgotten.

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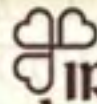
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UPCOMING CONCERTS AND PROGRAMS



Moya Brennan and Her Band Salon Concert

Salon Concerts Chicago presents Moya Brennan, the voice of Clannad and First Lady of Celtic music in concert. Brennan's effortless vocals and timeless music pay homage to her vibrant traditional Irish heritage and her grasp of contemporary forms. She is joined by her children; Aisling and Paul and Irish harp and violin virtuosos, Cormac De Barra and Lia Wright.

Sunday, November 5, 5pm, \$25 for adults and teens and children 18 and under, Free



Hall of Fame Trivia Night

Put your knowledge to test at the annual Trivia Night Fundraiser in support of the Irish American Hall of Fame and the IAHC. Trivia questions cover Irish American Hall of Fame categories: Arts & Humanities, Public Service, Business & Industry, Sports, Education, Religion, Science, as well as pop culture and current events. **Saturday, November 11, 7pm, \$150 per team. Register at www.iahof.org**



Veteran's Day Mass and Dedication

Honor those who have served and sacrificed for their country with a Mass and dedication of a brick to the Center's front plaza, music by the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band and light refreshments.

Sunday, November 12, 10:30am Mass, 11:30am dedication ceremony, Free



Quiz Night

Show off your skills at one of Chicago's longest running Quiz Nights. There are prizes for the top 3 teams and proceeds from the evening benefit a local charity each month.

Friday, November 17, 8pm, \$60 per team



Letters from Ireland: The Irish Heritage Singers in Concert

The annual concert features traditional and contemporary Irish songs and traditional Irish Christmas carols. **Sunday, November 19, 3pm, Adults \$20, children \$5 and children under 5, Free**



IAHC Holiday Food Drive

Show your holiday spirit by donating to the fifth annual Holiday Food Drive, benefiting the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Drop off items including canned fruit, cereal, pasta, rice and soup to help us meet our goal of 1200 lbs. of food. **November 25-January 2**



Christmas Tea

Enjoy the sounds of the season featuring music with musicians Kathy Cowan, Kathleen Keane, Steve Zivin and the Old Town School of Music Women's Choir.

Saturday, December 9, 11am, \$25, children 12 and under \$8



Christmas Bazaar

Visit a winter wonderland at the annual Christmas Bazaar. Join us for a full day of holiday festivities, including Mass at 10:30am, traditional Irish breakfast, a craft fair and bake sale, Irish music and dance and a visit from Santa.

Sunday, December 3, 9am, Breakfast tickets: Adults \$15, Children 12 and under \$5

Reservations are required.



The spirit of Christmas with Andy Cooney

The spirit of Christmas comes alive as Andy Cooney gathers the finest musicians, dancers and performers to celebrate the most wonderful time of year in the Irish tradition.

Sunday, December 3, 3pm, \$30-35, To purchase tickets, visit www.irishamericannews.com



The Noble Call Christmas Show

Paddy Homan & The Noble Call takes audiences back to the 'hearth' of an Irish Christmas, filled with songs, stories, rousing music and traditional Irish dancing.

Saturday, December 16, 7:30pm, \$20 IAHC Members, \$22 Non-members

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Sunday, November 5, 2107 • 5pm

The Irish Heritage Singers present their fall concert

LETTERS FROM IRELAND

Love, joy, and sorrow in music and memory

**SUNDAY,
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Celebrate the holiday season with
Paddy Homan & The Noble Call
Saturday, December 16, 2017
7:30pm



the heritage line

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

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President's Message

The Irish American Heritage Center is hosting a November 12th Veteran's Day Commemorative Mass and Dedication with the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 242; heroes helping us honor heroes. The program features Mass and the Shannon Rovers playing for a special dedication ceremony. All those who served in Vietnam are now remembered at the Center with a dedicated brick in our Walk of Names Project at our front plaza. It's important for us to honor and give thanks to all those who have fought to keep our great country free.



Many of you have been commenting on all of the fantastic music we have had at the Center this year. It's all part of our commitment to provide our community with the best in Irish culture. Along those lines, I am happy to announce that the Center will begin renovations on our beautiful Auditorium before the end of 2017. There will be more to come on the work and our great partners, but a new sound system, work on the acoustics and the addition of central air conditioning are a part of our plan. We've seen a lot of great shows in the Auditorium, but this work will allow us to bring in culture and entertainment from far and wide, and give you, our patrons, a more enjoyable and comfortable experience.

As always, I would like to express my gratitude to all the volunteers, Board members and employees who make our Irish American Heritage Center the pride of the Irish community.

Eugene M. Cooney
President

We hope you were able to enjoy this year's iBAM! Celebration; Irish Books, Art and Music – all the best of our Irish culture. It's what the Irish American Heritage Center was meant for. A big thanks to Cliff and Cathy Curry Carlson for another great year. No one realizes the behind the scenes work that goes into this event, but we do!

November 2017

11/1	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 306	10am
11/3	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
11/4	Piobairí	Fifth Province	6pm
	Shamrock American Club Social	Shamrock American Room	8pm
11/5	Moya Brennan and Her Band Concert	Fifth Province	5pm
11/11	Irish American Hall of Fame Trivia Night	Erin Room	7pm
	St. Patrick Fathers Social	Room 109	8pm
11/12	Veteran's Day Mass and Dedication	Auditorium & Front Plaza	10:30am
	Great Books Club <i>The Wonder</i> by Emma Donoghue	Library	1pm
11/15	Tara Club Monthly Music Gathering	Room 306	11am
11/17	Quiz Night	Room 109	8pm
	Shamrock American Club Meeting	Shamrock American Room	8pm
11/19	Irish Heritage Singers Fall Concert	Erin Room	3pm
11/21	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7pm
11/23	Thanksgiving	Building Closed	
11/25	Galway Fellowship After Thanksgiving Dance	Fifth Province	9pm
11/26	Genealogy Workshop	Library	1pm
	Irish Blues Party	Fifth Province	6pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Mon-Fri	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	4pm-8pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
	Memoir and Creative Writing Class (through 11/9)	Library	4pm
	Traditional Celtic Art Class (through 11/28)	Art Gallery	7pm
Wed	Watercolor Class (through 11/29)	Room 310	6:45pm
	Traditional Irish Music Session	Room 311	7pm
	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
	Na Gaeil Irish Language Class	Library	7pm
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 and Creative Writing Class (through 11/14)	Library	7pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	10am-8pm
	Na Gaeil Irish Language Class	Library	11am

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the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

NOVEMBER ENTERTAINMENT

- 11/3 Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor
- 11/4 Spring Tides
- 11/10 In Spite of Ourselves
- 11/11 Ian Gould
- 11/17 Joe McShane
- 11/18 Mulligan Stew
- 11/23 Sean Cleland Band
- 11/24 Jeff Ward
- 11/25 Gerry Haughey



Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions: November 2, 9, 16 and 30; 7pm

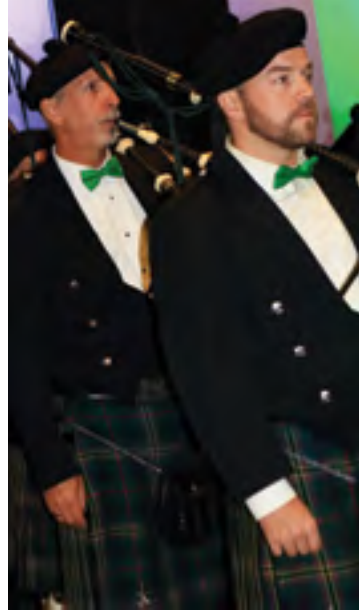


Join the fun every Thursday night in the Fifth Province with the taping of The Craic Radio show that airs on WSBC Radio 1240AM on Saturdays at 8pm.

Following the show, it's live music with our traditional Irish music session led by John Williams.

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Meg Buchanan, Karen Cannady, Gene Cooney, Laura Coyle, Ellen Folan, Catherine Kelly, Becky Tatz



A great time was had by all at the Shannon Rivers Annual Dinner Dance!







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Mick

Mike Morley



Harvey Owned The Press

I wrote February of Meryl Streep's hypocrisy using the Golden Globes to sermonize about America's newly elected President, saying: "Violence incites violence. When the powerful use their position to bully others, we all lose." Streep's most recent comments show she thinks her adoring fans stupid enough to believe she was blissfully unaware of Harvey Weinstein's infamous, bestial peccadillos. Screenwriter Scott Rosenberg now says of Harvey's depraved habits: "everybody-f--ing-knew." Yet he and others pardon their own silence: "Who were we to tell? The authorities? The press? Harvey owned the press." The world knows it now.

Ronan Farrow, Yale educated lawyer, son of Mia Farrow and Woody Allen, began working last year on an exposé of tyrannical producer Harvey Weinstein for his NBC Today series "Undercover with Ronan Farrow". It would have been sensational, airing in February just before the Academy Awards Oscars presentation. Among those Farrow interviewed for the piece was Rose McGowan, one of many women who received settlements from Weinstein for his offenses. Sources say that after the interview, McGowan's lawyer contacted both Farrow and NBC, revoking consent because it could violate the terms of her settlement. Farrell's NBC contract ended during the summer, but he kept working on the story, hiring his own crew. When he presented his report to the network, it was reviewed by NBC News' legal department as well as counsel for NBC-Universal. The network decided the story "wasn't publishable". That was in August.

NBC News did agree that Farrow could bring his work to a print outlet, with the stipulation that if published, he'd talk about it on NBC outlets. Sources report Weinstein's lawyers tried to stop Farrow from bringing his material from NBC News over to The New Yorker. "In the course of this reporting, I was threatened with a lawsuit personally by Mr. Weinstein" he told Rachel Maddow in his October 10 interview on MSNBC. "I walked into the door at The New Yorker with an explosively reportable piece that should have been public earlier," he told her. "And immediately, obviously, The New Yorker recognized that. And it's not accurate to say that it was not reportable. In fact, there were multiple determinations that it was reportable at NBC."

But perhaps not without more work. 'The Wrap' quoted New Yorker Editor-in-Chief David Remnick: "It was very clear to me when Ronan first contacted me two months ago that he had done a tremendous amount of work on a very complex and sensitive story and the building blocks of a New Yorker piece were either there or taking shape... There was more work to be done and he put his head down and he did it in a way that I can only call exemplary." By the time Farrell contacted the New Yorker, media circles were likely rife with rumors about the incoming bombshell.

On October 5 the New York Times released a Weinstein investigation, including "previously undisclosed allegations" from victims, and documents from the Weinstein Company and its earlier incarnation, Miramax. There's no indication that Farrell spoke with the Times. So, was Weinstein or the Times trying to get ahead of the storm?

The next day, Jim Rutenberg in his Times column, "The Me-

diator" wrote about "Harvey Weinstein's Media Enablers", and the fact that "He built his empire on a pile of positive press clippings...". He told readers that Weinstein's atrocious activities were "the worst-kept secret" in Hollywood and New York. But until now, no journalistic outfit had been able, or perhaps willing, to nail the details and hit publish." The column, though, failed to name any of the "media enablers". Perhaps the Times was loath to point fingers, lest an inferior tabloid might find it 'fit to print' a story that in 2004, former Times reporter Sharon Waxman submitted a story detailing similar accusations against Weinstein, and the Times, on Weinstein's bidding, "stripped" the story of all reference to those accusations. Said Waxman: "After intense pressure from Weinstein ... the story was gutted." In effect, Sulzberger's New York Times gave Weinstein a pass to continue his offenses unhindered for 13 years more.

I've written before about American media, and twice about Weinstein's "Django Unchained", a blood-soaked Tarantino film the critics loved, that grossed over \$62 million. It won two Academy Awards, including a Best Screenplay that included gems like: Schultz: "How do you like the bounty hunting business?" Django: "Kill white folks and they pay you for it? What's not to like?"

Weinstein's fall, like Clinton's, was a delicious latter-day surprise. And it must certainly have been cathartic and liberating for Ronan, having endured Weird Woody.

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Celebrate the Spirit of Christmas with Andy Cooney

The Spirit of Ireland and Christmas comes alive as Andy Cooney gathers the finest musicians, dancers and performers as they celebrate the most celebrated time of year in the Irish tradition.

Andy Cooney, has 7 Carnegie Hall sellouts under his belt and recently filled the David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center with The New York Tenors in December 2016. His outstanding voice and dynamic stage presence have always been a favorite among young and old everywhere and his



talent and versatility provide the ability to deliver a song directly to the hearts of his audience.

Cooney is surely one of the greatest singing sensations on Irish music scene today. Christened "Irish America's Favorite Son" by The New York Times; a title he truly deserves. Cooney, one of "The New York Tenors" along with New York Italian Tenor Christopher Macchio and New York Puerto Rican Tenor Daniel Rodriguez has receiving high critical acclaim. He has recorded 19 albums to date including "Bright Brand New Day" with Phil Coulter and his Orchestra. Cooney and Coulter frequently tour together and recently completed a tour of the US in March 2017. Cooney's latest CD "Irish Country Skyline", released in the summer of 2016 was a journey back to his Country music roots. This release has been getting huge airplay all over Ireland and the UK with his hit singles On The Eighth Day and My Rose of Ballinrobe both written by Cooney. He is also known for his Cruise of Irish Stars that annually draws over 1000 Irish and Irish Americans on a Caribbean Cruise, enriched with the finest Irish entertainment including Ronan Tynan.

Singer Eimear Reynolds hails from Rooskey, County Roscommon. She won

the prestigious title of 'Face of Ireland' in 2014 which allowed her to become an ambassador for young Irish people around the world. She used her music as she traveled throughout her year in her role to highlight and spread Irish songs across the globe. Reynolds launched her debut album last summer where she had Celtic Woman star Chloe Agnew as her special guest and has since gone on to travel throughout Ireland and USA performing and promoting the album, sharing the stage with Frances Black, Aoife Scott, Sean Keane and Des Willoughby.

The Irish Pops Ensemble led by musical director Bugs Moran will perform arrangements of your Irish and Christmas favorites. The ensemble features Mitch Reilly on Irish whistles and flute, Jimmy Kelly on drums and acoustic guitar and Colm Graham on guitar. The World Class Irish Dancers will feature some of the finest dancers on the Irish American scene today.

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Nursing Home Abuse and Neglect

Part 1

Do not cast me off in the time of old age;

Do not forsake me when my strength fails.

Psalm 71:9

The elderly amongst us are our most precious people. Yet they are often hurt, neglected and abused in their twilight years. The statistics reflecting incidents of abuse involving elderly residents in nursing homes is staggering and disheartening. More than two million cases of elder abuse are reported every year and many more remain unreported because of fear and intimidation. The figure of two million sadly reflects a growing national epidemic of violating our most vulnerable citizens but also grossly understates the problem of elder abuse in the United States.

The Nursing Home Care Act was incorporated in Illinois in 1979 –amid a growing concern about the treatment of Nursing Home residents. The Act addressed the concerns of the public surrounding the quality of care at nursing homes and it created a new cause of action for private citizens who had been abused, neglected or had the rights afforded to them under the Act, violated. The Illinois Department of Public Health is in charge of enforcing the Nursing Home Care Act throughout the State of Illinois and all facilities that fall under the definition of a “long term care facility” are required to comply with the Act as well as other State and Federal Regulations. A nursing home will fall under that definition so long as it provides personal care, sheltered care or nursing care for three or more persons, not related to the owner of the home by blood or marriage.

The Illinois Department of Public Health ensures compliance with the Act, by providing nursing homes with licenses which they will grant, after yearly inspections have been carried out and minimum requirements have been met. The Illinois Department of Public Health is also charged with investigating any complaints made about a nursing home by a resident or a member of a resident’s family. Despite the watchful eye of the State, within our nursing homes and assisted living facilities, an increasing number of seniors experience elder abuse and neglect within the nursing home arena every year.

Nursing Home Abuse is a difficult issue to face. Elder abuse exists in many forms and includes any physical, mental or sexual assault, inflicted upon a resident other than by accidental means. Many cases of elder abuse may not be evidenced by clear, physical signs.

Many victims are frail and vulnerable and as a result, they are often unable to protect themselves or seek needed help. Elder abuse can be difficult to prove once suspicion arises. A sad truth is that a number of nursing home abuse cases go unreported and unpunished. It is estimated that roughly 1,800 deaths each year occur due to elder abuse in the United States.



Types of Nursing Home Abuse include:

Physical abuse where residents are actually physically harmed by being hit, shoved, scratched, pushed, pulled or inappropriately restrained. This type of abuse is often easily spotted as you will likely see a physical injury or manifestation of the abuse, such as scratches, bruises, burns, broken bones, dislocated joints and evidence of restraints like strap marks on a person’s wrists or feet.

Emotional Abuse includes causing emotional distress to a resident, ridiculing them, humiliating them, terrorizing and ignoring them. This type of abuse is much harder to spot than physical abuse. Generally our elderly are vulnerable before being abused and afterwards after being subjected to such cruel behavior, they are even more vulnerable, scared and intimidated. All of that means that they generally will be less likely to speak up and tell a loved one what is going on. Some signs of emotional abuse include, a lowering of a resident’s self-esteem and confidence, avoiding eye contact, withdrawing from family and friends, seeming scared and anxious, expressing reluctance to complain about the home or caregivers, sudden mood changes, and sudden changes in a resident’s eating or

Continued on next page

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



It Never Rains But It Pours

There have been times in the last year or so when there was so few new cds released that I had nothing to write about. The pickings were slim. Luckily there were seeds in the ground, and just like farmers are harvesting now, I'm raking in more great cds than I am able to handle. Some of these are just going to have to wait for December.

One I have been keen to review is a massive pile of lovely fiddling by the massively talented fiddler, Éilís Crean (Eilis@theirishgift.com). She has released an album, "Bittersweet", featuring 21 of Eddie Kelly's compositions. Eddie Kelly was born in 1933 in County Galway and is a composer, fiddle player and button box player of the East Galway Irish Music Tradition style. Éilís has compiled, organized and performs this collection along with Kevin Burke, Michael McGoldrick, John Regan, John Doyle and a host of others. She has created a truly classic recording that not only shows us Eddie Kelly's power as a composer but demonstrates that power in the absolutely best of all possible ways. To not only preserve his work but to present it in this enjoyable manner that will delight serious music collectors

and the less dedicated equally. 18 tracks on this recording and each and every one will delight your ear. An admirable and impressive piece of work.

Lunasa toured this year and, as usual, brought wonderful music and inspiration everywhere they played. While performing at the Michigan Irish Music Festival in Muskegon MI, a young boy, maybe 12 years old or so, came out of the tent where Lunasa was playing and came over to my booth. He wanted to buy a tin whistle so he could learn to play like "that guy with Lunasa". "That guy" is, of course, Kevin Crawford, and it is a testament to his prowess with flute and whistle that he inspires the young folk. Kevin has two hot cds out at the moment and they are both firecrackers. His new solo is called "Carrying the Tune" (www.kevincrawford.com) and it is simply one of those recordings you can play and play and never tire of. He is joined by John Doyle (Is there a good cd he's not on?), Brian Morrissey and Mick

Conneely and together they bang out one of the finest collections of reels, jigs, slip jigs, waltzes and slow airs you'll ever hear. It's simply great.

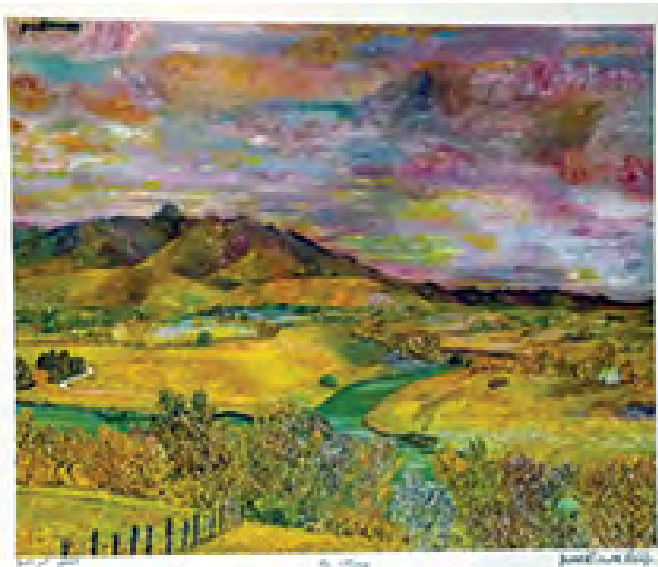
As if that wasn't enough, Kevin got together with Dylan Foley and Patrick Doocey to record another album called "The Drunken Gaugers". Another classic! Lovely fiddle and guitar and flute, combined to create a happy cd full of happy music that you'll want to put on when you need that extra boost, because this music will boost you, matter of fact, I'm playing it now. So, you might ask, which of Kevin's cds should I buy? Buy them both! You won't find this quality of music that easy to find and by buying them you encourage the musicians to keep playing and composing and producing that music that feeds our souls. We all need that, admit it or not.

Lastly, another plus to Lunasa touring was that I got a chance to catch up a bit with Colin Farrell, who was lending his impressive fiddle and sense of humor to Lunasa's sound. Colin turned me on to his newest cd by the Colin Farrell Band. The band consists of Colin, on fiddle of course, Dan Lowery on flute and Alan Murray on guitar and bouzouki and when I say that the three of them are full of beans, well, owners of the cd will understand. These guys are in love with their music and play it that way, with lots of passion and fire and joy and Heinz beans, no doubt. It's fun, impressive and a pure pleasure to listen to.

Well that's four cds you should own and play and enjoy. You can hear them on WDCB radio, 90.9 fm, Mondays at 8 pm CST or online at wdc.org
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Statues

Second thoughts on statues. If you lived in Germany, you wouldn't want to see statues of Adolph Hitler. The German Swastika would be offensive as well. Yet, souvenirs like SS daggers and flags are easily available at flea markets. Tens of millions died. Genocide was in play. Nobody should tolerate the presence of those symbols and statues.

The U.S. Civil War was fought over human bondage, (slavery) and there are widely different views about the statues and monuments that commemorate the various leaders and battles of the Civil War. We always thought of this as historical, never knowing how others might view the same monuments. Recently a school that was named after Jefferson Davis, who was the President of the Confederacy, was renamed after former President, Barack Obama. The name change was voted on by the students who were

98% African-American.

Congressman Gutierrez

On September 29, Congressman Gutierrez criticized President Trump for not going to Puerto Rico sooner. President Trump wisely stayed away until the chaos subsided. Trying to accommodate a Presidential visit would have only added to their burden. The Trump bashing goes on.

Vegas Shooter

Nut? Whacko? Fruitcake? Psycho? Call him what you want. The damage is done. What's the take away. 1. Get rid of bump-fire stocks. 2. If individuals buy large quantities of ammunition they need to be investigated.

Jimmy Fallon

Hillary Clinton was on the Jimmy Fallon Show, October 4th, and took the opportunity to do more Trump bashing about Puerto Rico. Hillary was telling about all of the things she would have done if she held the Oval Office. She

rambled on righteously about our Naval assets which were already there or underway, like the USS Hope hospital ship, and navy ships that were converting ocean water into drinking water. Coulda, woulda, shoulda.

Grunge Look

Does this look make men look more macho? Two days worth of whiskers make men more sexy?

Harvey Weinstein needs to buy a razor, the grunge look is not for him. It won't matter much if he goes to prison.

Kneeling

Does this fall into the politically correct realm? Is Colin Kapernick our new conscience?

How can you admire men covered with tattoos, overgrown afros, dreadlocks, blond dreadlocks and 'bling' in their ears who suddenly have become the social conscience of America? Identity politics is in play here. Black Lives Matter. They always have.

Shannon Rovers

The Shannon Rovers dinner was a great success. The Stadium Club was packed with 800 people at the dinner.

The well deserving, Jim and Michelle Coyne, were honored for their work in the Irish community.

The dinner began with platoons of

pipers marching in to honor the Armed Forces. The Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and the Coast Guard.

Veteran's Day

"War battered dogs are we,
Fighters in every clime,
Fillers of trench and of grave
Mockers, be mocked by Time.

Fighters in every clime,
Every cause but our own."

- "With the Wild Geese" Emily Lawless.

"The wreath we bear to Columbia
Is twisted of thorns, not bays;
and the songs we sing are saddened
By the thought of desolate days.
But the hearts we bring for Freedom
Are washed in the surge of tears,
And we claim our right by a
people's fight
Outliving a thousand years!"
-John Boyle O'Reilly

Ex-Priest Found Dead

James Brzyski, a former Archdiocese of Philadelphia priest accused of raping or molesting more than 100 children in the 1970's and 1980's, was found dead Wednesday at a Texas motel, according to Philly.com.

The report said Brzyski was described

Continued on page 38

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



'Criminals and Mongrel Wretches': The Anti-Irish Sentiments of H. P. Lovecraft

Well now, I'm not the better for that! In fact, I'm almost sorry that I came across this correspondence from 1918/20.

You see, I've been a lifelong devotee of the writings of Howard Phillips Lovecraft (1890 – 1937) of New England. When I was a schoolboy in the 60s and 70s he was pretty much a fringe writer; but today, entire academic treatises are devoted to him. Indeed, he is now regarded as an exponent of weird fiction on a par with fellow American Edgar Allan Poe. To my mind he surpasses Poe, but that's another day's work. And,

although unknown to any but a handful of enthusiasts during his lifetime, from our vantage point his enormous influence on 20th and 21st century imagery simply can't be denied, the word 'Lovecraftian' having entered the language and with even mainstream writers such as Joyce Carol Oates and Gore Vidal casually mentioning his work, with every expectation that his name will be recognised.

His entire fictional output only added up to a little more than three volumes of short stories. Yet it may happen that he will eventually be remembered by history for his tireless correspondence. Leading Lovecraftian scholar S.T. Joshi gives a conservative estimate of his total output at 87,500 letters, out of which around 10,000 survive. If they ever all see the light of day then this will amount to a staggering 100 volumes. (These weren't short letters, either: HPL could rabbit on for anything from a dozen pages to seventy.)

The reality that I'll never live to see the publication of them all used to be a source of regret to me; but after coming across a sort of inner correspondence of seven letters within a larger one to the young intellectual Alfred Galpin, I'm not so sure I'm bothered. It all started out quietly enough:

"The only shady characters on our side are the Sinn Feiners, and Gawd knows we're ashamed enough of them.... In 1914-1916 I laboured with a 'literary' club of Micks who dwelt in the dingy 'North Side'. The brightest of them was an odd bigoted fellow named Dunn [bigoted! From Lovecraft!]. He hated England and was a violent pro-German -- & I was foolish enough to try to convert him -- as if an Irishman could see reason!"

From the little I know of John Thomas Dunn (1889 – 1983), he seems to have followed his own principles. When he refused to register for the draft he was sentenced to 20 years in prison, but was released after WW1 and became a Catholic priest. Just one of those little snippets of history that continue to fascinate.

In 1920, though, Lovecraft really got going:
"I have recently joined the Loyal Coalition of Boston, which is fighting the Sinn Fein movement in America... the object is to combat with propaganda the deadly and insidious campaign of Irish hyphenates to intimidate our venal and vote-craving politicians into recognizing the mythical 'Irish Republic' and thereby committing an international crime against that friendly power and motherland whose continued friendship means more to civilization than anything else. Few realise the perilous nature of the agitation which criminals like that mongrel wretch De Valera are conducting against Anglo-American harmony... These Irish malcontents, with their vast power to 'swing the Oirish vote', must be killed off or throttled somehow."

Although young, Alfred Galpin was something of a prodigy and along with Texan writer Robert E. Howard, was too much of an individual to simply agree with the older Lovecraft, something that didn't sit well:

"I suspect Galba will have a sneer ready -- but these Micks have got to be crushed despite the sneers of all the 18-year-olds in or out of the nursery!"

In late 1921 he still had a thorn up his ass:

"Concerning Ireland, I would ask...what he means by 'rights'. What 'right' exists on earth, save that of strength? If the Irish had the 'right' to independence they would possess it. If they ever gain it, they will possess it -- until they lose it again. England has the right to rule because she does... It is not chance, but racial superiority, which has made the Briton supreme. Why have not the Irish conquered and colonized the earth if they be so deserving of regard? They are brainless canaille. Galpin asks why he should worry how hard a time the powers of Europe have. I will answer, because their overthrow would mean the overthrow of art, science, literature, and civilization."

It's a pity that Galpin's side of the correspondence hasn't survived, as I would have liked to see it.

"I would like to disillusion Galba regarding his 'brilliant and downtrodden' Ireland. So far as any evidence goes, the majority of men who have brought eminence to Ireland are nearly or wholly Anglo-Saxon by blood. Lord Dunsany [who Lovecraft admired as a writer] is frankly an Englishman, with not one drop of the Celt -- a Cheam School, Eton, and Sandhurst man whose voice and accent are as Londonese as any I have ever heard, and whose sympathies are ardently with the Empire. Even the self-conscious 'Irish' intelligentsia are nine-tenths Anglo-Saxon, including Yeats, Synge, and everyone of any reputation."

It's difficult for me to read this. As I've said, I've had a lifelong admiration for the fiction of HPL; and in fact I contribute articles on him to the excellent 'Lovecraft eZine'; but, ye gods! This makes for uncomfortable reading.

It also confronts me to an extent with my own hypocrisy: I've known for years that Lovecraft was a racist and a rabid anti-Semite. Nor is this something that can be argued against by saying that he was a product of his time. His rants go well beyond that. Yet I felt it was just part of his enormous complexity as a human being. After all, he seemed to be an equal opportunity hater. It's not as if he stuck to just belittling any one particular race: he didn't like human beings in general, even intensely annoying me by dismissing the brilliant poet Robert Burns as 'an overrated Scottish peasant'.

And he had Jewish friends who liked him and tolerated his views. He even married a beautiful Jewish woman, Sonia Greene -- hell, I can only think that she was a living saint for putting up with him for even two short years. I doubt they felt short to her. Complex wasn't the word for this man who could be so incredibly kind and generous with his time to younger writers, no matter their race or background. And to be fair, his extreme views softened somewhat towards the end of his 47 years on earth.

Yet simply because it is so close to home for me, the above excerpts -- and there are lots more -- have hit me hard. And whilst I will always admire H. P. Lovecraft's fictional output, there is no doubt that this will colour my view of his work.

Yes, I'm almost sorry I came across it; but it is important to examine those you have admired and to see them for what they are.

H. P. Lovecraft: Letters to Alfred Galpin (Hippocampus Press, New York, 2003).

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An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



The West Wing

As we move closer to the end of Mr. Trump's first year in office, what many of his opponents had predicted (and a position now held by many prominent leaders within the GOP) seems to be playing out on an almost daily basis. What I'm referring to of course is the drama around almost every aspect of life in the Trump White House.

The latest has to do with the growing rift between the President and his secretary of State, Rex Tillerson. As I go to press, it seems that Tillerson's days as America's top diplomat are numbered. And it all seems to come from a "fake news" report of Rex having described our President as a moron.

If we have learned anything about our current President, it is that Donald Trump does not take lightly and challenge to or questioning of his intellectual abilities. Mr. Trump, time and again on the campaign trail and also on

numerous occasions since taking up office has described himself and his educational credentials as superb. I remember at one of his rallies he spoke of his ability to use the "best words."

I truly think that our words are very important. And it must be apparent to those who pay the slightest attention to Mr. Trump's tweets and speaking, that our President is frequently guilty of using "not the best words." I think our leader would do well to take to heart and mind the following advise on the topic from Edmund Burke who said: "A very great part of the mischiefs that vex this world arise from words." Or indeed this quote from Walter Raleigh: "According to Solomon, life and death are in the power of the tongue; and as Eurepedes truly affirms, every unbridled tongue in the end shall find itself unfortunate; in all that I observed I ever found that men's fortunes are oftener made by their tongues than by their virtues, and more men's fortunes overthrown thereby, also, than by their vices."

I thought about that as I followed the war of words going on between Trump and Kim Jong-un last month. It is all well and good for our President to look tough in standing up to the actions of the North Korean dictator, but it is not wise to use the kind of language that has some thinking of the US and North Korea starting WW III.

Perhaps, our President would do well to pause and think that, many of history's greatest leaders are remembered more for what they said than what they did. In fact most of them achieved greatness more by kind and considerate words and gestures that they ever did with the sword.

A Story Of Time and Power of Words

I recall a story told to me by a good friend of mine who used to commute to work daily on a go train. Once disembarking the train, he always walked the short distance to his office building along with all the other throngs of

people hurrying on their way to their work.

Each morning, he passed an older man who was always at the same spot with cup in hand hoping to get a bit of change by those who passed by. For most people, this person was someone to be ignored as if he didn't exist, a person who they didn't want to be bothered with.

Invariably, though, my friend would always say good morning to him and bid him to have a good day. The stranger would smile back, say good morning and remain on station until all the commuters had gone on their way.

Occasionally, my friend would drop a dollar or two in his cup on his way by as he said hello.

This behaviour went on for several years until one day . . . his last day on the job before retirement, my friend stopped for a few moments to speak with this man.

He told the man that he would no longer be passing by because this was his last day on the job.

The man took his hand and shook it warmly saying that he had always looked forward to seeing my friend pass his way and not because he dropped a few dollars in his cup.

He said he would miss my friend because he was one of the few people out of thousands who passed him daily who ever said

hello, and was the only one who ever bid him to have a good day.

The man also said that his warm words always brightened his day and helped him to continue on despite being ignored by thousands of others who saw him daily.

The Message Is Clear

We all have power in words and it doesn't mean, at all, that the most basic of greetings and recognition have no impact.

In fact, all our words have impact and so often we do not recognize that some can be devastating to another, others can cause others to give up, or others can help encourage.

Byron Pulsifer

Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at:

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Piece Of Cake – Now For The Hard Bit

Leo Varadkar's first Hundred Days as Taoiseach (actually 120, from his election on 14 June to his first Budget on 11 October) have gone smoothly. He even emerged unscathed from Ireland's recent brush with Hurricane Ophelia – one of those "events" which can unhorse the most assured rider. Echoing Basil Fawlty, now comes the hard bit!

Dr Varadkar has already chalked up one signal achievement as Taoiseach, lancing the boil of that disaster that just kept on giving – Irish Water – with his decision to repay in full all those who actually paid their water bills. At a stroke this ended the hand wringing and indecision which plagued the political scene here since paying for water emerged as toxic several years ago. A line has been drawn under the issue. End of! Which is just as well, with several major matters simmering and the need for the government to stay focussed and not distracted. Brexit, and the timing of the next election are looming, while there is likely to be considerable distraction in any event over the referendum on the Eighth Amendment, signalled for mid-2018.

The brouhaha over Irish Water, which saw the Left cleverly construct a populist platform garnering significant support across the broader community was in a way Ireland's echo of the Brexit vote, the Trump election and the continued electoral support across Europe for populist parties. Here, frustration over years of austerity, higher taxes and diminished disposable income crystallised into opposition over one extra imposition. In the context of this discontent we are perhaps fortunate that there was no referendum here similar to that in Britain. If and when a deal IS agreed between the EU and Britain, that possibility may yet have to be faced.

Quite what will happen over Brexit remains unclear, with only seventeen months remaining before Article 50 kicks in and serious negotiations not yet begun. British policy blows hot and cold, reflecting, as well as disarray among the Tory government, the lack of any clear advantageous course for the UK to follow – something obvious to all but the most diehard Brexiters. The EU stance currently is best summed up as a determination that Britain will not have its cake and eat it, as Boris Johnson whimsically remarked a year ago. For their part some of the British hardliners remain steadfast that ultimately Europe will cave in as its trading links with Britain are too important to be let fail.

For Ireland, the country with the strongest trading and other links with Britain, and facing potentially the most serious consequences, the outlook is not good and the issue will clearly concentrate Leo Varadkar's mind

in the months to come. How to proceed, essentially in the dark, is not easy. The government thus far has eschewed making preparations for a hard Brexit, involving as it would recognition of some form of renewed border between the two parts of Ireland. The Taoiseach has stated firmly that Ireland will not help Britain devise a border that "we don't want." All sides are agreed, and have stated, that some solution must be found to prevent a renewed Border happening, but pious words and aspirations are one thing, the grim prospect of Britain falling out of the EU, without agreement, if talks collapse, quite another. The deadline for a neat exit seems increasingly unrealistic. Perhaps some stopping the clock process – at which the EU is very good – could be applied. Seen now, the near disaster for Ireland that a collapse of the negotiations would mean still seems unlikely, yet the clock is ticking. The next couple of months could prove decisive one way or another.

The clock is ticking also towards the next election. The current arrangement between Fine Gael and Fianna Fail was for three budgets, with Fianna Fail, which can collapse the arrangement at any time, holding the whip hand. The Taoiseach's one ace is that he can, should he so wish, call an election. We have so far had two budgets, the recent one a steady-as-you-go "neutral" budget which might well prove to be the election budget. Crucial is how Fianna Fail judge the government's (and, therefore, the Taoiseach's) performance and prospects in deciding if and when to pull the plug. A continued improvement in the economy, with no banana skins, could see support for the Government rise, something Fianna Fail will wish to avoid. Currently the opinion polls are showing no discernible trend, beyond some gradual drift back in support to the two major parties. Fine Gael and Fianna Fail are still close in the polls and, while the vagaries of the vote in individual constituencies could swing a number of seats, the professionals in both parties will be loath to gamble, given the fickleness of the electorate.

At this point any banana skins seem unlikely to be strictly economic ones. The economy is doing well, full employment is close, the forecast is for a break-even budgetary outcome and modest but actual tax reductions will kick in in the New Year. However, there remains the construction industry, important for the economy and with accompanying social and political ramifications. With the industry slow to recover and the spectre of the 2007 crash still haunting, very few homes are being built, and virtually no social housing at all. The result has been a steady rise in the declared numbers of homeless families, an issue which has now become a political and media hot potato, with attention focussing in particular on the several thousand children now housed temporarily in hotel accommodation.

There is no quick fix. Houses and apartments take time to build, from planning to signing off. Meanwhile, with demand exceeding supply for existing properties, prices are surging for those who can afford to buy and a head of steam is building up to loosen the purse strings on borrowing. At present the Government is holding firm, determined to avoid another property bubble. Handling this and the homeless issue will test

the Taoiseach's mettle. Something needs to be done – but what? And how to avoid the hot potato becoming a political football, with the opposition upping the stakes. Varadkar needs to get his own mandate and, with historically low interest rates and anxious backbenchers, he may well have his hand forced.

Another factor comes into play. The Taoiseach has already promised a referendum on the Eighth Amendment (Abortion) in May or June next. However it pans out, the campaign and debate promises to be emotive, fractious and contentious, with the outcome unlikely to be as decisive as that on Same Sex Marriage in 2015, when, effectively no side was the loser. There is no telling what collateral damage could accrue to politics and politicians here as a consequence. Additionally, several other, minor, referendums have been signalled for late 2018, on blasphemy, directly-elected mayors and the role of women in the home, none issues likely to stir passions. One suggestion is that they could be held on the same day as the next Presidential Election, also due in late 2018. All these cost money and effort and risk turning off the electorate. Poll fatigue may well push the General Election into 2019.

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Beatification of Venerable Solanus Casey 11-18

By *Ryanne Gallagher Johnson*

The Venerable Solanus Casey, Capuchin friar and champion of the poor and sick, is set for Beatification on November 18th, in a public ceremony that will be performed at Ford Field in Detroit. This 'Blessed' ceremony is the third in a long, complex, and sometimes expensive four-step process to Canonization, or Sainthood, and comes after a great deal of scrutiny and tests done by specialists within the Catholic church.

Born Bernard Francis Casey on November 25, 1870, he was the sixth of sixteen children to Irish immigrant parents, and grew up on a farm near Oak Grove, Wisconsin. The Casey children were raised on Catholicism and sports, although Bernard wouldn't partake in any activity that would inflict

pain on another person, as that wasn't in alignment with his values. 'Barney', as he was called, left home to work through the area as a logger, hospital orderly, streetcar operator, and prison guard. At 21, he entered St. Francis High School Seminary in Milwaukee to study for the diocesan priesthood. Although he loved the discipline and was well-liked among his peers, he found the German language of the lessons difficult to comprehend, and was encouraged by his supervisors to instead seek a religious order. He eventually became a Capuchin friar. (solanuscasy.org)

As Capuchin headquarters are located in Detroit, Casey went there to receive his education and ordination, after which he was sent to New York. He spent twenty years in New York City, Harlem, and Yonkers. He first served as sacristan, then director of the altar servers, then porter or "doorkeeper," answering the bell at the monastery door. He took great pride in his work, and soon became a much loved and sought-after counselor.

Sick people sought his blessing, and 'remarkable' cures began to take place.

"People felt he was a very holy man. He'd go bless people that were sick at their house, and all of the sudden they'd be recovered. The Order recognized that something was going on with him, so they decided to send him to a different parish to see if the same thing happened somewhere else. (At the new parish), he was there



for three years, and they discovered the same thing happening. So they sent him somewhere else, and the same thing happened again," says Father Richard Merling, director of the Father Solanus Casey Guild and distant relative (Casey was his great uncle). His work in the past years has been to make people aware of Solanus Casey and urge them to educate themselves on this great man of Detroit.

Father Solanus Casey became well known for caring for the poor and sick in New York, and continued to do so after he was transferred back to Detroit, in 1924. It was noted that, prior to Father Solanus's arrival in Detroit, the main office received anywhere from ten to fifteen visitors a day. After his arrival, however, that number jumped to over 200.

"For the next 20 years, he was inundated with people... it was almost like a doctor's office. There were all these chairs set up along the outside wall, and people would come in and wait for their turn to come," explains Father

Merling. "He was famous in Detroit."

Father Casey even began the Capuchin Soup Kitchen of Detroit, which really got kicked into gear during the Great Depression, and is still running today.

He was also a violinist and loved to sing, although he did so terribly, as a childhood illness affected his vocal chords.

Father Casey semi-retired to Huntington, IN in 1946, but after several health complications, was hospitalized in Detroit in 1956. He eventually passed from complications resulting from a skin condition on July 31, 1957.

The five steps on the Road for Sainthood are Servant of God, Venerable Servant of God, Blessed, and Saint. Father Solanus Casey was declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II on July 11, 1995, and Pope Francis announced plans for the Beatification of

Fr. Solanus on May 4, 2017, after it was determined that a healing that took place was miraculous, and through his intercession. The Blessed ceremony will take place in Detroit because that is where Venerable Solanus Casey's body is located, and where much of his holy work took place.

"I know that people from the city of Detroit and people who knew Solanus feel that this is well overdue, and they're very excited about it. I know, just in speaking with people through the years, they wonder why he isn't already a Saint. But everything has to go through a process. It takes patience," Father Merling proudly states.

For information on Venerable Solanus Casey, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, and the Blessed Ceremony in November, visit solanuscasy.org. For tickets to the Blessed Ceremony, call 313-579-2100 ex 173. It is recommended that you call and buy your tickets in advance of the ceremony, to ensure that you are able to get in.

A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



Each year on Veteran's Day we honor the men and women who have bravely fought for America's freedom. This year—Catholic Charities' centennial year—Veteran's Day takes on special significance for us because veterans and their families were one of the very first people Catholic Charities served 100 years ago.

Catholic Charities was founded within days of the U.S. entering World War I. As men went off to battle, Catholic Charities was there for the women and children left behind. Help often came in the form of food and short-term financial assistance, but as wounded soldiers came home or women were widowed, the needs grew more complex. Catholic Charities evolved to help with the long-term psychological and employment needs of veteran families who had been devastated by the war.

Since then, Catholic Charities has been privileged to serve veterans and their families. Veterans have made tremendous sacrifices on our behalf, and it is our duty to serve and protect them, just as they have served and protected us. Given the traumatic experiences that veterans have faced, it is amazing that most return home and make a transition to civilian life without additional help. However, far too many end up jobless, homeless, or facing untreated mental health and substance abuse issues. It is for this group of veterans that Catholic Charities provides concrete help and hope for the future.

Today, Catholic Charities serves more than 18,000 veterans of all ages across our programs in Cook and Lake counties, providing such things as food, counseling, child care, job training, or legal assistance. Catholic Charities also operates a wide array of senior services that are available to low-income aging veterans, including the Bishop Goedert Residence on the Hines VA campus. This facility, targeted specifically to senior veterans,

This facility was developed in partnership with the Veteran's Administration and is the first of its kind in the nation. The campus combines 141 units of affordable housing for homeless veterans, coupled with supportive services and job counseling. St. Leo's is co-located with the Auburn-Gresham VA medical clinic, providing convenient access to health care. We have a beautiful veteran's memorial garden on the campus, as well as an additional building that has apartments for the disabled, including disabled veterans.

Catholic Charities Supportive Services for Veteran Families program helps both male and female veterans cope with unique issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, family caregiving, and lack of affordable housing. A key feature of this program is providing one-on-one navigation through the overburdened and complex VA benefit system, ensuring veterans can access the resources that have been dedicated to them.

Catholic Charities Employment for Veterans program is another excellent service, which helps veterans build a resume, teaches interviewing skills, and connects them to employment and job training. One of the main goals of this program is to educate both veterans and potential employers how military training can translate into civilian jobs. With their tremendous sense of duty, discipline, strong work ethic, quick problem-solving, and a variety of cross-functional skills, veterans make excellent employees!

Catholic Charities has been truly privileged to serve the needs of our courageous veterans for the past 100 years. As we embark on our second century of helping those in need, Catholic Charities remains steadfastly committed to helping veterans achieve lives that reflect the honor and dignity that they so profoundly deserve.



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Cháirde

The Challenge has been made! Who will win the Carraig Pub 5k Challenge on November 26th?

Our annual (run/walk) is held on the Sunday morning after Thanksgiving, and we expect previous winners to be out defending their titles from strong competition. Runners of all ages will enjoy the run or the 1.5 mile walk, all on the grounds of Gaelic Park, followed by complimentary soup, rolls and a drink. Bring the family for a good bit of fun.

We also hope to see you at our other November events,

such as the Fall Play, the Classic Carvery, Thanksgiving Dinner or Tuesday Trivia and remember that Wednesday is still rib night at the Carraig Pub.

Best of luck to all those who choose to participate in our Super Fundraiser. It's a great draw with a \$50,000 grand prize and \$100,000 in total prizes. And for those who want to start their Christmas shopping early, we have memberships, concert tickets and merchandise for sale.

Slán go fóil,

Bill O'Sullivan

2017 CGP Calendar of Events 2017

NOVEMBER

Nov 1	Monthly Musical Luncheon*	1:00pm
	Music provided by: Joe McShane	
Nov 8	Ladies Auxiliary	7:30pm
Nov 10	Vera Kelly Quiz	
Nov 12	Galway Convention	
Nov 23	Thanksgiving Dinner*	3:00pm
Nov 24	Annual 5K Run/Walk	10:30am

*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 Pub Trivia	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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- Pub Trivia every Tuesday, October-May starting at 7:30pm
- Every Thursday Traditional Music with Pat Finnegan & The Irish Musicians

the CARRAIG IRISH PUB

Live Music in the Pub

Wednesday is Rib Night!

Fri	Nov 3	Gerry Haughey	7:30pm
Sat	Nov 4	Jimmy O & Rhonda Lee	8:30pm
Wed	Nov 8	Frank Rossi	6:00pm
Fri	Nov 10	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Sat	Nov 11	Ray Gavin	8:30pm
Fri	Nov 17	Joe Cullen	7:30pm
Sat	Nov 18	Bernie Glim	8:30pm
<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>			
Thu	Nov 23	Joe McShane	4:00pm
Fri	Nov 24	Larry Nugent & Billy O'Donahue	7:30pm
Sat	Nov 25	Kiarna Byrne	8:30pm

NO COVER CHARGE

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We are proud to welcome back our stage Ken Evans, Kristel Flynn, Bill Gleason, Duncan Guild, Gail Lauryn, Myra McWilliams, Peter Simon and Colleen Winters for our Fall Production of two One Act plays, *Looking for Love* by Jimmy Keary directed by Phyllis Bierdz and *Rising of the Moon* by Lady Augusta Gregory, directed by Larry Coughlin. In *Looking for Love*, a personal ad brings together two lonely people. A set of unwanted circumstances and interruptions create havoc during their first meeting. *Rising of the Moon* takes place on a moonlit night at a wharf where three policemen in service of the occupying English post wanted posters for an escaped political criminal. Convinced that the criminal may go to the water's edge to be rescued at sea they all wait to capture him.

Both plays open on Friday, November 3rd at 8pm and will run for three consecutive weekends. The performance dates are Fridays, November 3rd, 10th and 17th at 8pm; Saturday's, November 4th, 11th and 18th at 8pm; Sundays, November 5th,

12th and 19th at 3pm.

The Pub Grub special will be offered again for our Friday and Saturday performances at the Carraig Pub, Gaelic Park. The tickets for Pub Grub will be \$24.00, which includes your theatre admission along with dinner. The pub dinner will be one item from the Pub Grub menu along with one pint or glass of wine. For Sunday's performances, there will be a Classic Carvery, which will immediately follow the performance in one of the banquet halls. The Classic Carvery ticket will include your theatre admission and your meal for \$29.00. The Carvery is a buffet which consists of your choice of soup, salad bar, meat selection, potato, vegetables, coffee, tea and dessert. All individual play tickets are \$14.00 and can be purchased at Gaelic Park's main office, located at 6119 W. 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452. Please contact Gaelic Park to reserve your tickets at (708) 687-9323.

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).



Chicago Gaelic Park

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2017 Heritage and Harvest Fest Fun!



Celebrate Thanksgiving at Gaelic Park

Thursday November 23, 2017

A Delicious All You Can Eat Buffet Dinner With Turkey, Ham, Roast Beef And All Of The Traditional Trimmings

Choice of Soup, An Extensive Salad Bar, Vegetables, Potatoes and Dessert

Served from 3:00pm to 6:00pm
Live Music from 4-8pm

Reservations are required and must be paid in advance
Adults - \$26.00 Children 4 to 12 - \$12.00

Admission includes Dinner and Entertainment - Cash Bar

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6119 W. 147th Street - Oak Forest, IL 60452 - (708) 687-9323

Chicago Gaelic Park

Carraig Challenge

Cross Country 5K run / 1.5 mile walk

Thanksgiving Weekend

Sunday, November 26, 2016 at 10:30am

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Age Group Awards / Team Award

T-shirt, and Carraig Pub Drink Ticket with Registration

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Proceeds to Gaelic Park Charities



Gaelic Park's Super Fund Raiser

Grand Prize

\$50,000!

2nd thru 7th Place \$5,000

8th thru 20th \$1,000

Drawing Sunday December 3, 2017

Donation \$100.00

Only 2000 Tickets Sold



Tickets available in the Carraig Pub or the Gaelic Park Front Office 708-687-9323





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Mingle & Jingle



Each tiny sparkle of light -
Each ornament so bright
When gathered together on one tree -
Create a Christmas delight!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH OR
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 2017
6:30-10:30pm - \$38.00 per person

Gaelic Park's Annual Mingle & Jingle Christmas Party is perfect for businesses who want to celebrate the holidays in a fun and spirited atmosphere.

Have more fun with more people as you join together with other offices in the area for one of these two big holiday celebrations! Everyone attending will enjoy a delicious buffet dinner, a four hour open bar and live DJ.

Call Gaelic Park and make reservations for yourself or the entire office! Reservations must be made as soon as possible. Payment in full due by December 1st. Adults Over 21 Only.

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Paddy Homan and the Noble Call Christmas Show



Paddy Homan & his band, The Noble Call, takes audiences back to the 'hearth' of an Irish Christmas, filled with songs, stories, rousing music and traditional Irish dancing. Joining Homan for this special holiday evening is Mick Broderick on Bodhran and Dave Curley on Guitar, Banjo and Vocals, from the Band, SLIDE. There will be many special guests and dancers for what promises to be an incredible night of music, song and dance.

Appearing at:

Chicago Gaelic Park
Friday December 15, 2017 - 8:00pm
Tickets \$25

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Reservations are needed.
Adults \$18.00
Children 4 to 12 - \$10.00
(Holidays excluded)
Admission includes dinner and entertainment - Cash Bar



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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



So in my September issue I wrote about Step dancing and now it's onto Ceili. My parents met at a Ceili night. Ceili is used as a noun and an adjective. Ceili is a social gathering or type of dance. Ceili dancing can be traced back to the 1500's. The dancers are in a long line or in a circle, its performed

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in a progressive style. Which means at the end of one whole iteration of the dance instead of stopping the groups move onto the next set of partners in the line. Some of the dances may be traced to English set dances and French quadrilles but set to Irish music. Some Ceili dances back in the day were only known to elderly men and women luckily they

were recorded before they were lost. Ceili dance can be a couple dancing or up to 16 people in a dance. It uses traditional or codified dances and formations. Most ceilis are dances set to reels and jigs. Ceili dance includes about 30 dances, I will name about half, walls of Limerick, Antrim reel, seige of Ennis, seige of Carrick, rakes of Mallow, harvest time jig, haymakers jig, bridge of Athlone, waves of Tory, rince fada (long dance), haste to wedding, lannigans ball, an rince mor (big dance), morris reel—a bit complex, 16 hand reel, high cauled cap and Gates of Derry. I think dancing is humanity's oldest expression, a living art, where our body is an instrument. Dance is so important because it's a piece of history and it's just as important to a culture as music and sport. Recently, I was in Hawaii and I got to see their traditional dance, the Hula. (Polynesian) I was just a spectator and I thought it was beautiful and they gave a lovely explanation of their dance and how important it was for them to preserve it. It made me think

of Ceili dance and how I definitely want that to be preserved and how I wished it would be more mainstreamed and not delegated for an older generation. I would love to see Ceili dance have more of an all ages appeal. I haven't done a lot Ceili dancing but when I did I felt a connection a camaraderie with others and to my culture. You feel your apart of something because of the hand holding and bridge making and history of it all. A ceili dance may be "called" that's where upcoming steps are announced during the dance for the benefit for the newcomers. The person calling is usually the most experienced dancer who has the dance memorized. Ceili dance has character, a lot of steps and it's a good work out. My friend Donna Killen is a Ceili teacher at Gaelic park. I admire her and

appreciate all that she does to keep ceili dance alive and well. Thank you Donna, go raibh mile maith agat, for all your effort and commitment to ceili dancing! I notice it Donna's friend Mary Carmody runs the Ceili. Thank you Mary for all your work in keeping up with tradtion. Ceil lessons are every Tuesday night at 7:30 at Gaelic Park. The first Tuesday of each month they have family Ceili night



where musicians play and kids can learn. Also, The Irish American Heritage Center offers Ceili lessons, on every Friday at 7pm in the 5th Provence. There is a good book about Ceili dance, "Irish Ceili Dancing" by Dr. John Cullinane. My talented friend Virginia Gibbons book this month at the IAHC, is called, "The Wonder" by Emma Donoghue (Nov 12. 1-3pm) "If my feet aren't dancing then my heart is". Happy Thanksgiving everyone, my favorite holiday is almost here! "The root of joy is gratefulness". I'm grateful to share ideas & stories with you.

Gaelic for the month:

fun-craic
partner-comhphairti
group-grupa
Seanfhocail for the month:

However long the day, the evening will! come-da fhada an la tagaan an trathona
If you have any questions or comments please Email me at: Molanive@yahoo.com

Boyle the Kettle

Continued from page 29

as one of southeast Pennsylvania's "most monstrous sexual predators," but he was never criminally charged or prosecuted.

From the Philly.com report:

"But, like 62 other priests the grand jury said abused hundreds of children over decades in the five-county archdiocese, Brzyski was never criminally charged or prosecuted. After top archdiocesan officials learned about his sexual assaults, Brzyski admitted to acts of sexual misconduct, and he was sent to a Catholic treatment center, where a top clinician said the priest manifested pedophilia.

"Brzyski walked out on treatment, however, and refused to stay in the ministry."

Reports of his death come less than a month after the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News approached Brzyski at a Dallas apartment complex. The former priest declined the interview, according th Philly.com. - Candy Woodall, cwoodall@pennlive.com

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



When the Road Less Traveled Becomes A Cul-de-Sac

2017 has seemed to be quite a surreal year. With the election of the most lubricious figure into the White House, and the equally surprising news of Brexit, I find myself at a loss, though not for words. In the midst of such frightening political changes, mass shootings, and rogue nations on the brink of war, it's important that we speak out, even though it seems as though its going nowhere. While it's almost impossible to believe that we live at a time when the most obvious climate changes are denied, and the rise of fascism is embraced as tolerable, it is still a time to make a difference for the good.

There are ways to expose the madness of our present course and we must find ways to use them to bring us back to a place of sanity. Satire is great way to exaggerate the ridiculousness of the present administration and I admire those who force us to see how absurd the bullying tactics of the former T.V. reality show really are.

We may not like the caricatures the satirists create, simply because we cannot believe that we have created the monster that now eats away at our democratic rights. With every tweet, the drive, and need to be sensational, the man whittles away the very protections we worked so hard to achieve. By placing us in harm's way, we become targets, internally and externally, to the most extreme threats because of one man.

It is no surprise that many of us think that the 'road less travelled' has become a cul-de-sac. The road, paved by common sense and decency, has been blocked off by those who believe the lie told to them from the White House. The one who constantly refers to 'fake news' is the one who is at heart, fake.

He distorts the truth, abuses those he claims to serve, and yet, they still believe in him. The false bravado, the rabid sexism, is honoured by those who believe in his lies.

For those of us who look on aghast at what horror has been released among us, it's time to speak up. It's time to take down the barriers that block our way towards political well-being. We need to discover our voice, not only through satire, but through

art, beauty, and love of life.

In the midst of such despair, we need to find hope. We live in what the Irish poet, Louis MacNeice, calls; 'A prism of delight and pain'. We still love, laugh, and enjoy the best of who we are. Our protest should include a celebration of what makes us people of faith, and I'm not suggesting religious faith, but people who believe that human beings are capable of doing better.

Acts of faith, acts of compassion, bleed out into the worse of situations, and remind us of the beauty of being human. We become like the crocus breaking through the tarmac and into the concrete jungle, simply to remind us all of how nature finds a way to make itself felt.

The struggle, and pain, endured by such a struggle is rewarded in a celebration of beauty. I'm reminded of those who demonstrated against the Vietnam war. Those who placed flowers into the guns of armed men, reminding them and us of how beautiful life is when we choose to encourage peace rather than war.

This is not simply a hippy gesture, it's a fundamental principle that all religious traditions aspire to, and humanists believe is our only hope for survival. The Latin maxim, 'If you want peace, prepare for war', is unfortunately been our experience so far.

We like, Roosevelt, believe that we should 'speak softly, but carry a big stick'. We fear letting down our guard for fear of exploitation, and those in power use this



very fear against us. We fear the immigrant, the outsider, those who are not of our faith, and those who are different. Our fear leads us to react, rather than think. We vote according to our fear, instead of what might make a real difference.

While we continue with this knee jerk reaction to life, we guarantee to repeat our past mistakes. We trap ourselves in a cycle of historical atrocities that recycles itself into the future, until we weary of our own existence.

The endgame will be of our own making. It will come when we lose faith in ourselves. I'd like to finish with a poem.

Ezekiel's Chariot

Noisy, intemperate voices broke the stillness,
Each morning brings the same septic calls
Sirens, alarms, ringing in my brain.
Birds, they cough and splutter, and it comforts my heart,
One step away from gravity, and I lie waiting,
pretending
That I am not here.
I am suspended, floating, carelessly in a stream of thoughts
Holding my nose against the foul stench of hope,
it is then
And, only then....
I am reminded that I am here.
When the angel examined my thoughts,
I was indifferent,
Distracted by the wondrous noise between us.
Machine, after machine, plume after plume,
The rancid toxic waste ate at my lungs,

I coughed to reassure myself that I was corporeal, alive,
Insanity begins this way; I thought... but the heavenly creature was indifferent,
Even when bizarre notions of flight burst out of me
He did not flinch,
His eyes sought out the progress of the disease,
Resting only in the shadows of my lungs.

Pinned to a cross, the voice of God died,
And, for a few days
Echoes of that soulful music soared throughout the Universe
Troubling the thoughts of angelic hosts who began to splutter and cough,
As they made their way towards us between the stars,

And somewhere, in between the free fall
of my thoughts
An image of a bird nailed to an astronaut's helmet
Made me sigh, deeply,
The angel continued throwing pictures into my mind,
A nuclear cloud, raising its steaming head to the heavens,
Bodies heaped on top of each other in layers
Of time,
A vast emptiness followed,
The septic calls smothered in the fumes,
And, the planet coughed and spluttered as it died,
With no one left to hear its last gasp.

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