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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



A Window on the Past

We're already at Easter, with just a year to go before Brexit, a referendum on abortion pending, a Papal Visit due in August and every possibility of a General Election and even a Presidential one by year's end. The economy is thriving, with an almost full bounce back from recession and while there are problems still regarding homelessness and mortgages in distress, generally things are looking up.

While spring cleaning the attic recently I came across a book presenting a picture of a very different Ireland - that of half a century ago. The "Statistical Abstract of Ireland for 1970-71," a government publication, should be a dry-as-dust compendium of out of date facts. This was after all the pre-Internet era in which data was stored and accessed in print and, not surprisingly, the 400 page book is crammed with facts and tables, not necessarily easily digestible. However, there are excellent and detailed contents and index sections which facilitate.

The result is a fascinating journey back in time, reminding us of what has been achieved. For the data in it predates arguably the most significant landmark in Ireland's post-war history - our accession to the then European Community in 1973. (The only possible rival for that landmark gold medal - the Good Friday Agreement - would probably not have been possible had Ireland, and Britain, not been members of the EC/EU.) In the context of Brexit, and the expected collateral damage to Ireland in particular, the book offers a useful reality check, lest we protest too much, and is far more than just source material for the social historian.

Politically, in 1970-71, the country, North and South, was sliding into the cycle of violence that became known as the "Troubles", though none foresaw how savage and prolonged they would be. 1970 had witnessed the first stirrings of the Provos, and the steady deterioration of relations between the Nationalist minority and the British Army (welcomed as protectors in 1969). The first soldier was killed in February 1971, and thereafter the violence escalated rapidly, surging enormously after the one-sided introduction of internment without trial in August.

In the Republic, 1970 saw Haughey and several other Government Ministers fired and put on trial in connection with an attempt to smuggle arms to Northern nationalists. Relations with Britain were fraught, particularly after the Tories returned to power in mid-1970. Fianna Fail was convulsed, with a number of hotheads splitting away, but Lynch held on - and held firm - and the message was clear; there was a limit to what was acceptable behaviour for politicians in the South regarding events in the North.

But this time politics was merely a side-show. The country's main preoccupation was a six month bank strike which saw all Ireland's major banks shut from May until November 1970. Repeat: six months with no banks, no property transactions, no access to any legal documents the banks might be holding, no settling of debts. There was something almost surreal about the dispute, provoked by the banks in an attempt to smash the powerful banking officials union (IBOA). The IBOA lived to fight several other days before modern technology won out, but in 1970 there was no machine banking only over the counter service.

Surreal also was the way Irish society coped, with pubs functioning as money exchanges and surprisingly little serious damage done to the economy. This was probably because Ireland's economy was still quite backward, just emerging - slowly - from decades of stagnation. The main stated official policy aim was to secure entry, in tandem with Britain, to the European Community, following the withdrawal of the De Gaulle veto, and negotiations with Brussels occupied much of 1970 and 1971. It would have been a disaster had we not been admitted with Britain. The Abstract makes clear just how desperate our plight would have been on the outside.

Take Trade. In 1970 Ireland's total exports were £431 million, of which £226m (over half) went to Britain and a further £57 m (13%) to the North. Of those total exports, Food and Live Animals accounted for £193 million, with £146 million going to Britain (75%); this in a country where one in three of the workforce were directly employed in agriculture. To be shut out of the British market would have quite simply ruined the country. The many other tables in the book serve to illustrate just how backward the country was, though everywhere things were looking up by contrast with the hor-

rible decade of the Fifties. Some selective samples follow.

The population in 1971, stood at 2,978,248, showing another modest rise over the ground zero figure of a decade earlier. (The North's population, incidentally, had by now increased to 1,527,593, its highest figure since 1841 and now slightly over 50% of that in the Republic.) Population distribution by age was heavily weighted towards the young, with almost a third under fifteen, reflecting the effects of the heavy emigration of the fifties and earlier. The population was almost 95% Catholic with the numbers for other main religions showing double digit falls in twenty years. In the North Catholics were the largest group, comprising around a third of the population.

It was a male dominated society. Of the "gainfully occupied" - i.e. working for money - figure of, 1,118,204, 74% were males, while 79% of the total "non-gainfully occupied" were female. Of the 289,144 women who were gainfully occupied, 20% or 58,325 were service workers, with 22,575, domestic maids, and a further 19%, 55,916, were typists and clerks. This was the era of the Marriage Bar in the public service, which until 1973 required women to resign their jobs upon marriage.

There were no motorways and widely varying quality in what roads there were (some dating back to the Famine) for the country's 353,961 private cars, which perhaps in part accounted for the figure of 438 road deaths in 1969. The figures peaked at 640 in 1972 before declining steadily to the 2017 figure of 158, at a time when the number of private cars hit two million.

There were 64,382 births in 1970 and 33,686 deaths, including 255 from TB, a scourge of ages past (9323 died of TB in 1916!), now effectively tamed by better medicine, better treatment, and better living standards. These last still had some way to go particularly regarding housing. Of the 674,602 private dwellings only 296,370 had internal water taps, mainly in Dublin and Cork, while only 361,406 had flush toilets,

with the percentages with no facilities whatsoever in Connacht approaching two thirds.

It was, on the surface, a remarkably law-abiding society, with ten murders and 124 sexual assaults on women in 1970 (in 1971 the figures were nine and 139). Other crimes included Burglary and Housebreaking, 3426 in 1970 (4092 in 1971) Robberies with violence, including armed robberies, 213 (314) and Arson, 132 (151), as well as "Forgery and Uttering" 396 (848 - the steep rise in 1971 perhaps a function of bounced cheques after the bank strike). No mention, of course, of the Magdalen Laundries, the Mother and Baby Homes and the Abortion trail to England.

Mark Twain wasn't wrong. Fascinating just the same.

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Turning Concern Into Action: Concern Worldwide Chicago Steps Up for Millions Globally

*"Do as much as you can,
as well as you can,
for as many as you can,
for as long as you can."*

...This was the often-repeated personal credo and rallying cry of **Father Aengus Finucane** (1932-2009), a founding member of the Irish humanitarian organization Concern Worldwide, and the guiding force behind the founding of its U.S. affiliate, with offices in New York and Chicago.

For nearly two decades now, the Chicago office of Concern Worldwide U.S. has been living the 'do as much as you can' ethos, raising millions of dollars to support Concern's mission of working with the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities to create lasting change.

creating lasting change in the world. The esteemed company of honorees includes: last year's honorees, former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson and Chicago Beyond Founder & CEO. Liz Dozier; as well as disability advocate and philanthropist, Shirley Welsh Ryan; Illinois Supreme Court Justice, Anne M. Burke; Acumen Foundation Founder and CEO Jaqueline Novogratz; former Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Catherine Bertini; former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, among many others.

This year's luncheon is special – it will be the first major U.S.

the history of the American government, and **Dr. Joanne Smith**,



Madeleine Albright

President and CEO of Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, an innovative research hospital that aims to improve patient outcomes by bringing together doctors, scientists, and technologists. Secretary Albright has history with Concern: she paid a memorable visit to their program in post-genocide Rwanda in 1997.

In the late 1990's, one of Concern's earliest Chicago supporters, Mary Pat O'Connor, lit the spark after noticing that Irish institutions in Chicago were "dominated by men." She pitched the idea of a women-centered event to then-Executive Director Siobhan Walsh and Fr. Aengus, who had by then become a frequent and increasingly popular visitor to the city. His response was immediate and affirmative

It was at one such Women of Concern Chicago event that Concern's reach and influence became quite apparent: the temperamentally gregarious, but usually emotionally stoic Fr. Aengus was attending the luncheon, when he was approached by a former refugee and beneficiary of Concern's work. A Yale-educated

doctor. She attended the luncheon in the hopes of meeting Fr. Aengus, whom she had last met when she was 11. She told him that she lived and worked as she did now, "all as a result of Concern." Former Concern Worldwide US CEO Joseph Cahalan says upon hearing her story, "Aengus began to cry" — the only time Cahalan had ever seen him do so.

The Women of Concern luncheon comes at a time when the world needs Concern more than ever. There are more humanitarian crises than ever before; and as they become more frequent and more complex, the cost of helping millions worldwide cope with conflict and disasters continues to rise. Last year, United Nations official Stephen O'Brien called the East Africa hunger crisis the "worst the world had faced since 1945".

When hundreds of Chicagoans and world citizens convene at the Ritz-Carlton on June 1st, they will be celebrating a proud legacy of grassroots action empowering global change, in the spirit of the O'Loughlin Kennedys and the Finucanes, and in the company of Chicago Irish families, loyal supporters with names like **McCauley, McShane, Connolly, King, O'Connor, Derrig, Deely, Durkin, Quinn, Houlihan, and McMenamin**, among many others. It will be a look back, and a look forward, a re-commitment to doing 'as much as we can...' hand in hand with millions of people living in the poorest communities worldwide.

Concern has been responding to emergencies around the world since it was born amid the chaos of the Biafran war in Nigeria 50 years ago.

It was December 1967, and Kay O'Loughlin Kennedy and her husband John held a small meeting at their home in Dublin. Holy Ghost priest Father Raymond Kennedy, who recently



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Dr. Joanne Smith

Thanks to a steadfast community of long-serving board members, donors, and volunteers, Concern Worldwide has become a true Chicago institution. Its centerpiece event has been its Women of Concern Luncheon, which honors women who are

event to mark the organization's **50th Anniversary**. It will be held at the Ritz-Carlton on Friday, June 1st at 12:00 p.m., with a reception at 11:00 a.m. The honorees will be former US Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright**, one of the highest-ranking women in

and influence became quite apparent: the temperamentally gregarious, but usually emotionally stoic Fr. Aengus was attending the luncheon, when he was approached by a former refugee and beneficiary of Concern's work. A Yale-educated

returned from Nigeria, told those gathered of the brutal civil war that had been unfolding there. The southern province of Biafra had been attempting to secede, after decades of tension with the Northern-dominated federal government.

It was not long before the world would see photos of hundreds of thousands of Biafrans — many of them children — starving to death, or dying from preventable diseases. After listening to Fr. Raymond's harrowing account, those present at the meeting agreed that something had to be done.

They set up an agency called Africa Concern. At the time, the group only had one goal: raise funds for a flight to Biafra to supply food and other necessities for Biafra's starving children. The organization was formally created in March 1968. By the end of the year, Africa Concern had managed to raise a staggering 3.5 million British pounds, 70 million dollars in today's terms. The funds enabled them to buy a ship, which ferried relief supplies out of Dublin harbor, and helped fuel a major multi-agency airlift that saved hundreds of thousands of lives. On the ground to help marshal and deliver the supplies were two Holy Ghost fathers — brothers Jack and Aengus Finucane.

Two years later, in 1970, a huge

cyclone hit what is now Bangladesh. When Africa Concern responded with help, the agency became simply, Concern, and later, Concern Worldwide. The Finucane brothers would stay on to help lead the organization for the next four decades. Among humanitarians, Concern staff, and supporters, their accomplishments are legendary. One, such supporter, Bono remembered Jack as "the John Wayne of aid workers," after his death in June of last year.

Despite the tremendous influence and integral participation

of Catholic clerics, from its very beginnings, Concern's founders — including the Finucanes — were committed to keeping the organization strictly secular and non-sectarian, in recognition of the perils of religious and ethnic divisions, in Ireland and around the world.

Since its founding, Concern has operated in just under 50 countries, and to this day, remains just as dedicated to helping the world's poorest and vulnerable communities, even in the face of growing complexities worldwide. The organization has

come a long way since a small group of determined people responded to the crisis in Biafra in 1968. It operates in 26 countries globally, helping those struggling in the face of natural disaster, climate change, and conflict. Their work spans emergency response, health & nutrition, education, water, hygiene, shelter, economic empowerment & skill building, and more.

Today the organization has 4,000 staff worldwide, and despite its growth, Concern has retained the compassion and sense of human equality that motivated its founders 50 years

ago. It has become a thoughtful, pioneering operation whose innovations in fields like emergency nutrition have been adopted by the UN as global standards.

Concern's efficiency and modest size have allowed it to respond to emergencies quickly, and think about problems in a flexible and innovative way. People in the most extreme poverty are often socially or geographically isolated, making it hard for official programs to reach them. But Concern seeks them out, and gives them not just material help, but also, a voice in their own societies.

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Contact Project Director Jen O'Grady at 312-579-7728 or jogrady@aarp.org or Assistant Project Director Tiffany Holmes at Wholmes@aarp.org for more information.

Retired and Seniors Volunteer Program, RSVP, is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. RSVP Chicago is sponsored by AARP Foundation, a charitable affiliate of AARP. Every year the AARP Foundation helps millions of struggling older Americans meet their basic needs for nutritious food, safe and affordable housing, adequate income and much-needed personal connection.

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Druid's Acclaimed Production of Beckett's Waiting For Godot Coming to the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre

"Well? Shall we go?
Yes, let's go."

Druid's acclaimed production of Beckett's seminal play, *Waiting for Godot*, will embark on an international tour, running in Chicago Shakespeare Theater's, Courtyard Theater from 23rd May to 3rd June.

Tony Award-winner Garry Hynes directs members of the acclaimed Druid Ensemble Garrett Lombard, Aaron Monaghan, Rory Nolan and Marty Rea in 'The freshest, funniest and most affecting production of the play in at least a quarter of a century' - *The Irish Times*.

Druid's interpretation of Beckett's masterpiece premiered in the 2016 Galway International Arts Festival, captivating both audiences and critics alike. There wasn't a ticket to be had for the subsequent Unusual Rural Tour, which played in exterior locations around Ireland. In 2017 the production had a month long run at Dublin's



Photo by Matthew Thompson

Abbey Theatre prior to heading to Spoleto Festival USA in June, playing to capacity audiences at both venues. It is currently in the middle of a 9-venue tour of some of Ireland's finest regional theatres.

"Our 2016 Unusual Rural Tour showed us just how much of an appetite there is for this production so it's great to take it to so many corners of the country, and internationally, in 2018." said Artistic Director, Garry Hynes. "It's also fantastic to continue working on this extraordinary show with members of our Ensemble and creative team who have created something very special."

Audiences in the US will now have an opportunity to see this engaging new production, a theatrical Tour-de-Force from Ireland's premier independent theatre company.

This latest announcement demonstrates Druid's continued resolve and capacity to bringing outstanding theatre to audiences throughout Ireland and to the international stage.

www.druid.ie

What the critics said:

- *The best work made of the play in years.*

The Stage

Exceptional ... Miraculous ... As vaudevillian as it is philosophical ... I never wanted them to stop.

The Irish Times

'A welcome reinvention ... A must-see.'

Sunday Business Post

'I felt once again its tragicomic grandeur.'

The Guardian

Startling, penetrating ... This arresting production reaps rich dividends.'

Broadway World

'Splendid ... Hynes mines the comedy expertly.'

The Irish Examiner

Druid would also like to acknowledge the Arts Council for their support in funding the original staging of these productions and Culture Ireland for their support with touring.



As I write this column the Irish Heritage Singers Choir are preparing for the March concerts, regular rehearsals, extra rehearsals. It's a busy time. After we complete the St. Patrick's concert season things slow down until July and then November. We are always looking for new venues to perform our programs. If you would like to consider having us perform please contact us at 1-773-282-7035 or irishheritagesingers@irishahc.org. John Mahal is the marketing Director for the singers and I know he would welcome hearing from you. In the meantime, mark your calendar for Saturday, July 7, when we'll be on stage at the IAHC's Irish Fest.

We now have two new members who attended one of our performances. They both approached our director, Paul and arranged to come in for an audition. Thank you Mike and Christine. The Altos also got lucky with the addition Elly Anderson, a very talented young lady. Elly's dad, Richard is a tenor. We are so pleased to welcome back a former tenor, Ian Thomson. He came to one of our performances and decided that he wanted to be part of us again. And last but certainly not least we welcome Siobhan Meluso to the Sopranos.

On March 11 we perform at the annual Irish Fest for Avenues to Independence. It's a pro bono performance that we are honored to do each year. If you haven't heard of them go online and see the good work that they do: <http://avenuestoindependence.org/>

I must tell you that the choir had a great time at the Center's Volunteer Dinner. I want to thank the IAHC for doing this annually. We enjoyed ourselves. I know we were one of the noisy tables but it just confirms how much fun we were having.

So this month I want to introduce you to Kathy Werning. Kathy has been in the choir for 17 years. So much of her free time revolves around this choir. At one time her daughter sang with the choir. Her daughter met her husband in the choir. Kathy is a jack of all trades. She is officially the Secretary of the choir Board. She steps in wherever a hand is needed. She co-chairs the Bake Sale every year which is a monumental undertaking. She's one of those people who you know is on the front line and has your back at all times. I don't know what the choir would do without her. Kathy has one heck of a soprano voice. I will always remember the first time she sang "Caledonia" at a concert. It was so beautiful. I had tears in my eyes. Thank you Kathy. You are loved.

Before I forget I want to thank Cliff Carlson for his continued support of the choir. We are so grateful for the publicity. It all helps us to continue to succeed. Thanks Cliff.

As I always say, come and join us. You'll not regret a moment of it. As the old song says, "If you're Irish come into the parlor. There's a welcome there for you". (You can come even if you aren't Irish)....

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Mass from Across the Pond at Comhaltas April 8

A Mass from Across the Pond has its world premiere at the Comhaltas Ceoltoiri na Eireann Convention at the Northbrook Hilton on Sunday, April 8, at 10 am. This mass is a new musical collaboration between two renowned Irish-American artists deeply engaged in Chicago's Catholic music ministry: Singer Kathy Cowan and multi-instrumentalist Kathleen Keane. While performing at a mass at St. Bartholomew's Church in Chicago, the artists were inspired to begin their first collaboration as composers. The result is an original Celtic-influenced musical setting of the Catholic mass in Irish, English and Latin. Kathleen's original tune and air compositions are the perfect foundation for Kathy's careful setting of the words of the mass for beautiful and inspiring vocal and choral arrangements. Rounding out the

collaboration is pianist Steve Zivin, whose distinctive arranging skills provide unique harmonization and accompaniment to the mass. Master musicians joining for the performance are guitarist Jimmy Moore from Kilkenny, Ireland, and accordionist John Williams of Chicago. The award-winning Women's Choir of the Old Town School will sing the mass. Fr. Michael Madigan is the Celebrant.

Mass from Across the Pond 2018 Comhaltas Ceoltóirí na hÉireann Convention

Sunday, April 8th, 2018 at 10:00 AM
Hilton Hotel

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Northbrook, Illinois 60062
(847) 480-7500

*Convention runs from Thursday April 5 through Sunday April 8

Tionól Celebrates 21 Years of Traditional Irish Music in St. Louis April 20 - 22

ST. LOUIS - Some of the world's top traditional Irish musicians will be gathering in St. Louis over the weekend of April 20-22 for the 21st annual St. Louis Tionól, a three-day musical celebration that includes educational workshops and a concert at the Sheldon Concert Hall. Pronounced "chun-awl," Tionól is the Irish word for a gathering and it captures the essence of the weekend.



who have always wanted to learn the penny whistle (tin whistle) or bodhrán (Irish drum). No experience necessary and you don't need to read music. The workshops also provide an outstanding opportunity for more experienced musicians to improve their technique and learn new tunes from the masters.

Rose Flanagan and Dylan Foley, two amazing fiddle players, will be joining us. We will, of course, feature the

Tionól as a way to bring together people interested in traditional Irish music, because of heritage or exposure to shows such as Riverdance, together with world class performers and teachers for a weekend of workshops and sessions and concerts. With a total attendance of close to 3,000 over the years, it has become the event in the Midwest for lovers of traditional music.

The highlight of the St. Louis Tionól will be a concert at the Sheldon Concert Hall showcasing our teachers who hail from Ireland and across North America.

The Saturday (April 21st) concert begins at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available through Metrotix (metrotix.com, 314-534-1111) or at the door. Children 12 and under are free.

Workshops for beginners, intermediate players and advanced musicians will be held Saturday (April 21st) at Nerinx Hall High School in Webster Groves. If you've always wanted to learn to play the The day-long workshops are an excellent chance for those

iconic uilleann (pronounced 'illin') bagpipes which were just placed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. Our teachers will include Tom Creegan, all-Ireland winner Michael Stribling, Pat Broaders, and Kieran O'Hare. We're delighted to welcome the TG4 young musician of the year on concertina. Tommy Martin, our own St. Louis pipemaker, and the long-time piper with Celtic Women, will be doing the reeds, the heart of the uilleann pipes. We're thrilled to have Eimear Arkins, who hails from Co. Clare and was the first place winner of the prestigious All-Ireland title, as our ballads instructor. And of course, there'll be classes in Bodhrán with Jackie Moran, accompaniment with Patrick Doocey, harp with all-ireland winner, Eileen Gannon, and many more.

There are more workshops featured, all of which can be seen at www.tionol.org with all the schedule information and concert tickets.

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**Irish Books and Plays
in Review**

Frank West



**Havoc—The Auxiliaries of
Ireland's War of Independence**

By: Paul O'Brien
Collins Press/Dufour

People of Irish heritage are resilient, determined and creative. These qualities were desperately necessary during Ireland's War for Independence. That struggle lasted from 1916-1921. These are the centenary years of that titanic conflict.

Ireland is a small country, but with exceptionally brave people. The Irish fought the British Army to a stand-still. The author is a military historian who has written about the military strategy of the 1916 Rising.

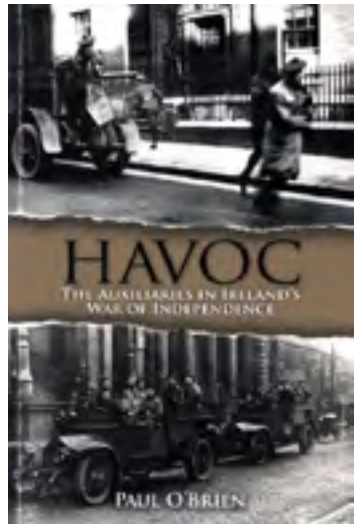
Paul O'Brien holds an M.A. in History and has written ten books about Ireland's military history. O'Brien is a military historian for the Irish Government and is a regular contributor to The Irish Defense Forces Magazine. He lives in Santry, Dublin with his wife and daughter.

The writing style used in Havoc is exacting and precise; I especially liked the quotes from contemporaries.

The Royal Irish Constabulary "were considered the eyes and ears of the British." The purpose of the RIC was to spy on the peo-

ple "and apply force to impose British law on local people."

However, Michael Collins and the IRA, made the RIC powerless. The Auxies were then sent to regain control of Ireland. The Auxies were former officers in the British Army. World War I created "violent young men, many of them



suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Many sought solace in alcohol."

IRA General Tom Barry said of them, "They were an efficient body because they had more experience and they were half made with bloodlust."

"The British government was

concerned that the unrest in Ireland would have a domino effect and spread to Britain's other colonies."

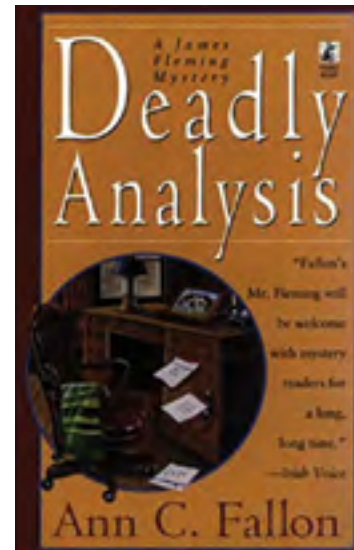
In May of 1920, the cabinet of Prime Minister Lloyd George, accepted the suggestion of the Secretary for War, Winston Churchill, to form the Auxiliaries. Churchill wanted them to be a counter insurgency unit, and to send them to Ireland.

In May of 1940, during another war, Churchill self-righteously berated the Irish government for being neutral. He conveniently forgot that he had released the scourge of the Auxies on Ireland. That was only twenty years before.

There were only 2,263 of the Auxies but "they left a bloody indelible mark on Irish history." The author contrives, "Within their ten months of operation, the force passed into legend... Their leaving a legacy of bitterness and hatred amongst the Irish that is still evident today."

These quotes give a feeling of the times. "All the Auxies who operated in Ireland were killers; they had fought in a war where killing was an everyday occurrence." They killed and they were skilled at covering it up.

"The counter-insurgency campaign was failing to win the hearts and minds of the people, the reprisals carried out by the Auxies were marginalizing the police and the military. The situation was rapidly deteriorating as death and chaos



reigned." The much smaller forces of the IRA forced the British to a truce in July, 1921.

The local priests were nationalists. The bishops were something else. The archbishops of Cork did not condemn the Auxies, even after they had burned most of Cork city!

In response to January, 1921 ambush of the IRA, the Archbishop of Tuam issued a pastoral letter "The misguided criminals who fired a few shots from behind a wall... have broken the truce of God, they have incurred the guilt of murder."

Deadly Analysis

By: Ann C. Fallon, Pocket Books/Simon and Schuster

Written with a lively writing style, this book presents us with many insightful psychological observations. Observations of the psyche of detectives; that of the people he encounters; of the criminal; and especially of ourselves.

The main character, the detective, is James Fleming. He practices law in Dublin and "specializes in property conveyancing." He is a young man with "deep brown eyes, a handsome face, and curly brown hair."

Fleming's legal work is routine and he loves being called on by clients to solve criminal cases. And because he has solved several, has a good relation with the police.

A great help to him in solving cases are his instincts, which he carefully follows and his insightful psychological observations.

The much loved horse of a psychiatrist is found stabbed to death. He calls James to help solve the killing. The psychiatrist's name is Dr. Tom Darcy.

When Darcy is later found stabbed to death, James resolves to interview each of the patients who had appointments with Darcy on his last day.

He encounters some lovely people, but also some with a lot of anger. He finds that those with anger often blame Darcy for their problems. James follows his feelings and psychological observations to decide if any could be the murderer.

James' investigations brings him to many parts of Dublin and its suburbs. The reader 'sees' his intense observations of people and places.

Ann C. Fallon was born and raised in Boston. She studies at Trinity College Dublin. She lived in Ireland for 12 years. Then taught at Queens College in New York and at the City University of New York. "She lives in New Jersey with her husband and children." She has written six James Fleming mysteries "and is currently working on her next James Fleming mystery."

In Deadly Analysis, the reader doesn't just watch the mystery unfold, but becomes part of the observations and the resulting insights.

These quotes show the book's beauty and insights.

Dr. Darcy tried to help this patient to understand her lack of self-respect: Her parents said, "Don't ever leave us, no, it's your duty to stay at home. No boyfriend is good enough... They ridiculed her appearance and her voice. Demeaning her personality... so much repression."

Fleming is about to confront the murderer. "He shivered. The night had turned wintry... icy shafts sliced through his overcoat. Suddenly, the climb up the steep and winding road seemed longer than he had estimated. He was glad to see... no car parked outside across from his house," but the killer was already in the house.

Great description of the murderer after being caught. "The fine patrician features sagged grotesquely—deep caverns beneath the eyes, gaunt hollows in the cheeks... his chest seemed to cave in and his hand reached for his leg, gripping it above the fractured bone."

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Traditions

If there is one thing that we all seem to have in common, regardless of your heritage or background, it is that we all have some sort of tradition.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a tradition is the handing down of information, beliefs, and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another without written instruction. I would say that this is an accurate description of a tradition, unless of course, you have a tradition of baking your great great great grandmothers Irish Soda Bread, then I would suggest having the recipe written down somewhere.

Culture traditions, family traditions, new traditions, old traditions, to me, is the glue that brings and holds a family together. It is one of the few practices that truly belongs to your family and close friends. A tradition in your family, whether you are aware of them or not, help create valuable memories with your loved ones that is treasured over the years.

Whether you're coming together to bake your great grandmother's Pfeffernüsse (a German anise bread), taking a family walk post dinner pre dessert, or wearing the same onesies every Christmas Eve, you are creating a ritual that has the opportunity of being passed down generation to generation.

Like any good Irish family, traditions are what brings my family together; bringing smiles to our faces and love to our hearts. While both good and bad distractions present themselves every day, I can always count on my family shenanigans to slow down my hectic life and bring a little joy into the moment. It is a nice feeling to belong to something, even if it is just your

family.

Family traditions define your family and who you are as an individual and as a whole. Traditions do an excellent job of keeping us focused on the things that are truly important. It keeps us grounded and close to our families, and exemplifies the love we have for each other and the importance of being together. One thing I find quite amazing is that traditions seem to have this magical way of bridging a gap between generations.

I come from a very large Irish-American family. In total, there are about 39 Gallaghers! When I was younger, I thought that everyone in the world had an average of 30-40 people in their own families. Aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, and a million cousins. I thought it was normal to have a house full of people chatting away, kids running around, games being played, and stories being swapped. Each one of us louder than the next, trying to talk over everyone else.

I learned quickly that having such a loud rambunctious family was not the case, and actually a rarity. A rarity that instantly fills my heart with love and laughter every time we get together. I have a smile on my face as I'm typing this reminiscing on all the wonderful memories my family has created.

Although knowing that every family celebration, holiday, or Sunday night get together would follow the same routine, I never considered these traditions. Until now, with almost 30 years of family get togethers under my belt, I have realized that these "routines" are actually traditions my family celebrates every time we are together. These traditions have become our anchor.

Where there is a Gallagher clan, there are many laughs, drinks and enough food to feed

an army. After filling our bellies with a delicious hearty meal, we take a walk around the neighborhood to make room for the loads of sweets and treats that wait for us when we return. This is my second favorite Gallagher tradition that I have tried passing on my friends, but for some reason, I have never been successful with getting them up and out.

After the walk and loading our plates of all the wonderful desserts, there is more chatting, sometimes Irish dancing, and always always a family jam session. Yes, a fam-bam jam session. Which is hands down my number one favorite Gallagher tradition. The fam-bam jam usually consists of my father and a few cousins playing the guitar, a cousin on the bass, a cousin rocking the mandolin, my uncle playing the harmonica, and the rest of us coming in with some out of tune -but- beautiful singing.

Even though, over the years, life has drawn some family members (including my very own sisters) to different states, the few that are still here in the Chicago area uphold our family traditions every time we get together. Keeping our family rituals alive makes it easy to pick right back up every time the whole clan is together.

Whether you come from a family that is big or one that is small, take pride in your traditions. Cherish them and find the joy in the little things that you get to do to keep these rituals alive. Enjoy them and talk about them. Create new traditions as your family grows and emphasize how important it is to share these memories with the people you love the most.

If you are in search of a family to share in some love, laughs, and traditions, the door to the Gallagher's is always open. As my Aunt Coll always says, "the more the merrier"! We love inviting people in, sharing a good meal, strong drink, and showing how the Gallagher's get down. Although you will be expected to join in on the walk and jam session.



Generation Next

By Conor O'Connor

What Being Irish Means to Me

As the son of Siobhainn O'Connor, owner and operator of the O'Connor show, it's been hard to avoid my Irish heritage. I've visited relatives in the motherland, spent many a night in the Irish Cottage Boutique Hotel in Galena, and been to lots and lots of pubs. Being Irish has been a huge part of my life.

One of my earliest memories is of radio station WPNA's carpeted studio, perched atop the Oak Park Arms retirement community. When I was a kid, I never really appreciated what that studio meant to my family, especially to my mother and grandfather. Every time my mom told me that I'd be spending my Saturday morning at the studio, I groaned and complained. "But Mooooooom!" I'd say, preferring to spend my Saturday parked in front of the TV, watching Cartoon Network or Disney Channel. After rolling her eyes, she'd buckle me into my car seat and drive out to Oak Park. I remember navigating the maze-like halls of the Arms, clinging to my mother's coattails as she led the way towards the elevator.

More than anything, though, I remember the smell. While much has changed at the Arms in the past decade-and-a-half, a few things haven't. The friendliness of the residents and the staff hasn't changed, the O'Connor Show is still going strong, and, by golly, that smell remains. Like any sensation, it's almost indescribable. It's sweet and warm, yet soft and friendly. It's a scent that will remain imprinted in my memory for the rest of my life.

While the consistent aura of the Oak

Park Arms has been a source of comfort for me, I'm happy to say that my attitude towards the radio show has changed drastically since my childhood. Last week, my mother, alongside Cathy and Cliff Carlson, accepted a resolution from the Cook County Board of Commissioners formally recognizing the enormous positive impact the O'Connor Show has had on the Irish-American community of Chicago. I stood up and applauded my mom as she got her picture taken alongside President Preckwinkle. That moment solidified what I already knew about my mom: she's a pretty freaking amazing person.

The title of this month's column is "What Being Irish Means to Me." To me, being Irish means finally appreciating the legacy my grandfather left behind, a legacy that my mother builds upon to this day. To me, being Irish means working alongside my mother and the rest of the Irish-American community to celebrate and preserve our heritage, and to share what being Irish means with each other. Irish-ness is so much bigger than potatoes, Guinness, and parades. We're the descendants of survivors, revolutionaries, and, most of all, immigrants. And that's something to be proud of.

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



The True Face Of Social Justice

We live in a time of profit making, and unbridled capitalism. The right to exploit those who are forced to sell themselves short in order to survive has been sanctioned at the highest levels of government. Unions are demonized, stripped of their powers, leaving workers vulnerable to the machinations of those who value profit over care and social responsibility. Our society defines its greatness in material terms. We have become hardened to the needs of those who cannot compete with the economic drive for success, and it is against such a backdrop of crude profiteering that Pope Francis speaks in defense of unions. Equating them to biblical prophets, the Pontiff deems the role of the union an important expression of social conscience.

For me, the matter gained importance in 2015 when I, along with hundreds of other non-tenure track faculty (NTTs) at Loyola, decided to unionize (a movement among NTTs that has been grown throughout the country). Once the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) recognized our right to unionize, the university fought to reverse the decision. Loyola's Jesuit mission and call to social action does not, it seems, include the rights of its educators to form a union. At first, the administration's reaction was a surprise to me. Coming from Northern Ireland, and living through some of the worst of the Troubles, I naively assumed that the Jesuit tradition of social justice was more than a lip service to an ideal. However, it was only when the NLRB affirmed the faculty's right to unionize that I saw the true face of social justice.

On two separate occasions, the university challenged the legal right of the faculty to unionize. Pope Francis, it appears, does not hold much sway with American

Jesuits. On both occasions, the university failed to dismantle the union's right to address inequalities. You might well ask why an institution committed to *Ad maiorem Dei gloriam* (To the greater glory of God) would seek to quieten the prophetic voice crying in the wilderness. The answer is quite simple. Prophets have an annoying habit of highlighting injustice. They lift the carpet of respectability and expose the dirt gathering beneath.

Unions are prophetic institutions. Their commitment to parity should be welcomed, especially by those who claim to be transparent and committed to process of shared governance. However, unions, more often than not, will lay the axe to the root of business ideologies that value profit over people, and this does not sit well with administrative types. Credibility gaps between mission and practice become public knowledge. For example, adjunct faculty

at Loyola, have not had a raise in over a decade while tuition fees have dramatically increased. Administration salaries, by contrast, have fattened up quite nicely.

Indeed, when it comes to making economic decisions, rarely is it to the advantage of the most disadvantaged. When it became law that part-time faculty teaching more than four courses have to be offered health benefits colleges stopped shy of the commitment to employee welfare. The result has left many adjuncts on the margins of poverty, unable to afford health care, and forced to work multiple jobs. Educators, who have labored tirelessly for years at Loyola, find themselves offered less so that the institution might save more.

Pope Francis rightly states that unions provide us with the 'social nature' of economy. If academia is driven solely by profit, it dehumanizes its best asset, the teachers. If NTTs are to become 'fully human', they must be treated fairly. There has to be a change of heart or the cause of social justice is merely decorative and unsubstantiated.

It has been over two years since we unionized and still the administration continues to drag out the process of bargaining. The



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question of 'good faith', when it comes to bargaining, is not measured in haste, or concern for the welfare of NTT faculty but in keeping the status quo. Tuition fees continue to increase, a new multi-million-dollar building for athletics is paramount, but conditions for adjuncts remain same. Our prophetic role, it appears, has been downgraded. Instead of being heard, we are being swept under the carpet once again.

Rather than dealing fairly with

those of us who are committed to providing a quality education, the administration reminds us of how lucky we are to have a job at all and how easily it would be to replace us. This tactic of a veiled threat creates fear and distrust. It is not the true face of social justice but the real face of commerce divorced from conscience. We, at Loyola, are not alone. NTTs in Catholic universities throughout the nation face the same problem when it comes to forming a union.

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Clutter Buster

By Rita Emmett

Procrastinate No More!

Professional Irish Women Helping Procrastinators

Are you so overwhelmed with all you have to do that you just can't get started?

The Professional Irish Women of Chicago organization (PIWOC) is offering help with a FREE 1-hour class BY PHONE --- no computer needed.

Rita Emmett (who writes the Clutter-Busting column in this newspaper) will give tips to "BLAST AWAY PROCRASTINATION" in a TeleClass on April 16.

In this fast paced program, you can listen to Rita teach techniques and strategies to help you break the procrastination habit. Plus she will answer questions.

You will call a "magic number" and join others in this TeleClass. Instead of having to attend a program in a classroom, with this class you can attend by listening on the phone while in your jammies and fuzzy-bunny slippers.

Professional Irish Women of Chicago is a newly formed group offering an opportunity for Irish career women to meet, engage, support, refer and work with each other in a relaxed and positive way. Recently, the Consulate General of Ireland, Brian O'Brien, held a beautiful reception for PIWOC in the Sky Lounge at 1 East Wacker Drive.

Everyone is welcome to join the TeleClass --- members and non-members. Even guys can attend as long as they know an Irish woman.

Register to receive handouts and the "magic number" for you to call on the day of the class.

TO REGISTER:

date: Monday, April 16
time: 7:00 PM Central time
cost: FREE

Register for TeleClass (or to join PIWOC) contact Mary Kay at www.info@piwoc.org or call (773) 729-0811

Professional Irish Women Help Procrastinators

Want to hear Rita in person? She is presenting a TeleClass (class taught by phone, no computer needed) on April 16 at 7:00 PM Central time for the Professional Irish Women of Chicago (PIWOC)

For an hour she will teach strategies on BLAST AWAY PROCRASTINATION and take questions.

Register to receive handouts and the number for you to call on the day of the class.

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Sweeney Todd/Demon Barber of Fleet Street

By Terence Boyle

Todd's last shave, is also Theo Ubique's last book musical at No Exit Café. For those who do

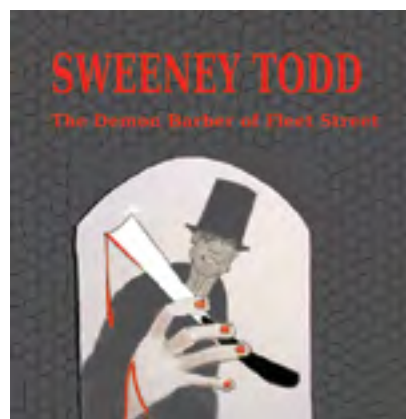


not know the harrowing story of the 'demon barber of Fleet Street', it's truly frightening. In true Victorian, gothic, style. Stephen Sondheim's musical captures the gory delights of a macabre morality play. It's a romp that artfully delivers social commentary, humour, enshrined in the hope and despair by those who are forced to do the unthinkable.

Director, Fred Anzevino, reaches for the heights and depths in this production. Calibrating the stage to maximum effect, the audience are inside and outside of the action. The pervasive troubled spirit of Todd permeates the modest No Exit Café of Rogers Park. An area, known for its own troubles, provides a perfect backdrop for

Hugh Wheeler's penny dreadful tale of revenge.

If you have seen the movie with Johnny Depp commanding the role of the butcher and directed by none other than Tim Burton, you will find the live version more of a vibrant spectacle. Anzevino's large cast powerfully connects with the audience, as they glide, lunge, crawl between the cavities of this small venue. Whether as a chorus, or as a lone voice, each number shines with



sheer talent. Accompanied by the multi-talented musical director, Jeremy Ramey, Anzevino showcases what has to be one of their best performances.

This fright fest of blood and death is dripping with passionate intensity. Philip Torre's (Swee-

ney Todd) marvelous baritone perfectly reflects the depth of the barber's descent into hopeless depravity, while retaining our sympathy for his undeserved injustices. Torre's commitment to the role is flawless, and works as a great counterweight to the casual comedy of Jacquelyne Jones as Mrs. Lovett, the infamous pie maker. Jones and Torre contrast levity with brooding savagery in a metaphorical dance across the bodies of their victims; dead flesh soon to be prepared by them for public consumption.

A pre-cursor to Sid Vicious (Sex Pistols) and Nancy, the amoral, dance of destruction corrodes and infiltrates into the heart of Lovett and Todd's relationship. Jones comedically foil to Torre's dark soul works its magic to draws us nearer to the abyss (in this case the bake house ovens), which reeks of decay. Jones and Torre complement each other in their respective roles. I can only say that it must have been great fun, and hard work to put this musical together. The end result is a performance to remember.

Apart from the jaded, but understandable desperation of Lovett and Todd, we are drawn into the dramatic proceedings by the innocent lost boy, Toby, played by Frankie Leo Burnett, and the equally naïve Johanna, played by Cecilia Iole. The innocence of youth, unmarred by experience, keeps us from complete despair, until the sins of the elders trap the younger generation in the cycle of anger and retribution.

Anzevino has left his mark on Rogers Park with this book musical finale. This will be your last time to see a production of this magnitude in such a small place. Theo Ubique will move on to better things, leaving behind a history 51 Jeff awards, and 132 nominations since it became eligible in 2005. Catch this shadow before it passes and bask in its delightful darkness.

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A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



You may be surprised to know that April is designated as the National Month of Hope. Just as the rebirth of spring and the promise of Easter brighten our days and lift our spirits during this time of year, the National Month of Hope was founded to inspire people to spread hope to others through volunteer efforts, charitable giving, and acts of kindness.

It is quite fitting that Catholic Charities will officially close out our 100th anniversary year during the National Month of Hope because hope is exactly what we have strived to bring to each person who has walked through our doors over the past 100 years. In fact, providing hope is such an integral part of our mission, that we named our year-long anniversary celebration, A Century of Hope.

Charity is not just about providing material assistance, but acting

with the same love and mercy that Jesus showed to restore people's dignity and give them hope for the future. We show people that they are cared for and that their lives matter. We assess a person's short-term and long-term needs, provide immediate relief, and help them develop a holistic plan for a better life.

Although our services have grown and adapted to changing needs over the years, our mission to bring hope to the people and communities that need us most has remained the same. Pope Francis has used a powerful image of the Church as "field hospitals." During war, field hospitals are situated right on battlegrounds—close to the wounded who need help. Similarly, Catholic Charities 150 service locations are very much like field hospitals, helping those who are suffering, and locat-

ed in neighborhoods that have sadly become like real battlegrounds, plagued with violence, poverty, and despair.

During this Century of Hope year, we redoubled our efforts to be a beacon of hope to those most in need by deepening our commitment in the Austin community with our new Tolton Peace Center; expanding anti-violence programs in the city including youth mentoring and employment, and trauma-informed therapy; breaking ground on a new building in Round Lake; opening a new office to better serve the south and southwest suburbs; creating an

entire campus of services for those overcoming domestic violence; adding showers and remodeling the kitchen at our main headquarters at 721 N. LaSalle to restore the hope and dignity of the hungry and homeless who come to our Evening Supper Program; and relocating and expanding services for our Refugee Assistance Program—and that's just a few of the enhancements that will kick off our second Century of Hope!

All of these expansions, and indeed all of Catholic Charities services over the past 100 years, are possible because of the spirit of charity ever present in our

great city and suburbs. As a true reflection of the National Month of Hope's goal of inspiring people to help others, Catholic Charities has always been collective effort of Good Samaritans throughout the area. Since our founding in 1917, Catholic Charities has been tremendously blessed with hard-working board members, dedicated volunteers, generous donors, strong parish partnerships, and the support of government agencies and the business community. We are not one entity working alone, but a collection of kind-hearted and generous people working together to help their neighbors. That, to me, is truly what the National Month of Hope is all about!

As the new buds of spring blossom into abundant life, let us be inspired to plant the seeds of hope in our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters, so that their lives can bloom into abundant fruition. Whether future donor, volunteer, or board member, I invite you to join Catholic Charities as we embark on our 2nd Century of Hope!



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Beverly Hills, CA: Okay, I admit it! Beverly Hills, California and a Pre-Oscar Party is not my typical assignment, but when I receive an invitation from

friend Fionnula Flanagan, Irish stage and screen actor, I immediately book a hotel, seize upon sizzling glamour and head up Mulholland Drive to Ms. Flanagan's home. It's a must event, an Irish gathering to host and acclaim the Irish

Oscar Nominees

This year there were five nominees, in their prime, on top of their game, all of them hoping, praying they'd bring home a gold statue. Unfortunately, not a one received the gold, but no matter, says Robert O'Driscoll, Consul General of Ireland in the Western United States. A similar philosophy had been offered in previous years by his predecessor, Honorable M. Finbar Hill, who emphasized that a nomination is a sign of greatness, a hash tag, an opening to respectability, acceptance and acclaim into the hallowed halls of elite entertainment. If you don't win an Oscar, be honored you got this far, I recall him telling the hopefuls gathered on top of a California mountain, in an enclave where many with Hollywood name recognition reside in urban mansions and modern glass palaces! O'Driscoll, a pre-oscar co-host, on a rainy



Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

blustery night in Ms. Flanagan's home brought forth a bevy of actors, producers, story tellers, aspiring personas, and an elderly man who, when approached by a reporter and asked what connection he had to the Irish, responded with "I write plays." Where are they produced, was the



Fionnula Flanagan

next utterance, and he replied with a shy smile, Broadway!

Tom Moore was present, producer of the nominated film, Breadwinner. Also working the room was Nora Toomey, director of that

film. Maurice Fitzpatrick, hails from County Cavan, and spent time in Chicago, prior to his arrival in Los Angeles, visiting Irish American News Publisher, Cliff Carlson and others. He's

currently working on a documentary about John Hume, a political leader in the North of Ireland. Fitzpatrick is CEO and Creative Director of Creevy Film, LTD. Adam Ferguson, a Dundalk man, living up the road in Drogheda, has an impressive list of creative accomplishments and divulged a litany of imaginative and relevant endeavors.

All very daunting, great wit, laughter, guests mimicking and exaggerating Irish accents, Robert O'Driscoll revealing it was his seventh time in Los Angeles, describing it both surreal and fantastic. "Ireland has far more power when we can show the best of our creative talents, sending a strong message and, and by the way, making the job of a diplomat so easy. We are proud, we celebrate

your successes as if they were our own."

Many aspiring actors, screen writers and producers also commented on the enormous size of Los Angeles, and yet they report there's a presence and an extension of the Irish family that is thriving. One Irish man proclaimed that he rarely get's "inside someone's house," and was thrilled to be in Fionnula Flanagan's home.

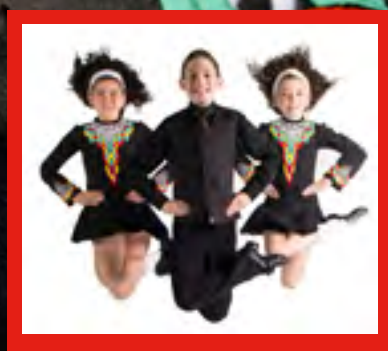
One of the personal highlights was a buffet supper featuring ramekins of Shepard's Pie, crowned with the most perfect mashed potatoes, gently browned on top, an enhancement by a culinary torch. As one chap already on his second ramekin quipped, "This is so good, shepards are hard to come by!" On a personal note, bitter disappointment that nominee for best screen writer Martin McDonagh, was passed over for his film Three Billboards....." One thing is for certain, Ms. Flanagan elevates hosting to a new level and displays her gift of dispensing wonderful Irish hospitality.

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Word Weaving

A few weeks ago, I happened to be walking around one of the large Shopping Centres in Galway. While I was there, I noticed an amount of communication mechanisms taking place. As I passed the Post Office, some people were mailing letters. Further down at the Library there were a number of people sitting in front of computers and connected to broadband. On the seats outside the Library, a group of schoolchildren were updating their friends on social media and texting furiously on their mobile phones. As all of this was going on it struck me that the written word had returned to us again through advances in modern technology!

There was a time when the old-fashioned letter was a very important and coveted source of information. It was particularly so for young people who emigrated from the shores of Ireland and would not return for a very long time, and sometimes not at all. These letters were

read and read again until the voices of their loved ones came alive in them and they became a tremendous source of comfort for many generations. Many of you may still have bundles of these in your attic from relatives that may have since passed away. If you get a chance, why not dust them off and read through them once again, as they can be a tremendous source of therapy after such a long time.

After a while, the letters began to be replaced by the telephone. This was an effective medium for passing on information but never adequate for passing on emotions, and the majority of conversations were quickly forgotten after the receiver was replaced after the call had ended. Thanks to the advances in technology over the past decades, we now have E-Mail, and the explosion of texting and social media interaction. We are once again challenging people to construct sentences to carry information and convey emotion. The written word is back and any modern technology that promotes

this is well worth having. If it helps the younger generation to construct well-meaning sentences and give their opinions, it will be of major benefit to us all, and also for the continuity of civilization as a whole.

No matter how far we expand on the technology front, mankind's innate desire for expression in words, painting and sculpture will always remain with us. We have seen examples of this in our pre-history and later history from the cave paintings at Lascaux in France, the Egyptian hieroglyphics, ogham stones, and the painstaking work on the Early Christian manuscripts. There was an opinion some years ago that newspapers, magazines and books would cease to exist in their current form and that we would be reading them online. This will happen to an extent but never fully. Books are much more than books, they are a testament, in words, to generations that have since passed out of living memory. How could we possibly live without the smell of books, to hold them in our hands, and make notes on them as we happily progress through the pages and chapters.

'Bookworms are the most precious worms in the world when they are humans, feeding upon the paper's body with their starving minds' - Munia Khan.



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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

A Glimpse of Irish History

Meeting Irishman Kevin McCann is memorable, an event, and he's not easy to forget. He has that Irish way with him, beguiling, intense, interesting. He sports a red curly beard, the kind one immediately squelches the desire to run fingers through, to make sure it's real, to have the experience. I'm aware, the #MeToo move-

his birth town, boasting that Samuel Beckett and Oscar Wilde lived there. His family made a hasty retreat, relocating to Cavan in the south of Ireland, when a bomb exploded in a tax office near their living quarters. Nonetheless, he maintains close ties with the North and it has affected both his writing and political philosophy.



Kevin McCann meeting in London with Fiona Shaw, who will play the role of Countess Markievicz.

ment prohibits such a gesture! He immediately impresses with creative energy spewing forth in forty shades of diversity.

McCann, born in Enniskillen, in the North of Ireland, currently lives in Los Angeles. He's proud of

He's a young man, oozing creativity, his speech peppered with tantalizing descriptions of just about everything, transforming the mundane into poetic language. A screen and documentary writer, producer, play director, a man who

admits he has talent and accepts the vocation of creating new ways to express and bring to life what he sees around him.

His current screen script *The Rising* took six years to complete. It highlights a significant slice of Irish history, the 1916 Easter Rebellion. Irish leaders, joined by an army of one thousand Irish men and women was no match for the British Empire, and sixteen of its leaders were executed by the British. McCann's film depiction of the rebellion heralds the first time a screen film has been written about the attempt of the Irish to battle the British Empire, eliminating English rule in Ireland. McCann admits it was ambitious, a mighty act, and the turning point in the British Empire. The sixteen historic leaders, included Patrick Pearse, Michael Collins and Robert Emmet, all executed by the Brits. To this day, the Irish argue whether the slaughter and the loss of life was worth the fight. Historians, both Irish and American, documenting the rebellion also share opposing views on its worthiness.

McCann reveals the rebellion was actually influenced by the American War of Independence. He quotes Robert Emmet's declaration prior to his execution: "I wish to procure for my country the guarantee which Washington procured for America." The rebellion fills the pages of history and despite the controversy whether it was worth the loss of life, McCann is adamant. "It did trigger a revival of the sagging spirit of the Irish" and that emerges in music, and poetry including the work of William Butler Yeats, Seamus Heaney and countless others.

Yet, McCann reveals that his work, *The Rising*, is the first film to emerge a century following the

event. Why has this piece of Irish history been shunned? "There's a sense that the loss brought shame," he explained, recalling that years back, sitting at a bar, raising his glass toasting the leaders of the rebellion. "Fair play to Pearse and



Kevin speaking at commemoration at Sean MacDermott's cottage in County Leitrim.

Connolly, but they did not know what they were doing." He admits he was ignorant and arrogant. "I had no comprehension" he added. In effect, he was mouthing the philosophy, held by many to this day, that the rebellion was madness, a total failure. By holding that view, he argues, it denied the men and women of principle who fought for a free Ireland and stood up to the British and the world's greatest Empire. It's a story to broadcast and McCann is the man to tell it, thinking of Irish actors like Liam Neeson and Fiona Shaw. "We must tackle history and share it," he says.

He adheres to the philosophy that the Irish did not set out to defeat the British Empire, but to awaken the Irish. "The question is, did the leaders succeed in stirring the Irish proud Celtic spirit?" He enthusiastically announces that that's exactly what the failed uprising accomplished. At the same time he admits that the Brits continue its rule of the six counties in

Ulster. "I am conscious of the two sides of Ireland, but two side are one community."

Once a teacher, he utilized documentaries and writings to teach civic duty and realism. The third oldest sibling of seven, he admits growing up he was immersed in creativity. His father wrote scores of plays, produced several, and recently, at the age of seventy-seven, published a book of poems. In addition, his mother organized and directed a girl's church choir for years, and McCann credits his love of writing derived within that family cocoon.

Currently he's making the rounds to producers and potential investors, rubbing elbows with a collection of fans-of-the-script, seeking distribution funds to launch *The Rising*, a first in film that tells the story of the Easter Rising.

Writing is McCann's full time job. "It puts bread and butter on the table, but sometimes there's no butter for the bread," The

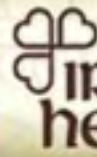
hash tag for his company is *Macana Teoranta*, "which sounds exotic," he offers, it's really McCann LTD. The majority of his works concentrates on the divide between the north and south of Ireland, and He's been heavily influenced by the work of Seamus Heaney who attended school in Derry along with Brian Friel and Phil Coulter. "Meeting someone like Heaney makes us realize there are great people on this earth."

He has written, produced documentaries, radio programs, produced one of his father's plays that garnered a dozen international festival awards.

"My duty as a film maker is to keep on the path to finance my film,". In a burst of wishful thinking, he expressed hope that a Midas man will call (917 775 1967) and tell him "just go and make the damn film."

Commenting on the writing life, he admitted its often a selfish endeavor, but "a voyage you have to do."

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UPCOMING CONCERTS AND PROGRAMS



The Kite Maven: A Celebration of the Art of Frank Crowley

The IAHC Art Gallery presents a multimedia art exhibit by the late Frank Crowley, IAHC Art Gallery Director. Through Sunday, April 8, Gallery hours: Noon-6pm on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4pm



Spring Watercolor Class

Learn to paint in watercolor in this six week class designed for all levels. The class covers techniques, color relationships, drawing and composition.

Wednesdays, April 11-May 16, 6:45pm, \$130 for IAHC members and \$140 for non-members



Quiz Night

Show off your skills at one of Chicago's longest running trivia contests. The top 3 teams win prizes and proceeds from the evening benefit a local charity each month. Friday, April 20, 8pm, \$60 per team



Knotwork by Hand and Eye Celtic Art Class

Students of all levels study the easy grid method of Celtic knots and patterns, creating borders and freehand knotwork. Saturdays, April 21-June 2, Noon-3pm, \$130 for IAHC members and \$150 for non-members



Tea with Clara Barton

Have tea with Clara Barton, educator, activist, suffragist, nurse and founder of the American Red Cross. Actress Megan Wells plays Clara Barton in another in our Saturday Morning Tea series.

Saturday, April 21, 2018, 11am, Adults: \$25 and children 12 and under: \$8



Anam Cara Storytelling

Pull up a chair and listen to stories by students of the IAHC Memoir Classes. Saturday, April 21, 6:30pm, \$5



Stomping Grounds Dance Performance

Enjoy a celebration of authentic, rhythmic dance from Trinity Irish Dancers, Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago and Ensemble Español.

Saturday, April 21, 7:30pm, Free-\$5



Carnegie's Maid Book Signing

Author Marie Benedict discusses *Carnegie's Maid*. In the industrial 1860s, an Irish immigrant works for prominent businessman Andrew Carnegie and they fall in love. When she disappears, his search for her unearths revelations that lay the foundation for his legacy. Wednesday, April 25, 7pm, free



Richard Nixon: The Life: An Evening with John A. Farrell

Author John A. Farrell discusses his award-winning 2017 book, *Richard Nixon: The Life*, a rich, precise portrait of Richard M. Nixon, one of the most complex and fascinating presidents of the modern age.

Thursday, April 26, 7pm, free



Irish American Hall of Fame Gala, Saturday, April 28, 6:30pm

Celebrate the 2018 class of inductees in the fields of Arts & Humanities, Business & Industry, Public Service, Sport, Religion, Education and Science \$150-200, see special section for details



Baile An Salsa in Concert

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with Galway's Baile An Salsa, a 10-piece band delivering a distinctive blend of Latin rhythms and traditional Irish Music; a fusion they call "Salsa-Trad." Saturday, May 5, 8pm, \$28 for IAHC members, \$30 for general admission



A Staged Reading of Shaw Vs. Tunney

Learn about the unlikely friendship between Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw and prizefighter Gene Tunney in a staged reading based on *The Prizefighter and the Playwright*. Monday, May 7, 7:30pm, free

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Saturday, May 5, 2018 • 8pm

\$28 IAHC Members
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2018 Gala Awards Dinner

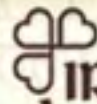
Saturday, April 28 • 6:30pm

This Year's Inductees:

Arts & Humanities: Donis Kearns Goodwin James T. Farrell	Religion: Blessed Solanus Casey
Business & Industry: Charles F. Feeney	Education: Ann Ida Gannon, BVM
Public Service: VP Joseph R. Biden, Jr.	Science: John Philip Holland
Sports: Charles A. Comiskey	Home Town Hero: Mark Doyle, Rags of Honor, Cup O' Joe

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President's Message

Congratulations on surviving another St. Patrick's month! The Center smashed attendance records in nearly all of the events and functions held during March. Thank you to all of the committees who worked so hard to make this another holiday month to remember. A special shout out to our Float Committee, an award-winning group that quietly works every year to make sure the IAHC is well-represented in both the downtown parade and the growing Northwest Side St. Patrick's Day Parades. And I never want to forget about the Wearing of the Green Dinner, our annual kick-off to the season. That committee really knows how to throw a party!



of Ireland. A special thank you to Michael Collins and Chicago Irish Immigrant Support; now called Irish Community Services, for helping me through the process. Did you know that ICS can help you though the process and answer any questions you may have regarding immigration? The next step is getting my Irish passport. I can't wait to flash my new passport when I arrive in Dublin this October.

As I begin to saddle up my horse and ride off into the sunset, I can't stress more the importance of being a member here. There are so many things happening, and so much to do. I plan on taking advantage of some things that have alluded me while I've been president. I gave up on music lessons because I can't read a note or carry a tune, but I will be learning to dance for sure. Check out our website, irish-american.org, for all the things that go on here. You don't have to be a member to get involved, but it helps.

As the weather warms and the chills fade, we plan on turning down the fire in the Fifth Province. So join us for a cold pint and live music each Thursday, Friday and Saturday. You won't regret your visit.

Eugene M. Cooney, President

Our Center has been the recipient of a generous donation from the Erin Homes, a great Southside organization that recently closed its doors and passed on its service mission to others. We received the bequest thanks to IAHC members who have been instrumental to Erin Homes over the years, and we are grateful to them and to Erin Homes.

This letter is written by a proud new citizen

April 2018

4/4	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 306	10am
4/6	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	Room 309	8pm
4/7	Shamrock American Club Social	Shamrock American Room	8pm
	The Kite Maven Art Exhibit	Art Gallery	Noon
4/8	The Kite Maven Art Exhibit	Art Gallery	1pm
	Great Books Club <i>Days Without End</i>	Library	1pm
4/14	St. Patrick Fathers Social	Room 109	8pm
4/16	Tara Club Monthly Musical Gathering	Room 306	11am
4/17	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7pm
4/20	Quiz Night	Room 309	8pm
	Shamrock American Club Meeting	Shamrock American Room	8pm
4/21	Tea with Clara Barton	Fifth Province	11am
	Anam Cara Storytelling	Library	6:30pm
	Stomping Grounds Dance Performance	Auditorium	7:30pm
4/25	Book Signing: <i>Carnegie's Maid</i>	Library	7pm
4/26	<i>Richard Nixon: The Life</i>		
	An Evening with John A. Farrell	Library	7pm
4/28	Irish American Hall of Fame Gala	Erin Room	6:30pm
4/29	Genealogy Workshop	Library	1pm
	Shamrock American May Crowing & Lunch	Shamrock American Room	10am

Regularly Scheduled Events

Mon-Fri	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	4pm-8pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
Wed	Traditional Irish Music Session	Room 111	7pm
	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
	Spring Watercolor Class	Room 309	6:45pm
	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
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	10am-8pm
	Na Gaeil Irish Language Class	Library	11am
	Celtic Design Class (starts 4/21)	Art Gallery	Noon

Library Hours:

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

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the fifth province

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- 4/7 Dooley Brothers
- 4/13 Mulligan Stew
- 4/14 Party Music
- 4/20 The Boils
- 4/21 David Dunne
- 4/27 Pauline Conneely and David Curley
- 4/28 L.J. Slavin



Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions: April 5, 12, 19 and 26; 7pm

Annual Appeal

Below are the names of donors to the 2017 Annual Appeal who have given through March, 2018. The campaign raised \$52,316, including the generous matching donation from Pat and Peggy Burke. You may donate throughout the year by visiting www.irish-american.org or calling 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

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Healy, Brian
Stawarz, Mickey, in honor of Mary Novak
Trent, Clint and Colleen M. Joyce Trent
VandenHeuvel, Lisa, in memory of Billy Timmins



The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

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The Alt with Special Guest Cathy Jordan at Irish Cultural and Heritage Center Saturday, April 21st

The Alt will perform on Saturday, April 21 at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, at 7:30 p.m.

Joining John Doyle and Eamon O'Leary will be special guest Cathy Jordan from the band Dervish.

Each member is critically acclaimed for their instrumentation and collaborations with many of the greatest names in Irish music. The group's name comes from a storied glen on the side of Mount Knocknarea in Ireland's County Sligo where they first gathered to rehearse. The old ballads, tunes and freshly discovered songs they brought to the table allowed them to touch something beautiful, deep and magical that has always run beneath the music.

"Doyle on guitar has risen to a level occupied by him alone," according to music critic Earle Hitchner. Originally from Dublin and now living in North Carolina,

the Grammy-nominated instrumentalist was a member of Solas and has toured with Karan Casey, Liz Carroll and Joan Baez, among others. Shadow and Light, Doyle's



solo recording, showcases his talents as songwriter and singer.

Originally from Dublin, guitarist and bouzouki player O'Leary has toured extensively throughout North America and Europe with many of Irish music's well-known

players and is one-half of the duo the Murphy Beds with Jefferson Hammer. Known for his singing and songwriting, the Huffington Post described the duo's self-titled CD as "ten beautiful, crystalline songs."

The Roscommon-born front woman for the iconic Irish band Dervish, Jordan is celebrated for her singing, bodhrán playing and masterful stage presence. According to The Scotsman, "She is a singer of extraordinary intensity... her voice sublimely delicate without being remotely fragile."

Tickets are \$21 in advance, \$25 on concert day, \$10 for students with ID and free for ages 12 and under. www.ichc.net or call (414) 345-8800.

This concert is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts and by a grant from the Irish Fest Foundation.

From Ireland to Chicagoland

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



Caroleann Gallagher
312-543-4642
cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com



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

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5:30PM They Might Be Irish FEATURING MATT ROWLEY	11AM Irish Dancers
8PM The Larkin and Moran Brothers	3PM The Dooley Brothers
	5:30PM The Toolies
	8PM They Might Be Irish FEATURING MATT ROWLEY

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Celtic Thunder Announce 75 City Tour Dates

North American Tour Kicking off September 12th in Hartford, CT

Following today's performance on The Today Show, the multi-platinum Irish group Celtic Thunder announce their 75 city CELTIC THUNDER X tour throughout the US and Canada. The epic live show begins September 12th in Hartford, CT. A full list of performances can be found at www.celticthunder.com.

The CELTIC THUNDER X Deluxe Double CD, Deluxe Double DVD packages were released earlier this month and celebrate the international supergroup's 10th Anniversary. CELTIC THUNDER X reached # 1 on the Amazon, iTunes and Billboard World Music Charts. The brand new music from the set will be performed on the tour.

"The Wild Rover", "Right all right", and "Castle on the Hill" in addition to nostalgic fun songs like "Celebration", "I'm a Believer", "Seasons in the Sun" and "Rise Again". No Celtic Thunder



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show would be complete without an encore of their rousing anthem "Ireland's Call", the only song in CELTIC THUNDER X that isn't a new song but which never fails to bring the audience to its feet.



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MONTHLY MUSICAL GATHERING

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Wednesday 18th April 2018
Doors at 11am - Program at 11.30am
Music by Joe McShane

Wednesday 16th May 2018
Doors at 11am - Program at 11.30am
Music by Ray Gavin

Wednesday 20th June 2018
Doors at 11am - Program at 11.30am
Music by Joe McShane

These events are free and all are welcome

Irish Community Services
4626 N Knox Ave #301
Chicago, IL 60630



773-282-8445
www.irishchicago.org
info@irishchicago.org



County Wicklow

County Wicklow (Cill mhantain) is a county on the east coast of Ireland it has a population of about 143,000. It is the most mountainous county in Ireland and known for very clear air.

The town of Wicklow is to the East of the N11 route between Dublin and Wexford.

Wicklow is also linked to a rail network with Dublin Commuter services now extending to the town additional services connected with Arklow Wexford and Rosslare Europe. A main ferry port in Wexford is also a commercial port Importing timber and textiles.

The main river is Vartry which flows through the town. Wicklow town forms a rough semicircle around Wicklow harbor.

To the immediate North lies the Murrough, a popular grassy walking area beside the sea and the eastern strip. The Murrough is a place of growing commercial use so much so



that a road by-passing the town directly to the commercial part of the area was completed in 2010.

The Eastern coastal strip includes Wicklow Bay, a crescent shaped stone beach approximately 10 km in length Ballyguile Hill is southwest of the town. Much of the housing developments of the 1970's and 1980's occurred in this area, despite the considerable gradient from the town center the land rises into rolling hills to the west going on to meet the Wicklow mountains in the center of the country.

The dominant feature to the South is the Rocky Headlands of Brides Head and

Wicklow Head, the Eastern most mainland point of the Republic of Ireland. On a very clear day it is possible to see the Snowdon mountain range in Wales.

During the evacuation to build the Wicklow road bypass in 2010 a Bronze age cooking pot and hut site was uncovered in the Ballynerrin lower area of the town a radio carbon dating exercise on the site puts the time line of the discovery at 900 because the first Celts arrived in Ireland around 600 BC according to cartographers.

Wicklow is colloquially known as the Garden of Ireland, and it is the 17th largest county of Ireland's 32, and the 5th largest in population.

The Wicklow mountains form the largest continuous region in Ireland. The highest mountain in the range, Lugnaquilla rises to 925 meters, 3,035 feet giving Wicklow the second highest county peak after Co. Kerry.

Some notable people from Wicklow include: Charles Steward Parnell a nationalist politician, and the son of wealthy landowners. He fought against English rule. Irish were forced to pay

unfair rents on their own property. Parnell managed to run parliament from his jail cell. Also from Wicklow are the 5th president of Ireland Cearbhall O'Dalaigh and Comedian Dara O'Briain.

The TV show "Ballykissangel is filmed in the town Avoca Wicklow.

I spoke to two lovely people from Wicklow, Joe Beagley and Aine McGuillicuddy. Joe has traveled around the world and currently resides in Wisconsin. Aine was also very knowledgeable about Wicklow, it was a pleasure to speak to them.

A few songs about Wicklow include: Avondale, The Wicklow Mountains High and The Meeting of the Water.

I read a story about how we shouldn't take our problems so seriously.

"A man's favorite donkey falls into a deep precipice. He can't pull it out no matter how hard he tries. He therefore decides to bury it alive.

Soil is poured onto the donkey from above. The donkey feels the load, shakes it off, and steps on it. More soil is poured. It shakes it off and steps up. The more the load was poured, the higher it rose. By noon, the donkey was grazing in green pastures."

After much shaking off our problems and learning from them, one will graze in greener pastures. Be patient with things and people.

Comments - questions(708) 425-7021

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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Cháirde

Thanks to all who spent part of St. Patrick's Month with us at Gaelic Park. Our rooms were full of families celebrating their heritage and making memories. We thank all Irish dancers who performed for us in March. The time and hard work that they invest in their craft was very evident, as was their joy. We also recognize the dedication of the dance parents, and appreciate their efforts to nurture Irish culture. Thanks also to the Irish musicians. The dancers are privileged to be able to dance to live music.

When you come to see *Mammy's Boy* presented by the Gaelic Park Players

this month, please consider enjoying a meal. The food/play combinations are very affordable, and there are nine dates to choose from. And save the date for Irish Fest on Memorial Weekend. We welcome the return of Emmet Cahill, The Gothard Sisiters and many others. Bands new to our Fest include The Fitzgeralds, The Pigeon Kings, James Kilbane, Turas, and Sophie and Fiochra. Visit the Fest's website (chicagogaelicparkirishfest.org) to check out the bands and get the best deals.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan

Enjoy the Music & Spirit of the Irish in our Authentic Pub Imported Directly From Ireland.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 7 DAYS • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT

- Daily Drink and Food Specials
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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

Fri	Apr 6	Gerry Haughey	7:30pm
Sat	Apr 7	Mulligan Stew	8:30pm
Wed	Apr 11	Frank Rossi (Rib Night)	6:00pm
Fri	Apr 13	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Sat	Apr 14	Kieran Byrne	8:00pm
Fri	Apr 20	Bernie Glim	7:30pm
Sat	Apr 21	Jerry & Kara Eadie	8:30pm
Fri	Apr 27	Ray Gavin	7:30pm
Sat	Apr 28	Larry Nugent & Bill O'Donahue	8:30pm

Chicago Gaelic Park
6119 W. 147th Street • Oak Forest, IL
708.687.9323
www.chicagogaelicpark.org

NO COVER CHARGE



2018 CGP Calendar of Events 2018

APRIL

Apr 1	Classic Carvery: EASTER SUNDAY Music by Jerry & Kara Eadie	3:30pm
Apr 4	Monthly Musical Luncheon* Music by Jerry & Kara Eadie	Noon
Apr 8	Classic Carvery: Music by Gerry Haughey	3:30pm
Apr 11	Ladies Auxiliary	
Apr 15	Classic Carvery: Music by Ray Gavin	3:30pm
Apr 22	Classic Carvery: Music by Joe McShane	3:30pm
Apr 29	Classic Carvery: Music by Jerry & Kara Eadie	3:30pm

* RR - Reservations Required 708.687.9323

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

Monday Evening Set Dancing 7:30pm

Tuesday Evening Ceili Dancing 7:30pm

Lessons 7pm/Ceili

Sunday Evening CGP Radio Live WCEV 1450 AM 7:00-8:00pm



CGP Office 708.687.9323 www.chicagogaelicpark.org

Visit the CGP Library in the Shamrock Room

The Carraig Irish Pub

6119 W 147th Street - Oak Forest

Free N' Fun BAR BINGO

Monday's 7:00pm

Cash Jackpot Between

\$3,000 & \$10,000

and great nightly prizes!

No Purchase Required - Must be 21 - FINDMEBINGO.COM



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



Our Spring show *Mammy's Boy* by Jimmy Keary and directed by Gail Lauryn opens this month!

Mammy's Boy: Hughie is the center

of his mother Maisie's universe. He comes home with his dog grooming girlfriend after a 2 year absence with many debts. He schemes to get the family home, however his sister Betty and Maisie's friend Joe are on to his scheme and try to thwart his plans.

The show opens on Friday, April 21st at 8pm and will run for three consecutive weekends. The performance dates are Friday's, April 6th 13th and 20th at 8pm, Saturday's, April 7th, 14th and 21st at 8pm, and Sunday's, April 8th, 15th and 22nd 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, 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. The Carvery is a buffet which consists of your choice of soup, salad bar, meat selection, potato, vegetable, coffee, tea and dessert. All individual play tickets are \$14 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 7:30pm at Gaelic Park. Anyone who is interested in either auditioning for our spring production or being a part of the crew, please join us for a meeting or contact us via the website gaelicparkplayers@gmail.com.



Valentine's Fun!

The County Connection Corner

The Clare Association Dinner Dance at Gaelic Park

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Cocktails 6:30-7:30pm

Followed by Dinner & Dancing

Music by: Jerry Haughey



Antrim Armagh Carlow Cavan Clare Cork Derry Donegal Down Dublin Fermanagh Galway Kerry Kildare Kilkenny Laois Leitrim Limerick Longford Louth Mayo Meath Monaghan Offaly Roscommon Sligo Tipperary Tyrone Waterford Westmeath Wexford Wicklow

Classic Carvery

Available Sunday Afternoons
November through Mother's Day.

Great for family get-togethers, birthday parties, graduations, or anniversaries!

A delicious all-you-can-eat buffet dinner with freshly carved meats, complete with a choice of soups, an extensive salad bar, additional hot entrees, a selection of vegetables, a potato bar with choice of potato and toppings, and a dessert station. Served from 3pm to 6pm, with musical entertainment continuing to 8pm.



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



CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

6119 W 147th Street
Oak Forest, Illinois 60452

Phone: 708-687-9323
Website: ChicagoGaelicPark.org
Email: officecp@chicagogaelicpark.org



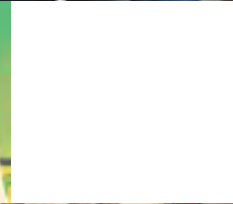
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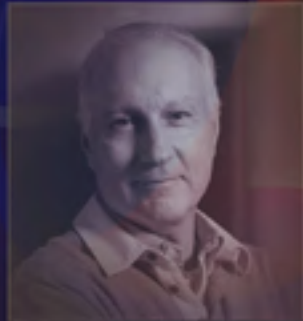
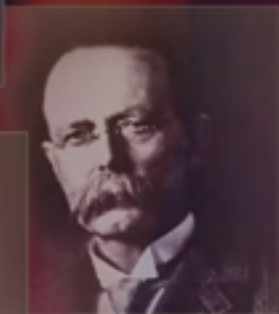
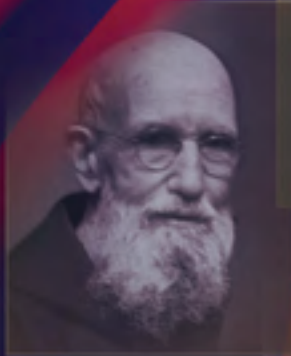
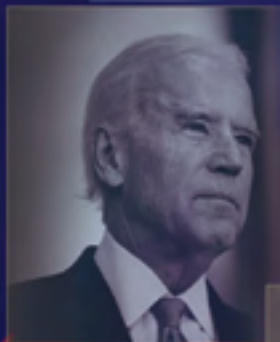
Chicago Gaelic Park

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



St. Patrick's Celebrations 2018!





2018
 IRISH AMERICAN
 HALL OF FAME
Awards Gala

SATURDAY
 APRIL 28, 2018

Arts & Humanities:

DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN, PH.D.
 JAMES T. FARRELL

Business & Industry:

CHARLES FRANCIS FEENEY

Education:

ANN IDA GANNON, BVM, PH.D.

Public Service:

VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

Sports:

CHARLES A. COMISKEY

Religion:

BLESSED SOLANUS CASEY

Science:

JOHN PHILIP HOLLAND

Hometown Hero Award:

MARK DOYLE

WWW.IAHOF.ORG



CONGRATULATIONS

**CHARLES A. COMISKEY
& ALL THE 2018
IRISH AMERICAN
HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEES**

OUR MISSION:

The mission of the *Irish American Hall of Fame* is to recognize and honor the outstanding contributions of Irish Americans to society in the areas of Arts & Humanities, Business & Industry, Public Service, Sports, Religion, Education and Science.

The *Irish American Hall of Fame* pays tribute to exemplary Americans of Irish heritage who have truly shaped the Irish American identity in the United States.

OUR VISION:

The *Irish American Hall of Fame* preserves and promotes the “story” of Irish culture by recognizing the contributions of individuals to the Irish American experience. Telling their story preserves our story.

The *Irish American Hall of Fame*, a place where the shared story of the Irish in America will then be available to all with an interest in the bond between Ireland and America.

ABOUT US:

The purpose of the *Irish American Hall of Fame* is to preserve the “story” of the Irish in America, thus becoming a resource for all Americans or those interested in the development and history of America including, but not limited to, academic researchers, teachers and students of Irish and American history at all levels, those interested in genealogy, cultural historians and the general public. The *Irish American Hall of Fame* is national in scope operated under the auspices of the Irish American Heritage Center, a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization.

NOMINATION & SELECTION:

Founded in 2010, the *Irish American Hall of Fame* accepts nominations from July through September each year. More than 500 nominations have been received from individuals in more than 30 states, Ireland and across the globe.

The Hall of Fame Governing Committee along with The Screening Committee is comprised of esteemed individuals from the Irish American community from across the country including university professors, representatives from Irish organizations, publishers and business professionals. Nominations are vetted and reviewed and a select slate of candidates is put forth in an election each year. The 100+ member voting body of distinguished individuals from business, media, academia and government as well as Irish organizations throughout the United States elect the inductees in January.

This evening, we introduce you to the eight esteemed members of the Class of 2018. We applaud their talents, courage, integrity and ingenuity as they become the newest inductees into the *Irish American Hall of Fame*!



Cubs owner Tom Ricketts, Micayla Shevlin and 2017 Art & Humanities Inductee, Bill Murray.

IAHOF GOVERNING COMMITTEE:

Pamela Marshall Taylor,
Chair

Brad Armacost

Cliff Carlson

Jim Corboy

Laura Coyle

Brian Noonan

Joan O'Hara

Kathy O'Neill

Mike Shevlin

Tim Taylor

2018 IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME AWARDS GALA PROGRAM

COCKTAIL RECEPTION: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

DINNER AND PROGRAM: 7:30 - 10:30 pm

INDUCTION CEREMONY

ARTS & HUMANITIES:

Doris Kearns Goodwin, Ph.D.
James T. Farrell

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY:

Charles Francis “Chuck” Feeney

PUBLIC SERVICE:

Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

SPORTS:

Charles A. Comiskey

RELIGION:

Blessed Solanus Casey

EDUCATION:

Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, Ph.D.

SCIENCE:

John Philip Holland

HOMETOWN HERO:

Mark Doyle
Rags of Honor and Cup O' Joe

Join us for an evening of inspiration, storytelling, entertainment and fun honoring these very worthy Irish Americans!

Individual Tickets:

\$200 per person, non IAHC Members
\$175 IAHC Members

Table of ten:

\$1950 per table, non IAHC Members
\$1700 IAHC Members

Order online at www.iahof.org
or call (773) 282-7035 ext. 10

Can't attend Gala but wish to support the Irish American Hall of Fame?

Make a donation to the Irish American Hall of Fame and help support our efforts to recognize the contributions of Irish Americans to the United States and the world!

Donate at www.iahof.org

INTRODUCING THE 2018 IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

ARTS & HUMANITIES



JAMES T. FARRELL

James Thomas Farrell (February 27, 1904 – August 22, 1979) was an American novelist, short-story writer and poet. Born in Chicago, he is well-known for his realistic descriptions of the working class Southside Irish in the first half of the 20th century, especially *The Studs Lonigan Trilogy*. Farrell authored more than 50

books and is widely considered one of the finest Irish American writers whose realistic and naturalistic writings continue to influence authors to this day.



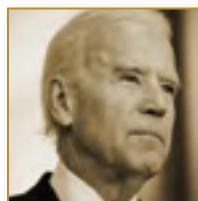
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

CHARLES FRANCIS FEENEY

Charles Francis “Chuck” Feeney (born April 23, 1931) is an Irish American businessman and philanthropist and the founder of *The Atlantic Philanthropies*, one of the largest private foundations in the world. He made his fortune as a co-founder of the Duty Free Shoppers Group, which pioneered the concept of duty-free shopping.

Referred to as the James Bond of philanthropy, over the last 30 years he’s crisscrossed the globe conducting a clandestine operation to give away a \$7.5 billion fortune derived from his empire of duty-free shops. His foundation, *The Atlantic Philanthropies*, has funnelled \$6.2 billion into education, science, health care, aging and civil rights in the U.S., Australia, Vietnam, Bermuda, South Africa and Ireland. He gave away his remaining \$7 million in late 2016 to his alma mater, Cornell University. Atlantic Philanthropies will close its doors in 2020.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. (born November 20, 1942) is an American politician who was the 47th Vice President of the United States from 2009 to 2017, having been jointly elected twice with President Barack Obama. A member of the Democratic Party, he represented Delaware as a United States Senator from 1973 until becoming Vice President in 2009. He was first elected to the Senate in 1972, and became the sixth-youngest senator in U.S. history. He was re-elected to the Senate six times, and was the fourth most senior senator at the time of his resignation to assume the Vice Presidency in 2009. He was a long-time member and former chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and served as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

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SCIENCE

JOHN PHILIP HOLLAND

John Philip Holland (February, 29 1840 – August 2, 1914) was an Irish engineer who developed the first submarine to be formally commissioned by the U.S. Navy and the first ever Royal Navy submarine, the Holland 1. In 1875, his first submarine designs were submitted for consideration by the United States Navy, but turned down as unworkable. He continued his research and in 1881, Fenian Ram was launched. The submarine is now preserved at Paterson Museum, New Jersey. Holland continued to improve his designs and worked on several experimental boats, prior to his successful efforts with a privately built type, launched on May 17, 1897. After rigorous tests, the submarine was purchased by the United States Navy, on April 11, 1900 and was commissioned on October 12, 1900 as the USS Holland. The USS Holland design was also adopted by others, including the Royal Navy and the Imperial Japanese Navy.

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DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN, PH.D.

Doris Kearns Goodwin (born January 4, 1943) is a world-renowned presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of six critically acclaimed and New York Times best-selling books, including her most recent, *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft and The Golden Age of Journalism*. Others include *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* and *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II* for which she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in History. Goodwin has served as a consultant and has been interviewed extensively for PBS and the History Channel’s documentaries on Lyndon B. Johnson, the Kennedy family, Franklin Roosevelt, Abraham and Mary Lincoln, and Ken Burns’ *The History of Baseball* and *The Civil War*.

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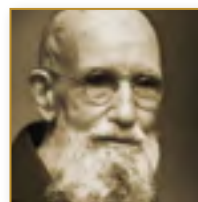


SPORTS

CHARLES A. COMISKEY

Charles Albert “The Old Roman” Comiskey (August 15, 1859 – October 26, 1931) was a Major League Baseball player, manager and team owner. He was a key person in the formation of the American

League and later owned the Chicago White Sox. Comiskey Park, Chicago’s storied baseball stadium, was built under his guidance and named for him. Comiskey was inducted as an executive into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1939.



RELIGION

BLESSED SOLANUS CASEY

Blessed Solanus Casey (November 25, 1870 – July 31, 1957) was born on a farm near Oak Grove, Wisconsin and was baptised Bernard Francis Casey. He joined the Capuchin Franciscan Order in Detroit 1897 where he received the religious name of Solanus. After his ordination in 1904, Blessed Solanus spent 20 years in New York City, Harlem and Yonkers. In 1924 he was assigned to St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit where he worked for 20 years. He died at the age of 86 on at the same day and hour of his First Holy Mass 53 years earlier. On November 18, 2017, he was beatified by the Catholic Church after a miraculous healing attributed to him was approved by Pope Francis.

he received the religious name of Solanus. After his ordination in 1904, Blessed Solanus spent 20 years in New York City, Harlem and Yonkers. In 1924 he was assigned to St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit where he worked for 20 years. He died at the age of 86 on at the same day and hour of his First Holy Mass 53 years earlier. On November 18, 2017, he was beatified by the Catholic Church after a miraculous healing attributed to him was approved by Pope Francis.



EDUCATION

ANN IDA GANNON, BVM, PH.D.

Sister Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, Ph.D. (born April 2, 1915) is a Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and served as the President of Mundelein College from 1957 to 1975. She was a champion of the great social movements in America in the

second half of the twentieth century and a scholar in the fields of education and philosophy. She was an ardent supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment and served as Chair of the Illinois Commission on the Status of Women from 1965 to 1971. Gannon was appointed by President Nixon to the Presidential Task Force on Women’s Rights and Responsibilities in 1969. From 1976 to 1977, she was the co-chair of ERA Illinois and chaired the Governor’s Committee on Women. After Mundelein College became affiliated with Loyola University, it established the Gannon Center for Women and Leadership which prepares women to lead in every sector of society. Sister Ann Ida Gannon resides in Dubuque, Iowa at the BVM Mount Carmel motherhouse and is now 103 years old.

Continued on page 8





Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



Congratulations to the Class of 2018 Inductees!



“Thank God Ahead of Time”

~Blessed Solanus Casey

Fr. Solanus Casey Division - Macomb County, MI
Fr. Solanus Casey Division # 32 - Bergen County, NJ
Myles Scully Division # 1 - Yonkers, NY
Westchester County Division # 18 – Peekskill, NY

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Our Congratulations to the
2018 Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees



Front Row: Martin Healy, Jr., John Scanlon, David Huber, Kevin Veugeler
Back Row: Terence Geoghegan, Jack Cannon, Matthew Healy,
Terry Sullivan, Patrick Anderson, Jill Fowler, Matthew Gannon, Dennis Lynch

Arts & Humanities:

Doris Kearns Goodwin, Ph.D.
James T. Farrell

Business & Industry:

Charles F. Feeney

Public Service:

Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Sports:

Charles A. Comisky

Religion:

Blessed Solanus Casey

Science:

John Philip Holland

Education:

Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, Ph.D.

2017 Hometown Hero:

Mark Doyle
Founder, CEO, Rags of Honor



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2018 HOMETOWN HERO

Recognizing individual contributions and honoring outstanding efforts to preserve and strengthen Irish heritage in the Chicagoland area is presented to...



MARK DOYLE

Mark Doyle is the founder of Rags of Honor, the only silk screen shop that is 100% operated by homeless and unemployed veterans with the mission to provide them with an opportunity to rebuild their lives following their service in the U.S. military.

In 2010, Doyle was engaged by the United States Army as a financial subject matter expert and deployed to Afghanistan as part of Task Force 2010. It was in Afghanistan where he saw firsthand the sacrifice of service men and women stationed there. When Doyle returned stateside, he was sickened by the injustice suffered by homeless veterans in Chicago and chose to make a difference. In response, he created *Rags of Honor*. At *Rags of Honor*, employees are paid a living wage, are offered continuing education and training and assistance with life skills needed to continue their life's journey with dignity. All of the silk screen machines are made and assembled in the Chicagoland area and every tee shirt is made in America.



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

BRIAN NOONAN, HOST, WGN RADIO

Brian Noonan is the host of *The Brian Noonan Show* on WGN Radio in Chicago. He is an actor and stand-up comic who has appeared on numerous television shows and commercials, including *The Tonight Show*. In addition to his professional endeavors, Noonan sits on the Board of the Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation. He has served as emcee for the Leukemia Research Foundation's *Rockin' for a Cure* fundraiser for over a decade and is honored to once again be hosting the Irish American Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. He is a proud Irish Chicagoan. Brian is a graduate of St. Ignatius College Prep and Southern Illinois University.

For more information,
visit www.iahof.org



Saturday, April 28, 2018: The Irish American Hall of Fame of Fame Gala!



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We congratulate
our alum,

Charles A. Comiskey,

and all the inductees in the
**2018 Irish American
Hall of Fame.**



The Sisters of Charity
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Congratulate
Sister Ann Ida Gannon, BVM

and all the 2018 Irish American
Hall of Fame Inductees.



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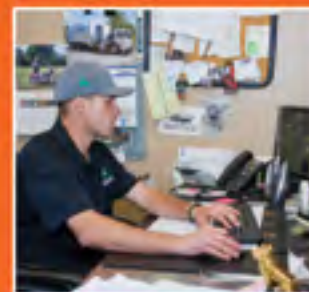
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On the Upbeat

By Maryann
McTeague Keifer



With the High Holy Month now over, there is a brief respite from the mad schedule! It was exciting, rewarding, enriching, and at times, impossible. Paddy Homan and the Noble Call, Liz Carroll, Lunasa, We Banjo 3, Talisk, Altan, Ten Strings and a Goat Skin, Samsa na nGael, Runa, and many local musicians provided a month of spectacular music. Coming soon, a concert that will be sold out quickly, and that is "Reelin' in the Years" on May 12th at Chief O'Neill's featuring a trio you all know well-Jimmy Keane, Liz Carroll, and Pat Broaders. Dear friends, longtime music partners, incredible talents, and Chicago's own, this evening of music is one not to miss. Get to jimmykeane.com or Brown Paper Tickets and reserve your seat! Rumor has it we are celebrating a 60th birthday, too!

2 years ago, I happened on a group of young musicians from Derry and Armagh all so incredibly talented, they blew me away. CONNLA, Ciaran Carlin on flute and whistles, Paul Starrett on guitars, Emer Mallon on harp and piano, Conor Mallon on Uilleann pipes and whistles, and Ciara McCafferty on vocals and bodhran, has rocked the Irish music scene with its first album River Waiting, and now presents a stunning new album just released, The Next Chapter. A combination of refreshing and engaging tunes masterfully played and composed by Ciaran, Conor, Paul, and Emer, and Ciara's beautiful and emotive singing have this album deservedly screaming "award winner"! Conor's and Paul's opening track "Organised Chaos" pulls you in and has you hooked before you know what happened. "Crunchie Hill" happens to be my favorite at this moment with its low whistle and harp intro weaving

have you replaying it over and over? Ciara's voice, rich and expressive, so beautifully telling the stories of death in the American "Wayfaring Stranger", loss and betrayal in "Julie" and "One Starry Night" has us craving more, and that she gives us as she takes us through the storm in Dick Gaughan's "Sail On." "One Last Cold Kiss"

was released as a teaser video. If you never viewed it, you are cheating yourself. On the album, it is beautifully paired with Conor's "Hasi's Hat." Ciara has a voice very few are blessed with, and we are so very fortunate that she shares it with us. The instrumental arrangements accompanying her singing perfectly meld with and enhance, neither overtaking nor stepping back. CONNLA has a synergy that many never reach and most take years to develop. Watch for them this summer on tour. They will make their debut at Milwaukee Fest August 16-19th.



Where CONNLA is a new band, ALTAN has been gracing us with their music for over thirty years and has recently released their 16th album, The Gap of Dreams. This new collection features Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh, Daithi Sproule, Ciaran Curran, Martin Tourish, and Mark Kelly. Mairead's daughter Nia Byrne and Mark's son Sam join them on the opening set "The Gap of Dreams/Nia's Jig/The Beekeeper celebrating the young joining them in the music.



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A Message from ICS

THANK YOU!

To all those who supported our annual Casino Night Fundraiser

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Head Talk

Let's Start a Conversation

Let's Start a Conversation

While we at Irish Community Services certainly don't condone gossip, we are very keen to get the Irish and Irish American Community talking! In fact, we see starting community conversations - particularly those difficult ones that we all tend to avoid - as an important part of our work. ICS is proud to announce the launch of Headtalk, our new community outreach and education initiative that hopes to get you all talking more about mental health. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, approximately 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. experiences mental illness in a given year, and we all know the Irish community has its share of mental health issues.

As part of the Headtalk initiative we have a lot planned for the coming months.

- Each month, on this very page we will highlight common mental health issues, support services, and helpful hints on how you can best support the mental wellness

of yourself and your loved ones.

- We will appear regularly the Good Morning Ireland radio show to chat about mental wellness

- In addition to making it our business to better educate ourselves about mental health issues, we'll work to provide the community with access to valuable learning opportunities.

- Watch out for us on the Irish festival circuit over the summer where we'll be on-hand to provide all kinds of useful information

New Memory Loss Group

ICS is designing a new group program for seniors who have been diagnosed with a memory impairment. The program will provide a supportive social environment and feature activities like exercise, brain games, art, and music. This program is intended for those who are still largely independent. If you or someone you know might be interested in being a part of this group, please call Paul Dowling at 773-282-8445.

Upcoming Events

Legal Clinics

• Saturday, April 7th (9a-12p) Gaelic Park (appointment only)

• Wednesday, April 18th (4-7p) IAHC (appointment only)

• Wednesday, April 25th (4-7p) IAHC (appointment only)

Social Events

• Tara Club - Wednesday, April 4th (10a-12p) IAHC

• Emerald Club - Wednesday, April 11th (10a-12p) Gaelic Park

• Monthly Musical Gathering - Wednesday, April 18th (11a-12:30p) IAHC

• Emerald Club - Wednesday, April 25th (10a-12p) Gaelic Park

• Irish Cultural Hour - Friday, April 27th (10a-12p)

Mount Greenwood L

Celebrating 20 Years of Service

On March 15th, 2018, Chicago Irish Immigrant Support officially changed our name to Irish Community Services (ICS). 2018 marks the 20th year since our organiza-

our commitment to the evolving needs of the Irish community. We will continue to provide the outstanding legal and social services we take pride in under a



tion was founded and we thought that there is no better time to show

name that better reflects our work. Our mission, which remains rooted in commitment to community, is to serve, empower, and connect the Irish and Irish American community in the Midwestern United States. We are proud to offer immigration and legal services, social services, pastoral care, student services, and assistance with Irish services. We look forward to growing with the community to meet its ever-changing needs.

ICS unveiled our new name at an event held in the Irish Consulate with Minister of State for Diaspora and International Development, Ciaran Cannon.



Our name change marks 20 years of dedicated service and is a symbol of our continued commitment as we grow and evolve to meet the changing needs of the Irish community.

Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



Kobe's Oscar

Kobe Bryant, first "African-American" winner of the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film. The audience of "Hollywood Liberals" applauded him.

They overlooked his past indiscretion, June 30, 2003, at the Lodge and Spa in Cordilliers in Colorado where he was accused of raping a 19 year old hotel employee. She reported it to the police and he was charged. He said it was consensual. The woman had bruises where he had held her by the neck. His accuser later dropped the charges. Kobe made a public apology to the young woman and her family. She then filed a civil suit.

Point being, where were the "Times Up" and "Me Too" demonstrators. They just couldn't demonstrate against the former L.A. Lakers basketball star, the man they all worshipped!

Beauty in Hollywood is only skin deep. Hooray for Hollywood.

Bankrupt Illinois

Our state, "by the rivers gently flowing, Illinois, Illinois." The state has huge deficits and we are riding the express train to bankruptcy. Please tell me how we can pay football coaches like Lovey Smith at least 21 million dollars over 6 years with a contract backloaded to pay him 10 million over the last two years? Lunacy! The teams record in 2017 was no wins and 9 losses in conference play.

They were two and 10 overall. That's why he doesn't coach the Bears anymore. At Northern Illinois University the coach only gets \$823,000, but he has a great record. To put things into perspective, a neurosurgeon in Chicago makes \$400,000 (median income). Common sense matters!

Cook County Vote Card

You will see four languages, English, Spanish, Chinese and Hindi on the card.

Diversity is the name of the game. The entrepreneurial mindset of the immigrants is often boasted about by politicians.

In all practicality they quickly learn to maximize the benefits of the welfare system.

Trump-Porn Star

Now here comes Stormy Daniels claiming that she had an encounter with President Trump and has an agreement to remain silent.

Let's just say, it's true, so what? If it is true he wasn't holding public office at the time. The whole story might be a fabrication. Another attack on Trump. Seems to me we had an Arkansas Governor who became President of the United States whose supercharged libido kept him in hot water. President William Jefferson Clinton, rings a bell. Let's stop the mudslinging and grow up. You can't bring Trump down with slander.

Irish Fellowship Dinner

March 16th, another record setting crowd of 950 were in the grand ballroom at the Chicago Hilton. The Irish Fellowship seems to be on the upswing. John Griffin is the new President, and John will do a great job. John was President of Chicago Gaelic Park for 20 years, and served as Treasurer on the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for a great many years. The Fellowship continues to support Catholic education for underprivileged children.

Old St. Patrick's Church

Saturday, March 17th the Annual Mass and Breakfast before the parade at Old St. Patrick's Church was well attended by politicians, especially candidates for Governor. Governor Rauner, Chris Kennedy and J.B. Pritzker were in the crowd.

Cardinal Cupich wasn't there as he was in Rome with Pope Francis.

Fr. Tom Hurley, Pastor of Old

St. Patrick's, celebrated the Mass and delighted the congregation with his homily. He reflected on the lives of his parents who within days of being married, moved to Ireland where his father went to medical school in Galway.

Fast forward, his dad is now 91 and his mother is 87. While speaking of his mother he told the story of how she used to sing an "Irish lullaby." He proceeded to sing the song, and the congregation joined in. "Over in Killarney, many years ago, my Mither sang a song to me in tones so sweet and low. Just a simple little ditty in her good old Irish way."

You may know the song as Tor-a-loorah-loorah.

Later in the Mass Fr. Hurley sang the Irish Blessing.

"May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back

The sun shine warm upon your face

The rain fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again, may
the Lord hold you in the hollow
of his hand."

Fr. Hurley has a very good voice and always gives a homily that is up lifting.

Pope Francis

The Pope has revived the Sex Abuse Advisory Commission. Francis appointed Archbishop Charles Scicluna with the fact finding mission on Bishop Juan Barros, after he was harshly criticized in Chile for defending Barros, and calling the victims coverup accusations slander.

New members of the commission are from Tonga, Brazil, Ethiopia, Australia, and other places.

Churchill

"If you're not a liberal at twenty you have no heart,

If you're not a conservative at forty, you have no brain."

Free Speech

College students defend free speech, unless it offends them.

The Billionaires

17 have Illinois ties, 7 of them are Pritzker's. J.B. Pritzker is worth 3.5 billion. His fellow Democrats want him to pay more taxes. He won't miss the money.

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Irish Fellowship Enjoys Record Setting St. Patrick's Day Celebration

The Irish Fellowship Club had record attendance at its annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner and record participation in the parade. Dinner chair Mick O'Rourke said almost 1,000 people enjoyed the festivities at the Hilton on Friday, March 16.

The Irish Minister for the Diaspora, Ciarran Cannon, addressed the crowd and conveyed greetings from the Irish government. The St. Patrick's Day Parade

was well represented with talks by the General Chairman, Jim Coyne, Grand Marshall, Alderman Pat O'Connor, and Guest of Honor, Justice Anne Burke, as founder of the Special Olympics. Finally, the parade queen, Mary Kate Mannian expressed her thoughts on the holiday.

Chairman of the Board, Chris Kozicki, presented the Richard J. Daley Award to Kevin Conlon to recognize his major contribution

to the Irish Fellowship Club and Chicago Irish community. The evening included a stepdancing exhibition by the Mullane Gogley School of Irish Dance. Irish Consul General, Brian O'Brien, thrilled the crowd by joining in the stepdancing. The City Lights Orchestra provided dance music which was enjoyed until late in the evening.

Over 100 marchers joined the IFC float and proudly marched down Columbus Drive on St. Patrick's Day, the award winning float was covered with future members of the Irish Fellowship Club.

Upcoming events for the club include the golf outing at Beverly Country Club on July 16, 2018,



an event in conjunction with the Young Irish Fellowship Club and the Gaelic Athletic Association at Gaelic Park in August, a presentation at IBAM at the Irish American Heritage Center in October and the annual Christ-

mas luncheon on December 7, 2018. For further information, contact the **Irish Fellowship Club P.O. Box 31604 Chicago, IL 60631 312-676-4120**



Chairman of the dinner Mick O'Rourke, his wife Karen, and Fr. Jack Clair.



President John Griffin and Grand Marshal Alderman Patrick O'Connor.



Patricia Martino and Senator Billy Lawless.



Alderman Patrick Thompson, his mother (Mayor Daley's sister) Patricia Martino, Chairman of the Board Kevin Conlon, John Daley, Jr. and the Honorable John Daley.

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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane

Hello Everyone,
 Hope you all had a great St. Patrick's Day! and Easter!. We got it all together this year. It's great to see the trees starting to bloom again. My favorite month of the year in Ireland is in May. The weather always seemed to be good then, and I used to love rambling through the rocky hills and heather with my dog. I climbed up Slieve Gullion with my son last summer and I've been limping ever since. He's as fit as a fiddle, and I didn't want to give in. Although I wanted to. I guess he climbed it three times because he kept coming back to see where I was.

I figured I'd write about two very talented people this month. One is now eighty-two years old and the other twenty-seven. So Age first. I was talking to Sean O'Donnell last week and while I was on the phone with him I thought, now that's a man that should be recognized. So we chatted away and he said it was okay to record our conversation. Sean was born in 1936 in Kilcar, Co Donegal. About seven miles from Killybegs, (where I often sang at the 'Harbour Bar'). He came to New York in 1957 and then played a three-row, eighty bass, button accordion. Sean played mostly dance halls, so he switched over to piano accordion. In 1959 he went into the army and was stationed in Germany for about two years. When he got out of the army, he kept very busy playing in dance halls. He had a three-piece band back then with a man called Charlie McGee on guitar and vocals (He was the man that made 'The Homes Of Donegal' famous). Charlie died in September 2002. Also, a man from Belfast called Pat O'Kane played the drums. He told me there was lots of Irish in the US then and weddings were plentiful. It was hard for couples to get bands, so a lot of the receptions would be held between 1 pm and 5 pm. So Sean would very often play a wedding on Saturday afternoon, followed by a dance that night. He came to Chicago in 1968 where he would play the Holiday-Ballroom and the Atlantic. He

played along with another well-known man from Co Clare, and that's George Casey. They played together for around seven years. At that time Sean was attending college and became a teacher. George was planning on going on the road. So Sean starting playing locally around Chicago. He played for all the county associations, dinner dances etc. He

would have been one of the first to play the Irish American Heritage Center, Gaelic Park, and the Irish Village. He started laughing and said "I'm over the hill now" but he's not and he's still playing, thank God. Sean was saying his mother told him the man that did the stonework on their original cottage, (who would be the grandfather of John Joe's pub in Kilcar) charged 4 pounds in the old money and the man that built the byre's charged 30 Bob (1 pound and 10 Shillings). You couldn't buy breakfast for that now. Sean is going to record a CD and I feel very honored to be part of it. I'm sure he has a lot of fans out there that will love to have a copy of it. Sean O'Donnell has been a dear friend for a long time and he reminds me of people like Ted Healey, in that, if you do anything for either one of them, they try to pay you back in double. It's the old Irish way, like when neighbors would help one another. Sean has offered to school my son Declan on the accordion. Well, Sean, Chicago, is a lucky town to have you part of it. There is so much to write about with you, so I'm thinking we will have to revisit the story of the man from Kilcar, who started work in the Donegal Tweed Factory for 17 Shillings for 48 hours. I wish you good health for many more years, my friend.

I got a message from a Facebook friend called Tommy Turner. He said, "have you ever heard of a singer called Selina O'Leary?" I had never heard of her. He said, "she comes from Tullow, Co Carlow". And she's hoping that her talent will become recognized." I did a search on the computer and was able to hear her singing on YouTube. I couldn't believe that I've never heard her before. I listened to her singing 'The Home I Left Behind' and I got goosebumps. She's better known for singing a song called 'Wexford Town'. Selina sings with great passion and is very proud of her Traveller heritage. I also discovered that she had sung in Carnegie Hall, New York. And here's a quote I found online -

'Two Irish women will make history today in New

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York City. They will be the first Traveler women to perform at Carnegie Hall. Yet again it was a case of YouTube propelling Selina O'Leary and Liz Connors into stardom as a past performance by O'Leary was posted on the online video site

as part of the University of Limerick concert, "Discovering Abilities". The two women will sing alongside two traditional musicians. They are said to be thrilled to be the first Travelers to perform. "We believe Selina and Liz are inspirations ambassadors for their community...we cannot overestimate the value of their involvement in this concert for all travelers in a way which will enhance and contribute to their shared pride and no doubt help to build confidence in their traveler identity" said Damien Peelo, director of the Irish Traveler Movement'. - Selina, I wish you good luck and much success for the future. I believe she is working on a new CD. I will most definitely be buying a copy of it.

I spoke to Margo on the phone last week and she was telling me she's been doing some shows with Mike Denver lately and really enjoying it. She also spoke about Rose McBride's funeral. Tom (Big Tom) and Rose spent 54 years together. Margo sang 'Lady Of Knock' at the funeral mass. She said it was one of the most difficult things she had ever done, but she closed her eyes and thought of Rose and just let it flow. It was very well received by all who attended. When the priest spoke he said "Margo, the words of that song mean so much today because she was a 'Golden Rose' and she was the 'Queen of Oram'. Margo said since the funeral, Big Tom had been in the hospital for over a month, and it would mean so much if you would keep Tom in your prayers. He is so lonesome right now. Margo and I wrote a song for Tom a little while back and he was planning to record it and put on a new CD. We also wrote one for their son Dermot, as a thank you to his Mom and Dad. Rose really wanted him and Dermot to record the songs. I will make the one we wrote for Tom the song for this month. It's called 'Thank God I Heard Gentle Mother'.

A final thought - There is so much jealousy and

backstabbing in the music business, that it kinda makes it ironic that music is so full of love and feeling. I have watched it with sadness through the years. But the joy of listening and performing and recognizing talent and helping if possible, make it worth the stuff that no one really needs. So for me, it goes to the trash part of my brain and the good stuff, I keep.

As always be good to one another. Joe

'Thank God I Heard Gentle Mother'

Written by Joe McShane and Margo O'Donnell

Verse 1

Memories take me back, it seems so long ago
In the 1960s upon another shore
Missing Mam and Dad and friends I left behind
When work was done I'd pick my old guitar to pass the time

Verse 2

In the evenings we'd gather and sing our songs of home
One night a fellow sang a verse I'd never heard before
A song called Gentle Mother and his sister knew the words
She sent them in a letter and to me, it meant the world

Chorus

Thank God I heard Gentle Mother
And thanks to all the friends I met along the way
I'm so glad we shared this time together
Thank you for the memories and all the happy days

Verse 3

So back to Castlebayney the home I left behind
I started playing music and it became my life
We traveled over Ireland and crossed the ocean wide
This band of great musicians who filled my heart with pride

Verse 4

Now fondly I am looking back to days out on the road
I close my eyes and dream of happy times once more
I picture the old dance halls and folks I won't forget
Dancing to the music, the waltzes, and the quick steps

Chorus

Thank God I heard Gentle Mother
And thank you to all the friends I met along the way
I'm so thankful we shared this time together
Thank you for the memories and all the happy days
(Tag) And especially my dear Rose a love that never fades

COMING in IAN - 2018!
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The Gift of the Season for Kitchen Gardeners

Grow Cook Nourish: A Kitchen Garden Companion in 400 Recipes

By Darina Allen

"Darina's beautiful and unpretentious vision of cooking is connected to the land." —Alice Waters

"There's not much this gourmet grande dame doesn't know." —Nigel Slater

From skyscraper windowsills to sprawling acreage, "anyone can grow, anywhere, in any space," says bestselling author Darina Allen. In *GROW COOK NOURISH: A Kitchen Garden Companion in 400 Recipes* (Kyle Books; November 2017; Hardcover) Allen—called the "Julia Child of Ireland" (San Francisco Chronicle)—shares her lifetime of knowledge about the kitchen garden.

In this beautifully illustrated book, Allen takes readers through the entire soil-to-table process—sowing and planting seeds, tending and harvesting them, cooking, and, ultimately, nourishing oneself and others. She begins by outlining the health, economic, and environmental benefits of growing one's own food and offers guidance on getting started: assessing the soil, deciding what crops to grow, composting, companion planting, fertilizing, harvesting, and storing root vegetables.

Grow Cook Nourish is divided into five sections focusing on Vegetables; Fruit; Herbs; Wild, Foraged and Nuts; and Edible Flowers. Plants covered range from annual vegetables such as chicory, radishes, and kohlrabi to perennials like asparagus, fennel, and spinach. The Fruit chapter covers classics like apples, peaches, and plums, along with more unusual varieties like myrtle berries, quince, and medlar. The book also features a comprehensive

selection of herbs such as lemon verbena, angelica, and dill; edible flowers like ca-

lendula and chamomile; filberts and other nuts; and foraged foods such as sea beans, wild garlic, and blackberries. All of the standards are featured, but sprinkled throughout are delightful surprises—plants from afar Darina has discovered and found success with such as agretti, goji berries, and wasabi.

Each entry in

GROW COOK NOURISH includes explanations of different varieties (with a focus on the unusual and heirlooms), practical information on cultivation, growing, and maintenance, instructions for the best ways to cook the produce, and tips on what to do with a surplus. Plant hardiness zones and other growing information has been carefully adapted for the U.S.

Deliciously inspired recipes accompany every ingredient, from Goat Cheese, Scallion & Potato Tart and Beet Soup with Chive Cream to Frosted Black Currant

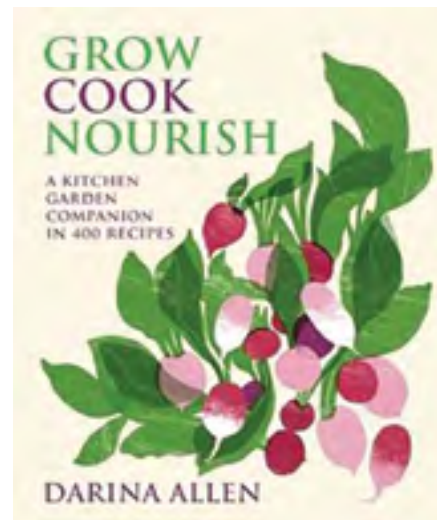
Parfait and Elderflower Fritters with Elderflower Cream.

Based on decades of real-life observation and experimentation on the 100-acre farm attached to Allen's celebrated cooking school in Ireland, *GROW COOK NOURISH* represents the culmination of all her knowledge about growing the food you cook and cooking the food you grow. Combined with a lively and engaging style, her insights and expertise make this

book the perfect kitchen and garden companion for novice and experienced growers alike.

"Ms. Allen's stature as an educator and activist is on a par with that of Alice Waters, Julia Child, and Jamie Oliver, all chefs whose ideas expanded far beyond the kitchen."

—The New York Times



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Slane Irish Whiskey to Sponsor and Present 4th Annual Irish American Movie Hooley

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

Mike Houlihan, Irish American Radio personality and Chairman of Hibernian Transmedia NFP, announced today that SLANE IRISH WHISKEY will be sponsoring this year's 4th Annual Irish American Movie Hooley at the Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Sept. 28, 29, and 30th. Houlihan said, "We're thrilled to be working with Slane Irish Whiskey in bringing the world's only Irish American film festival once again to Chicago. Great films and great whiskey are a combination that defines what we continue to do each year presenting Chicago premieres of films with an Irish and Irish American origin."

The Irish American Movie Hooley started in 2015 as a cooperative presentation of Hibernian Transmedia and The Gene Siskel Film Center at 164 North State Street in Chicago. Now in its 46th year of public programming, the Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) has

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

"We at the Gene Siskel Film Center are pleased to once again team up with Hibernian Transmedia, presenting the latest and the best work by Irish and Irish American filmmakers. The 2017 Irish American Movie Hooley played host to enthusiastic audiences eager to discuss the films. It's a great way to create community around the work and to provide a boost to emerging talent. This is what our mission is all about," said Siskel Program Director Barbara Scharres.

Hibernian Transmedia NFP is a public charity founded in 2013 to provide a platform to present, produce, and create educational content that promotes and preserves

Irish and Irish-American culture through film, TV, radio, theatre, literature, and the Internet. "We tell stories to enlighten future generations while honoring our ancestors," Houlihan said.

Other sponsors of The 4th Annual Irish American Movie Hooley include The Hilton Chicago, McCann's Irish Oatmeal, and The Emerald Loop Irish bar and grill around the corner from the Siskel Center at 216 North Wabash.

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

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

Tickets are available through the Gene Siskel Film Center's website www.siskel-filmcenter.org

filmcenter.org/content/tickets or through the individual films' web links on www.siskelfilmcenter.org.

Discounted parking is available for \$18 for 10 hours at the InterPark SELF-PARK at 20 E. Randolph St. A rebate ticket can be obtained from the Film Center Box Office.

The Film Center is located near CTA trains and buses. Nearest CTA L stations are Lake (Red line); State/Lake (Brown, Green, Orange, Pink, Purple lines); and Washington (Blue line). CTA bus lines serving State St.: 2, 6, 10, 29, 36, 62, 144, and 146.

For more information about the Film Center, call 312-846-2800 (24-hour movie hotline) or 312-846-2600 (general information, 9:00 am-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday), or visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org.



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Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



Hurt at Work... Now What?

In January, I wrote an article about the immediate steps you should take if you find yourself involved in a motor vehicle crash. This month I will focus on what you should do in the specific situation where you are injured at work or while doing something associated with your employment.

Workers' compensation is a state-mandated insurance program that provides benefits to employees who are injured in the course of their employment. Like most states, in Illinois, an employee with a work-related illness or injury is entitled to workers' compensation benefits without requiring that you prove your employer was negligent.

The workers compensation system is a different system than regular personal injury and generally will provide the following benefits to you; medical treatment for your injury, temporary benefits for the time you are off work because of your work related injury, permanent disability benefits if you are unable to return to your job completely or permanent partial disability benefits if you are able to return to some type of work but are unable to earn what you previously did. I will do a separate article in an upcoming edition about how the above benefits are all calculated.

Here are some steps to follow if you get hurt at work:

1. Seek immediate medical attention:

Your first priority is your health and well-being. If you get injured, get medical treatment. Call 9-1-1 immediately if you are unable. Follow that by getting transported to the hospital—either by ambulance or having someone drive you. If your injury does not require a trip to the Emergency Room, make sure to go see your doctor anyway and do not wait around for the injury to worsen. Establishing a chain of medical treatment from the beginning also

strengthens your claim because there will be clear evidence of the injury and that it was medically-treated. Remember, when you do seek medical treatment, tell your nurses and doctor what happened and that the injury happened at work because the doctor detail your treatment in what is called a "history." Insurance evaluators will rely upon that History when they are looking for proof of what happened.

2. See your own doctor:

Following work injuries, Employers often direct you to 'the company doctor' or to a clinic of their choosing. Some will even claim that you must treat at their company clinic. But that is not the law in Illinois. Rather, you can treat with the doctor of your choice, not the doctor your employer wants you to see. It is important to know that there are limitations on the number of 'second opinions' that you can get under Workers' Compensation law. So, you should talk to an experienced workers compensation attorney as soon as possible to educate yourself about the limitations.

If your employer is insisting that you have to treat with their choice of medical doctor, call an attorney immediately as this is not permitted under the current law in Illinois.

3. Notify your employer:

As soon as possible after the injury, notify someone in a managerial or supervisory role at your employment that you have been hurt. The law allows you 45 days to notify your employer of a work related injury, but you should do it as soon as possible, even if you think the injury is minor.

Oral notification is fine but written is much better because then you have documentary evidence of the notification. A simple email or handwritten note

to your immediate supervisor, detailing the date, time and a short description of what happened is sufficient to satisfy the notice requirements under the Act. Notice to a colleague or a coworker is not sufficient, it has to be given to a person who is in some type of supervisory or managerial role. If you have not formally told your employer that you hurt yourself at work within the 45 day notice period, it could prove a fatality in securing your benefits under the Act.

4. Hire the right attorney, right away:

This article is intended to help an injured client take the right steps in the initial stage of an Illinois Workers' Compensation Claim to avoid problems with your benefits, your claim, or your job. I know I say this a lot but I do so because it is so important. You should immediately secure representation if you are injured in a work related accident. Employers notify their insurance company as soon as the injury is reported. Thus, they will assign people to investigate the injury and gather information about your claim. YOU should also have someone who can explain the rules, explain your rights, and take immediate actions to protect your benefits. You work hard to provide financial security for your family. Workers' Compensation insurance is there to provide financial protection in the event of a work injury, but those rights can be jeopardized without good advice and counsel.

Do your homework when looking for an attorney and choose one who handles Illinois work injury cases. Workers compensation is a different body of law than the law that deals with personal injury claims involving negligence. There are different nuances and considerations that only attorneys like myself and my colleagues here will know and the success of your claim will depend on how experienced your attorney is within this unique area of the law.

5. Do not communicate with your employer's insurance carrier:

After you report your injury, you will be contacted by your employer's insurance carrier. They will express concern for your well-being. They will ask you if it is ok for them to record your statement: asking for details about what happened, when, and what your injury is. They will seek details of your medical treatment and they may even suggest one of their case managers accompany you to your doctor's appointments. You are not legally required to speak with insurance adjusters. Remember, they do not work for you and you don't pay the insurance premiums. They work for the insurance company—who want to minimize the amount of money that they will pay in benefits.

6. Get a work status from your doctor:

Depending on the severity of your injuries, your doctor may

order you not to work or restrict activities such as lifting or carrying. Every time you see your doctor, ask the doctor or nurses for a work status note before you leave the office. Make sure the note states exactly what the doctor wants and the duration of the restrictions. The note must be transmitted to your employer and their insurance carrier. If your employer can accommodate any restrictions you have, you will have to return to work. If they cannot, you will be off work and your employer will be obliged to pay benefits under the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act. All work status notes should be provided to both your employer and your attorney.

7. Keep a journal:

I am a huge proponent of writing things down. It is the best memory tool you will ever have.

Continued to next page

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Hurt at Work

Continued from last page

Even keeping simple notes in your phone is so helpful. Start with a written account of your injury, writing down how and when you were injured, who was there, who was notified, what you were doing at the time and how you felt. Keep track of your interactions with your employer and their insurance carrier such as phone calls and face to face meetings. Write down any changes, whether good or bad, related to your injury.

If you are lucky enough to be a member of a Union, be aware that you can ask your Union representative to be present with you at any meetings your employer wants to have regarding your injury. As before though, my best advice is to have your lawyer deal with the employer and the insurance company in as many situations as possible. Your focus should be on your injury and treatment.

8. Most mistakes can be fixed:

If you have made mistakes in your work related injury claim, it may not be too late. Many of my cases come with problems that were created by waiting too long to get an attorney who understands these issues. Most of these problems can be fixed by a competent attorney. Even if your case has been denied and your benefits have been cut off, you should contact an attorney who specializes in Workers Compensation as soon as possible for a consultation so that we can right the wrongs and get you all that you are entitled to under the Act.

**Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of personal injury law – including nursing home litigation, medical malpractice law, wrongful death claims, transportation injuries, premises liability claims, defective product claims, construction site injuries and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com or at 312-543-4642.*



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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Three Billboards

In early March three trucks drove through central London with signs which read: '71 dead. And still no arrests? How come?' The mini motorcade was a response to the conflagration on June 14th 2017 of the Grenfell Tower in London, a shoddily maintained and inadequately protected housing block, that caused the deaths of 71 people. Brexit woes and an increasingly fragile British government have dominated the domestic news since. However, little has been done about a scandal that has raised the ire of the British working class like few others. So the three truck campaign asserted the need for justice and immediate action.

The method adopted to raise awareness for victims of the Grenfell Tower steps straight from a recently released film, one which happens to be made by an Irishman. I say that with some trepidation because back in 2014 filmmaker John Michael McDonagh brought a firestorm upon himself by making explicit that the film he had just completed, *Calvary*, was not Irish (although it was set in Ireland and played to Irish stereotypes and hangups). Whether the McDonagh clann is Irish, is much down to them: they emigrated from Ireland to London when John Micheal McDonagh and his brother, fellow filmmaker Martin McDonagh, were still children. In any case, the latest offering from

Martin McDonagh is set in that least Irish of places: Ebbing, Missouri. Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri has universal appeal and it is a very fine film indeed.

The first third of *Three Billboards* turns on a rather simple concept. The burghers of Ebbing, and its law-enforcers in particular, feel that Chief Willoughby's integrity has been undermined by a billboard campaign that highlights his failure to arrest the perpetrators of a rape and murder. Whereas in fact all the billboards have done is to demand a response. The billboards read: 'Raped while dying. And still no arrests? How come, Chief Willoughby?'

The culture in the town is such that any probing of the authority of the police is tantamount to a denigration of the force. The frenzied response to the billboards exposes that mentality all the more. Slowly, however, it dawns on the police that the proper way to address the question is not to discredit Mildred Hayes, the mother of the murdered girl, and who is the person behind the billboard campaign, nor is it to break her resolve through targeting her friends (they try that too) but rather to confront the question asked. With bravura in her reasoning and resolve, Mildred Hayes seizes the initiative and her daughter starts to become the focus of the police's attention.

Francis McDormand who plays Mildred Hayes—a deserving winner of this year's Oscar for best actress—gives a brilliantly assured performance and manages to sustain the same tone throughout, despite the myriad provocations Mildred Hayes faces.

Clad in blue dungarees and struggling to get by, Hayes seems a pushover to the macho and bru-

tal police. Yet they cannot counter her determination and her sharp-tongued insights tie people in knots. For example, Dixon, a junior officer who routinely disgraces his uniform, falls foul of her acerbic wit when trying to make her feel guilt over her billboard campaign. At one stage she says 'seems to me that the police are too busy going round torturing black folk than to look into Angela's case'. To which Dixon rather stupidly replies: 'My mama is against that sort of thing...she's against people of colour torturing'. Hayes' novel approach to re-ordering policing priorities is matched in dialogue such as this by her subtlety in highlighting the attitudes that sustain the injustices. While Dixon may have rote learned to speak



the language of civility ('people of colour') he continues to be an agent of repression. Hayes points up the irony of that position, thereby unsettling the cosy assumptions of white supremacy.

As against the toxic orthodoxies that prevail in the town, there is always an independent man breaking through in Chief Willoughby. He can never bring himself to fulsomely attack Hayes because he secretly acknowledges the legitimacy of her campaign. Even so, these questions beg: where was Chief Willoughby in the aftermath of Angela Hayes' rape and murder? Why did Hayes have to

mount this campaign to get justice for her daughter? What is it about the Hayes' social background that requires the pressure of the billboards to actualize Willoughby's vague sympathy?

Theories of political protest and raising awareness reinforce Hayes' actions throughout the film. While Hayes' approach to demanding justice appears novel, she makes it clear that she is familiar with 'the guidebooks' on the efficacy of gaining a hearing by inexorably bringing a matter to the public attention. By expressing that standpoint she has taken the moral high ground, which immediately unnerves the bullies. Naturally they try to silence her and the threat of censorship looms in *Three Billboards*.

There are over the top scenes in which, alas, Hayes adopts a RoboCop style: she is far more effective when she uses her mouth rather than her fists. It is her remorseless logic and tenacity that make her so attractive. Even the most hard-bitten cop, Dixon, begins to concede the moral integrity of Hayes' mission.

A great deal has been written in recent times in solidarity with victims of misdeeds by powerful film producers and directors. However, what *Three Billboards* succeeds in illuminating—rather than just to express common cause with those who have been subjected to injustice—is a way to effectively interrogate people and institutions corrupted by the arrogance of power. That the demand for reform spread from Ebbing to London so quickly is an illustration of how effective the method can be in the real world. McDonagh has made a film for our time that can have intriguing political applications to counter the deep dissatisfaction that the lack of social justice generates in a community.

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"The grandchild wants to remember what the grandparents want to forget", Yiddish Proverb

"On the South Side, Swedes settled primarily in Hyde Park, Woodlawn, Englewood, West Englewood, South Shore, Greater Grand Crossing, East Side, Morgan Park, and Roseland. Swedes were least likely to settle in areas dominated by Greeks, Czechs, Hungarians, Russians, Poles, Yugoslavians, and Italians; instead, they settled near Germans, Irish, and Norwegians, groups whose earliest arrival in Chicago coincided with their own." Swedes in Chicago Encyclopedia

Potatiskorv (more commonly known as värmlandskorv in Sweden) is a regional Swedish sausage from Värmland, made with ground pork, beef, onions and potatoes. Potatiskorv is traditionally served hot at Christmas in Värmland but often served hot or cold throughout the year.

This weekend marks one of the biggest neighborhood celebrations in Chicago - The South Side Irish Parade. This Parade which flows south from 103rd Street to Kennedy Park on Western Avenue the second re-birth of a parade that rolled along 79th Street between Halsted and Ashland and was terminated when old Mayor Daley wanted to generate more revenue for Downtown and 'unite the City That Work(ed).'

The South Side Parade was reborn thanks to the Wee Folks of Washtenaw and Re-resurrected by Skinny Sheahan. The end-stop for this parade, Kennedy Park, reminded me of a long gone Swedish Restaurant - Svea's, or Swede's. This tiny joint served great Swedish meals with all the trimmings. One

of my favorites was Swedish Potato Sausage*. This garlic and black pepper masterpiece is boiled vigorously or sautéed in about 1/4 inch of water and served with green peas, pickles and mashed spuds that would catapult an eater's bread basket away from the table-lumber long before upon meal's completion.



Swedish Potato Sausage

You were very proud to be from Chicago!

Chicago, or The City that Worked-at -One Time also was a city where kids from different ethnicities met and married. My paternal grandparents came from County Kerry, by my Mom's folks had been here in America for quite a while. Grandma Donahue was Marge Swanson before Frank 'Earl' Donahue talked into going halves on a family.

We had Swedish meatballs and pickled herring with our turkey dinners at Thanksgiving and at Christmas we has Swedish Potato Sausage in a huge copper chaffing dish.

Diversity meant good eating in the City That Worked and not some CPC scam.

When I was a kid, there were

Swedish Deli's bakeries in Englewood, as well as great Italian meat markets like Sarli's, or bakeries like Naples on 69th street. Erickson's Swedish Delicatessen was at 76th and Aberdeen in St. Sabina's Parish. We would get herring (only the white creamed for hard-core Swedes) and Swedish potato sausage there.

Prior to this year's South Side Irish Parade, I went to Swanson's Deli, a legendary sandwich shop and Swedish Deli, and noted that no potato sausage could be had... I asked the owner Greg Dix about this and he said, "I bought the last 500lbs of potato sausage at Thanksgiving last year. Now, I cannot find it. The only place that

I can find it is a location in Minnesota that mails it you. I do not trust buying meat via the mail."

I wondered: We are a culture that is happy to shutter a traditional three-generation family-owned steak house, in favor M.T. McPtomaine's Chilly Deep-Fryer's All You Can Gag Down Buffet. We will drive 30 miles to save \$.80 on pallet of toilet paper, rather than walk up to corner store in Evergreen Park, or Mount Greenwood. Ethnic restaurants like Svea's, Zum Deutsch En Eck, or Klas close doors in favor of molecular gastronomy - eating food that looks like it came out of a test tube (oysters, oatmeal and raisins at Schwa) or pricey globalist treatments of good Mexican food at the Rick Bayless empire. Could it be that the great-grandchildren



Swanson's Deli

have ignore what my grandparents tried to forget?

Swanson's Greg Dix is hard at it to find new sources of Swedish Potato Sausage. I will do the same. When something is that good, it needs our consumption.

You should not associate St. Patrick's Day with vile green plastic headgear and gaudy bow-ties any more than accept a plateful of oyster/oatmeal/raisin hash.

Find Swedish Potato sausage and cook some up for your kids. Take them to a Bohemian Restaurant in Berwyn or lead them on a tour of Heart of Italy.

Our grandparents forgot the miseries of the Old World, but let's keep the glories that they brought with them.

Cooking Swedish Potato Sausage:

Step 1 - Add a whole potato sausage ring to a large saucepan and add enough water to submerge the sausage in water.

Step 2 - Turn our stove burner to high heat and bring the water to a full boil.

Step 3 - Reduce the burner heat to medium and simmer the sausage just below boiling point for 30 minutes.

Step 4 - Transfer the cooked sausage to a serving platter with tongs and blot it with paper towels to dry.

Step 5 - Slice the potato sausage ring into 1 inch pieces with a sharp kitchen knife.

Step 6 - Spray the bottom of a skillet with vegetable oil spray and heat the skillet over medium heat for about 1 minute.

Step 7 - Add the sausage pieces to the warm skillet and stir-fry just long enough to brown; about 2 to 3 minutes.

Nota Bene!

Potato sausage does not keep well. While the best choice is to cook it on the date of purchase, it stores in the refrigerator for up to two days. As if any will remain.



(l to r): Irish Consul General Brian O'Brien, Alderman Edward Burke, and Irish Minister for the Diaspora, Ciarán Cannon at the Irish American Partnership Breakfast held at the Union League Club 3/16/2018. Ed Burke is celebrating his 50th anniversary as Alderman of the 14th Ward.

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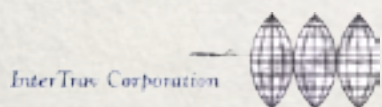
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An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



Them Versus Us

The firing of Rex Tillerson as secretary of State, though badly timed was not a surprise. It is very apparent to those who have followed the story of Mr. Trump that anyone on his team needs to be in tune with the President's view of the world, or your fired!

The problem as many commentators have pointed out, is this may be fine for a TV drama, but it is a very poor method to employ for an individual elected to lead our democracy. One of the strengths of any leader has to be his ability to work with people who are willing to offer different opinions on a variety of issues. Indeed a good President will readily acknowledge that he is not an expert in every area that demands his attention. The fact that Rex Tillerson had more experience of international business than the President was a plus. It was also clear that Tillerson had a different view of how the US needs to lead on the world stage.

Mr. Trump seems to be very fixed on a them versus us view of the world and how it functions. This is the kind of thinking that was prevalent during the cold war. It is the kind of thinking that continues to see Mr. Putin sustain his popular support in Russian. And that is despite the fact that the vast majority of the Russian people are no better off now than they were under the old communist system.

In practical terms Trump is using the same approach in his dealings with the American people. He continues to drive a wedge between urban versus rural, liberal versus conservative and nativist versus immigrant. This plays well to his base but as evidenced in the recent special election in Pennsylvania, the majority of those who supported him for President are no longer willing to support his agenda. If Mr. Trump is allowed to continue unchallenged in this approach the American public are the ones who will pay the price as our reputation abroad continues to take a beating and his new tariffs will hit consumers pockets.

The Carrot, the Egg, and the Coffee Bean

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling.

It seemed that, as one problem was solved, a new one arose. Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with

water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In the first, she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed

ground coffee beans.

She let them sit and boil, without saying a word. In about twenty minutes, she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me, what do you see?"

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," the young woman replied. The mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. She then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, she asked her to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity - boiling water - but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak.

The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But, after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened! The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" the mother asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?" Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong but, with pain and adversity, do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength? Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit but, after a death, a breakup, or a financial hardship, does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and a hardened heart? Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavour.

If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hours are the darkest and trials are their greatest, do you elevate to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean? Michael@straussrealty.com

Bigger Bolder Baking's Gemma Stafford and Kevin Kurtz

By Mike Danahey

Wexford, Ireland native Gemma Stafford has figured a way to use YouTube as a tool where she isn't being an idiot out for garnering quick hits on her videos, but offering nice, helpful hints for making delicious desserts and other tasty treats.

Four years ago, Stafford and her husband, Californian Kevin Kurtz launched their own Bigger Bolder Baking project, which has slowly but surely built an audience of recipe-seekers, claiming more than 1.5 million subscribing to its YouTube channel and 150 million video views across the web.

Kurtz has a background in marketing and the entertainment industry and said he used to do work for the Pokemon brand and for Lucasfilm on the Star Wars and Indiana Jones brands.

Stafford said her mother inspired her passion for cooking. Her path to becoming a web celeb has its roots back in Ireland where she studied for a time at the Ballymaloe Cookery School in Middleton.

Stafford's CV has her working in Australia and Italy before coming to San Francisco about 10 years ago, where she toiled in baking and restaurant businesses before starting her own catering firm.

With the San Francisco Bay area becoming a less affordable place to live, the couple moved to the Los Angeles area, where they started on the Bigger Bolder Baking project.

"We're building a community as passionate about baking as I am," Stafford said.

Stafford said her focus has been on recipes that intended to take the fear out of baking and that can be prepared quickly, with few tools and in regular or small kitchens, frequently using an microwave instead of an oven.

Her online offerings include microwave mug meals, homemade ice cream and easy, no-bake recipes. Working with Good Cook, mugs and whisks tied to the mug meals are set to be available at retailers, including Walmart, this April.

Stafford and Kurtz recently were in Chicago for the International Home and House-

wares Show, where she showed off some of her mug recipes at the Good Cook booth and gave a few other presentations, including one at an Inventors Corner, where she and Kurtz talked of building their business.

She said one thing that helped build her following was trying to respond to as many comments as she could after any posts. That has led to her learning what types of recipes might appeal to those "bold bakers" interested in her recipes.

Stafford said she has only really started to use Facebook in the last six months, calling it "the right platform at the right time," as the big dog of social media has added more video components to what its users can do.

Kurtz said it is important to have a website where a business has complete control of the content and presentation of it.

There have been more than 500 Bigger Bolder Baking video clips made, with a new recipe put online every Thursday.

The couple visits Ireland a couple times a year and involves Stafford's family there in some productions.

With St. Patrick's Day upon us, Stafford's March 15 post is a seasonally-fitting recipe for scones.

For the March 17 holiday back in Ireland, Stafford said her family there typically has bacon and cabbage and her mother's homemade bread and butter pudding.

"They serve some serious comfort food, and enough to feed an army," Stafford said.

"I was in Chicago last year (around March 17), and it was crazy. It was nothing like back in Ireland, with small towns and small budgets," Stafford said.

Stafford seemed surprised to learn that this market has turned what is more like a Thanksgiving back in Ireland into a sort of Mardi Gras in green spread out between two weekends.

While in Chicago, Stafford said, "I like to do touristy things like hitting the Magnificent Mile, and I take in restaurants like The Girl and the Goat. The caliber of food here is fantastic, from the taverns and their comfort food to more upscale places. Chicago is a clean city, with a great view of the water, and a nice ambience."

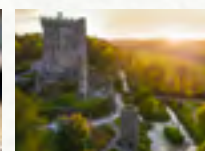
"I was here a few years ago, when you had more than a foot of snow. And I've been to Chicago in summer, when it's been in the 90s," she said. biggerbolderbaking.com



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Celtic Lawyers Luncheon, March 16, 2018

The Celtic Lawyers Luncheon was held at the Fairmont Hotel on March 16, 2018 before a sold-out crowd of over 700.

Here are some pictures from the event. A slideshow is on site at www.irishamericannews.com with more photos.

Anyone wanting an original photo from the event can contact Cliff Carlson through email at cliff@irishamericannews.com.



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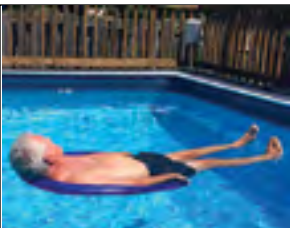
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Raised On Songs and Stories

By Shay Clarke



I retired from McNally's Pub on New Year's Eve and began another chapter in this adventure of life. You might say that I've come full circle as I am back in the travel business where I began my working life back in 1968 with Ireland's leading tour operator, Joe Walsh Tours. I took to it like a duck to water and traveled extensively through the resorts of Europe and further afield. Spain's Balearic and Canary Islands, Italy's Amalfi and Adriatic Coasts, the Greek Isles and the North African beaches of Tunisia were my playground for some great years before mortgages and family demanded a more "regular" profession. Anyway, here I am years later back in business of organizing and guiding tours to Ireland and Europe and beyond and I'm loving every minute of it.

The big difference of course is that apart from being older and wiser, I now get to bring tours to my native Ireland as well as to my favorite destinations in Europe. I had no idea as I drove the highways and byways of Ireland's provinces that I would be inviting visitors to come to Ireland with me. The years of experience, the memories, the history, geography, culture, language, art, and literature, all the things we immigrants hold dear, I can now share with those who travel home with me.

I have never really left the travel business behind as I have been putting together Irish tours and itineraries for friends during most of the 30 years that I've been in America. It's only last year when an annual Irish Tour became 3 tours that I realized I have been heading in this direction for some time.

My years at McNally's Irish Pub were among the happiest of my life and even though I had semi-retired early last year, I knew that my days were numbered and that I needed to find another income stream that would be both less demanding and less stressful. One that would use my experience

while allowing me to be independent. The opportunity for change presented itself in the person of David House, an "old school" tour operator that I took to the moment I met him. He has become a friend and mentor. His company InterTrav Corp, a family operated company in St. Charles IL specializing in group tours for over 45 years is now my new headquarters.

This year I have 5 tours going to Ireland including a walking tour and a foodie tour, 2 to Italy, one to Spain, one to Germany for Oktoberfest, and in December a tour to the Christmas markets in Austria, Germany and Italy.

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chures and promotional material. It's all on our website, www.intertravcorp.com or call me at 1-847-452-7764 and I'd be delighted to tell you all about it.

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Tips to Help You Stay Healthy & Land A New Position Faster

Frustrations, annoyances and minor indignities that are heaped upon job hunters continue even in a job rich environment. The job-search process tears down your self-esteem, making it necessary to constantly reinforce your own self-image. So I decided to develop a list of ways to keep your spirits high during this humbling process.

1. Acquire or develop a mantra for yourself. Constantly repeat the same phrase, such as "I'm a wonderful person" or "I could do an outstanding job in my new role" before every interview. It's hard to feel bad about yourself while saying a positive statement over and over. Instead, you'll start to smile and feel better about yourself. Try it and you'll see.

2. Adopt and maintain a positive mental attitude. Always give the appearance that you're doing very well. A senior human resources executive with a major container manufacturer in Chicago once recommended to me that job seekers should wear "their job search uniform" even when they don't have an interview. It will keep you mentally in the game---don't slack off.

3. Eat properly. Have five or six small meals spread throughout the day, rather than the traditional three. This regimen helps regulate your blood sugar and prevents extreme mood swings.

4. Exercise. Subject your body to some rigors through running, jogging, weightlifting, aerobic exercise or some other activity. This will tone your mind as well as your muscles. Exercise keeps stress under control.

5. Sleep seven or eight hours every night, and go to bed and wake up on a regular schedule. Sleep is a great restorer of energy and perspective, while fatigue makes cowards and idiots of us all.

6. Schedule regular get-togethers with family members, friends, colleagues and former clients who reinforce your positive image. Unemployment pressures can make it easy to forget your own achievements, but these supporters will remind you of your outstanding qualities and experience. As John E. Moriarty, Ed. D., a career consultant with a highly respected Chicago outplacement firm said to me, "Our clients come back from networking meetings totally energized, even if there isn't an employment opportunity."

7. Work at maintaining laughter in your life. The Denver-based author of the audiocassette "Unlimited Energy", Peter McLaughlin said "children laugh an average of 400 times each day, while adults chuckle about 15 times daily." This is one area where it's smart to act childish. Most of us feel more comfortable with people who smile.

8. Create situations in which you can achieve victories, even small ones. This will reassure you of your competence. One job seeking senior human resources executive in Chicago took a lesson in French (his passion) every Tuesday afternoon to "feed his soul" and give him a sense of accomplishment. You might set a goal of jogging a mile each

day, doing 75 sit-ups in five minutes or finishing a compelling novel in a week's time. Whatever you choose, make a game out of it and succeed. As Admiral Wm. McRaven says if you want to change the world, start by making your bed. The admiral says if you do that, you start your day off having already completed a task.

9. Watch positive upbeat TED TALKS or listen to other discs as you drive to an interview. Hearing motivational words will pump you up and improve your presentations.

10. Establish a support group of six to eight job hunters, or join an existing group. Create an agenda for your meetings that doesn't allow for carping or complaining. Make a rule that all conversations must be positive. Help some other job seeker, particularly if it's someone who isn't likely to help you in return. Keep the good deed to yourself; you have helped someone even though you are under a lot of pressure.

11. Reread a basic primer on job hunting. Once you've been in the market a while, you may start taking shortcuts that hurt your effectiveness. If you don't believe in thorough follow-through, watch how professional golfers execute their backswing each and every time.

12. Create a system for rewarding yourself because the job-search process tends to remove celebration from our lives. After a particularly good interview, take your significant other out for dinner at a nice restaurant. Go for a walk. Try that double-dip yogurt treat. Indulge yourself a bit. Be sure to use some of your available time to do something you have always wanted to do.

13. Establish a "job-talk free" zone. Make an agreement

with your significant other that one day each week you won't discuss your job search. This may take some of the strain out of your relationship. But don't shut out your partner. Instead, establish a regular schedule for updating him or her on your job search progress.

14. Put yourself firmly in charge of your own job hunt. Too often, job seekers allow executive recruiters, human resource officials, personal contacts and others to control the tempo of their search.

15. Establish a target date for accepting your new position. Consider it your horizon---the start of your new business life. Having a start day in mind will feed your ego, reinforce the feeling that you're in control and create a sense of urgency. One of my former clients said, "The most important advice my outplacement counselor gave me was the need for a target date."

16. Set aside a specific time each day to reinforce your spirituality through prayer, meditation or some other method of centering yourself. Sandee Wask, a retail executive in Naperville, IL, says "It helps to put your life in perspective. No matter how bad things are for you, you'll realize that you have many things to be thankful for."

CARPE DIEM/SEIZE THE DAY.

In Memory of the oldest fan of this column. Dr. Robert Meier, age 101, who died on March 15. He was my accounting professor at Loyola University and a dear friend.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: "Fear nothing, for every renewed effort raises all former failures into lessons, all sins into experience." Katherine Tingle, prominent social worker.

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 Jamesffitzgerald.com

John Doherty Donates Matt Lamb Painting to Heritage Center

We'd like to thank John Doherty of Morton Grove, IL for donating an original Matt Lamb painting to the Irish American Heritage Center recently. Matt Lamb, who died in 2012, was the owner of Blake-Lamb funeral home, and became a famous painter in his spare time. Matt's work was shown all over the world, and is quite collectable.

Matt Lamb was honored for his contributions in Art by iBAM!, the Irish Books Arts and Music Celebration in 2012.

John Doherty is CEO of Doherty International, Inc., which he formed in 1993, to provide executive transition planning and counseling plus related services. Prior to that he served as chairman and CEO of an internationally ranked consulting firm. He also has held progressively more responsible positions, primarily in human resources, with companies including IIT and Baxter Laboratories, and in organization development with Booz, Allen, and Hamilton.

Doherty also serves in a volunteer capacity as Executive Director of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Career and Business Networking Ministry. This ministry, which has assisted hundreds of individuals, was founded to relieve

the pain and stress of job loss. With an excellent established speaker's program, the ministry has drawn attention for its effectiveness. Participants receive a free copy of his book, The Ultimate Job Guide in either English or Spanish as part of a community outreach.

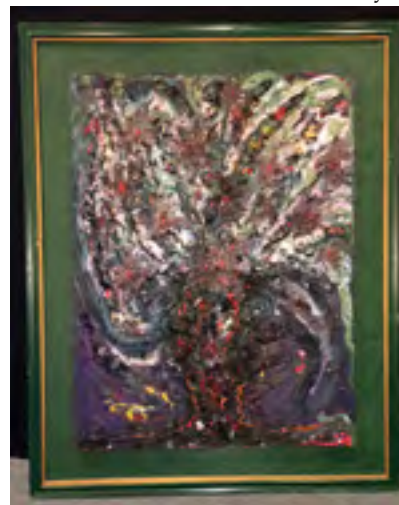
Now in its 2nd edition, The Ultimate Job Guide is available through Amazon.com

John currently serves on the board of advisors of Options Unlimited, a retirement counseling firm, and for a decade was on the board of advisors of Mercy Hospital and Medical Center. He is a past member of the Chicago Club and the Philadelphia Union League Club.

Famous Relative

John is related to Edward Paul Doherty (September 26, 1838 - April 3, 1897) who was an Irish-Canadian-American in the U.S. Civil War.

He was an officer who formed and led the detachment of soldiers that captured and killed John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of United States President Abraham Lincoln, in a Virginia barn on April 26, 1865, twelve days after Lincoln was fatally shot.



Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Dream Cathedrals and Memories of the Past

It's all good, this time around. I was at the cinema this evening, at a film by the name of 'Game Night'. It was an upbeat, very funny antidote to that over-hyped, over-rated and self-indulgent drivel called 'The Shape of Water' – a film so awful that it was almost bound to win four Oscars.

Afterwards I called into Oranmore's Olde Brewery bar, a rare thing for me at a late hour. You know: me with the creaking bones, the moans, groans and general all-around sourness at the way the world is.

I searched for my oversized ear trumpet whilst asking the bartender to 'speak up, son, I'm a bit deaf' as he called me 'Mr. Brady' just in order to make me feel even more decrepit than I actually am. And I thought to myself: Well, here we are. Somewhere along the line you turned into an older dude with a 'mister' in front of your moniker.

Sitting at the bar with a pint on the way, opening the newspapers (yes, some of us still read actual ink-print) and adjusting the new reading glasses, I looked behind me as a group came in from another establishment. They were all young and pretty (both sexes) and had just finished a long bar/restaurant shift.

And as I watched them and listened to their laughter I thought how much like them I was forty years ago. They imagined that they were family. And of course, for this space of time, that is exactly what they are. In this glittering moment they no doubt feel that their friendships will last forever; that this feeling of companionship will last forever.

Some were obviously in love; some were probably just in lust for the night; and some were simply friends. The ones in love think that this will last forever, too; but

they're in their teens and twenties, they know bugger-all really. One couple were happy out that they had gotten engaged and no doubt think that marriage will – yes -- last forever as well.

You feel like saying to the guy: "Wait until the divorce and the house gets split 50-50, with her getting the inside and you getting the outside". (My thanks to Dr. John Becker for that one!) But you don't because – you know what? – it was fine to see. Dare I say it? It was kind of heartwarming. It was nice to appreciate this feeling coming from them that what they have now will ALWAYS be there: that they will never lose touch; that they will always have this feeling of being a family.

Beneath all of my own cynicism, I just thought that this was great. Sure, they will grow and they will go their separate ways; and one of these years -- many from now, I hope -- I suppose that they will just be like most of us, simply exchanging that odd card every Christmas and then eventually not at all.

But for now, this was their moment; and it's one that they won't be getting back. So I really enjoyed watching them. And envying them. And in a strange way, hurting for them because they don't know what is ahead. Don't know that eventually Life – that constant imponderable – will either succeed or will attempt to succeed in kicking the hopes and dreams out of most of them. Give them ten and twenty and thirty years and they won't be these same optimistic people anymore. So you can excuse them a bit of arrogance, a bit of swaggering, a bit of a feeling that they are indestructible.

For now they are just that – just as we were – and that is a great, great thing. It hit me with such force that this is the way it should be.

You know, I normally have the second movement from Beethoven's 7th Symphony playing in my

head, or maybe something gloomy from laugh-a-minute Mahler; but as I left the Old Brewery tonight it was Rick Wakeman's joyously exuberant 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth' that was blasting around the old bonce. And I have it playing in the background now and am listening to those beautiful words as I write this:

'Crystals of opaque quartz/
Studded limpid tears/
Forming magic chandeliers/
Lighting blistered galleries'

An image of a Dream Cathedral, if ever there was one.

Oh yes, I am happy for them in this bright shining moment of their lives; and do envy them.

And from one Dream Cathedral to another...

The end of February finally saw the opening – after more than a decade and many false starts – of Galway's very own and badly needed Arts House cinema, the Pálás. It's good to know that it is now in a safe pair of hands with Element Pictures being the brains behind it, just as they are with Dublin's excellent Lighthouse Cinema.

The company directors Ed Guiney and Andrew Lowe are two guys who really put the E in 'eclectic' and are responsible for RTE series 'Red Rock' as well as such diverse and unusual films as 'The Guard', 'Room', and the two extraordinary Colin Farrell pieces 'The Lobster' and the deeply disturbing 'The Killing of a Sacred Deer', amongst others. It was nice to finally meet them, as well as general manager Kate Walsh. We took a look at some of the coming attractions and it is with a sigh of relief after all this time that I can say it is exactly what buffs like myself have been wishing for Galway. With three screens, a bar and restaurant, it promises to be not only a place to experience film as it should be done, but a great evening out in the bargain. Put the Pálás on your list, if you're passing through here.

Highlight for me, though, was listening to film programmer Charlene Lydon. I couldn't resist seeking her out afterwards in order to tell her how much I enjoyed the contagious enthusiasm of her talk. It's always such a pleasure to meet someone else who loves cinema

as much as I do; and, as she also co-ordinates the programme for The Lighthouse, I mentioned that when I lived in Dublin many years ago myself and my friend Robert Quinn would haunt the original building. To my great delight, Charlene knew Robert as he was her film teacher back in the day. And she could have asked for no finer one. Robert afterwards emailed me to say that this young woman was one of his 'most luminous' pupils. Lovely, that; and convinces me more than ever that with Pálás we are, as I said, with a safe pair of hands.

The place still looked like a

Dave Johnston: Chicalba Bagpiping Services

By Sharon Johnson

The most interesting thing about Dave Johnston of Chicalba Bagpiping Services is that he is a man of many talents. He started playing music when he was a young, then went to college and became



a civil engineer. When asked what made him quit his job as an engineer in Scotland to become a full-time musician, he said he was looking for something else. At that point he along with a friend created Chicalba Bagpiping Services.

Johnston, a world champion piper has been playing bagpipes for over thirty years. He instructs private students and three pipe bands here in Chicago to include the police and fire department bands. He says his instruction includes teaching new music, running over old tunes and tidying up existing issues. Johnston met his wife while in the U.S. Soon after

building site when I initially visited and it was hard to believe that it would be up and running for the opening day planned; however, I've been back since and all doubts are washed away.

With that, I'm off to Dublin's St. Patrick's Cathedral for a special showing of the 1921 silent epic 'The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse', by the legendary Irish film director Rex Ingram, complete with orchestra and new score.

Yes, all good news this month. No doubt next issue will see grumpy normal service resumed...

chasbrady7@eircom.net & www.cbsays.com

she moved to Glasgow. They now have two children and are back living in the Chicagoland area. Johnston has played sports and coached them as well.

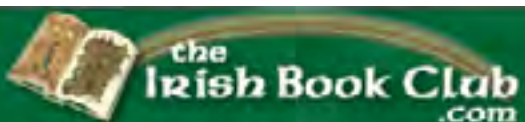
Chicalba Bagpiping Services not only provides lessons to in-

dividuals and to groups, but also provides bagpiping services for weddings, funerals, parties and events and festivals. He states that his favorite events are golf outings, weddings and funerals. Funeral bring a kind of fulfilment.

Their website features testimonials from people who have had his services play for them. He plays all over the city and country. Johnston is just a nice guy pursuing a dream that is fulfilling to him and all that are lucky enough to hear him play. Go to www.chicago-bagpiper.com and give a listen to some music samples and read many testimonials.

CHECK IT OUT!

www.theirishbookclub.com



9 Rooms in Ballyglunin

Author Mike Farragher releases "9 Rooms in Ballyglunin" and the long-awaited audiobook of the wildly popular "This Is Your Brain on Shamrocks," which is being piloted for a TV series

Mike Farragher has just released his fifth book, 9 Rooms in Ballyglunin, a collection of short works of fiction set in a B&B in the rural west of Ireland.

Fiona Burke walks away from a lucrative career in law to pursue her dream of opening a bed and breakfast on her estate in Ballyglunin.

Each guest inhabiting the 9 Rooms in Ballyglunin checks in at a crossroads in their life and they lean on this mighty Irish woman during their

times of intense loss, uncertainty, and rebirth. Fiona carries a dark secret of her own along the way and none of the guests are prepared for what happens next.

"My dad's side of the family is from Ballyglunin, outside of Tuam, and I was visiting my uncle in a B&B because he had sustained fire damage to his home," Farragher recalls. "I was having tea with the innkeeper, asking her about the place and she said, 'so many characters come in and out of these rooms from Airbnb, I could write a book someday.' I replied, 'you better hurry up before I do!' I didn't expect to get an idea for a novel as I was making my way up the driveway but that's the way inspiration works."

An Irish American story in the truest sense of the word, Farragher set these characters from scenarios not only from his own life, but also from headlines of both The Tuam Herald and The New York Times. "There was a lot going on at either side of the Atlantic as I was writing this," Farragher explains. "In and around this part of Ireland, they were reviving their glorious past with the restoration of the Ballyglunin Train Station, one of the sites where The Quiet Man was filmed. At the same time, they were confronting the darkness of their past as Tuam uncovered hundreds of children buried carelessly on the site of an old Catholic run orphanage

in a gruesome story that made headlines worldwide. In America, we grappled with things like rising healthcare costs and a caustic political conversation in a relentless news cycle and on a personal level, I watched friends around me dealing with crumbling marriages and the loss of parents this year as well. It all went into this scenery in which I placed these characters, which created stories that are a departure from the more lighthearted things I've written recently."

Farragher is simultaneously releasing the long-awaited audiobook of his wildly popular This Is Your Brain on Shamrocks series, which is comprised of humorous personal essays about growing up Irish, Catholic, and guilty in the swamps of his native New Jersey. "People enjoyed coming to the book signings, where I'd drop the Irish accent of my parents into these stories," Farragher says. "Many readers were asking for an audiobook version and the process of recording it was a totally new avenue of self-expression. I found my voice all over again in the process!"

The essays of This Is Your Brain on Shamrocks have been the basis of two off-Broadway short plays and are optioned for video treatment; a pilot for a comedy series based on the books will be filmed in Kansas City this spring. "As a novelist, watching characters come to life on stage and now screen has been a surreal thrill," Farragher enthuses. "My wife and girls had to drag me to Broadway at knifepoint in the past but after an actor friend of mine helped me stage my first play, the theater bug has bitten something fierce! Despite so many choices in movies and on streaming services nowadays, I have yet to see an Irish American family portrayed without some reference to alcoholism or any other manner of 'plastic Paddy shamrockery.' I hope to break those stereotypes with an authentic, irreverent take on life that is consistent with the ethos of the 'Shamrocks' essays."

Farragher will launch a book tour in America and Ireland in the spring. For more information, log onto

www.thisisyourbrainonshamrocks.com



Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



Before I start this month's article I would like to mention a fiddle player I spoke to named Tim McGinnis. He said he was a student of Liz Carroll's. He took a 17-year break from playing and had a life changing experience after he went to a music fest in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. If you'd like to hear some of his tunes, he plays at Clancy's on Friday nights and Lanigan's at the Sunday sessions. He's also practicing Gaelic on Rosetta Stone! Good for you Tim. Maithéas duit! What is the accordion/melodeon/concertina? Colloquially referred to as a squeeze box. It produces sound with the expansion and contraction of folded bellows/ reeds. It refers to musical instrument belonging to the reed organ family. In addition, it has different kinds, for example, the piano accordion and button accordion (melodeon) Duke Ellington, (1899, Washington D.C.) played the accordion some say he was the best Jazz player in the world. It was invented in Germany, but most Irish music sessions incorporate the accordion into their music. It is typically rectangular shaped instrument although many refer to it as a box-shaped instrument. The button accordion is supplied with a small keyboard, located on the right-hand side, buttons located on the left side, metallic reeds and bellows. Distinctive for producing a wheezy type sound. The accordion is played by stretching and pressing the bellows together. This stretch and press action causes air to flow through the reeds, which vibrate to produce to wheezy/hoarse sound. The movement of the bellows is accompanied by the player pressing the keys and buttons located on either side of the accordion. A hand-held musical instrument the accordion has straps attached to the back thereby leaving the hands free to operate the bellows, they keyboard and buttons. The melody line is sounded by playing the keyboard while the bass notes or chords are produced by the buttons. It is the bellows that serve as its most distinguishing feature, they look like folds. A piano accordion is an accordion equipped with a right-hand keyboard like a piano or organ. Its acoustic mechanism is more that of an organ than a piano, as they are both wind instruments. The accordion is widely spread across the world, they play it in Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Scotland, etc. It is used in Cajun, jazz, folk, and clas-

sical music. The piano accordion is the official city instrument of San Francisco, California. A Concertina is

also a reed instrument that looks fairly like an accordion, however it is smaller in size and hexagonal (6 sides) in shape and appearance. Sharing most of the features of the accordion it's composed of bellows in the center, metallic reeds and buttons on the side. It has the same stretch and press action as the accordion. The Concertina is used mostly for classical music and used in polka music. I spoke to our dear friend, Ger Carey from Co. Clare, who is a talented artist and plays the button accordion. He has been playing since he was ten. His neighbor in Clare was a major influence on his picking up the instrument. He plays with "Chicago Reel". Chicagoreelband.com He has also toured with the famous "Tulla Ceile band from, Clare.

A few famous accordion players in Ireland include: Sharon Shannon, Joe Burke and Joe Cooley. I asked a few accordion players did they ever feel like they could fall forward from the weight of the instrument? One response went something like this, "after a few pints, yes". In all fairness some accordions are heavy, and a player must be careful not to injure themselves. I found a movie with the accordion in it named, Wind Journeys. (Spanish lang film, a musician decides to stop playing the accordion after his wife's death. It was said that the instrument was cursed after the former player won a duel with the devil)

I recently visited an Irish store with my friend Anne Lawless. It was called, "Celtica Gifts" on Montrose the owner, Cecilia, was very generous and gave us a complimentary fruit cake. I wanted to thank her for her kindness! Lately, I have received a few nice emails about my articles, I'm feeling grateful, thank you. If there is a topic you would like me to cover or expand on, please email me. Virginia's Book Club this month is titled, Days Without End, by Sebastian Barry (winner of the Costa Prize) It will be at the IAHC, April 16, 1pm in the Library.

Gaelic for the month

Accordion-cairdin

Keyboard-mearchlar

Box-bosca

Seanfhocail for the month

Broken Irish is better than clever English-is fear Gaeilge briste na Bearla cliste (for Tim McGinnis)

Molanive@yahoo.com



Piping It In

Jack Baker



Farewell Liam O'Flynn

March turned into a very sad month indeed with the passing of Liam O'Flynn. A master uilleann piper and an inspiration to many, Liam left us at the age of 72. A gentle man in the truest sense of the word, his contributions to Irish music will live on, thankfully in his work with the super group Planxty and the many solo recordings he produced, not to mention the many pipers he influenced.

On a brighter note, we have received so many new and exciting cds that I simply will not be able to review them all this month, but I'll get in as many as I can. I'll start off with the one I have been waiting for, Open the Door for Three's latest "The Joyful Hour" (openthedoorforthree.com) and by God it was indeed a joyful hour when I first got to put this recording on and loose myself in



the music created by this trio of wonderful artists. First off, I could sit and listen to Pat Broaders sing forever. His comfortable, smooth voice gets better and better every-time I hear it and his work on this new cd is the best yet, not to mention his bouzouki playing which is lovely. Add to Pat's artistry the fantastic fiddle of Liz Knowles and the dab hand of Kieran O'Hare on uilleann pipes, flute and tin whistle and you get one of the finest bands in Irish music today. This is their third cd and it too passed my "walk-in customer test" where a customer, looking for something other than music, heard me playing "The Joyful Hour" and bought it immediately! That tells me that this is one of the best, as if my own ears didn't already tell me that. Give Open the Door for Three a listen, you will not be disappointed.

A treat waiting for me when I got home

from Florida this year was "An Rithim Réidh" by Mícheál Darby Ó Fátharta, (www.boscabideach.com) a melodeon player of remarkable talent. I remember, as a youth, the taverns on the West

side of Chicago where the families would gather in the back room to be entertained by melodeon players who brought us the tunes from home and Mícheál's playing takes me right back there. This is music that feeds my soul, timeless and essential. If you want the



real deal, as Uncle Bill Margeson would say, here's the recording to grab.

Another group that we have been waiting patiently to see their next cd is Connla (www.connlamusic.com). Since they burst on the scene last year with their first cd, "River Waiting", we have been playing the grooves off of it and wondering what their next would sound like and if it could possibly be as good as the first. Well let me tell you, this hyper-talented band from Northern Ireland came through like the champs they are! "The Next Chapter" is well worth the wait and just a joy to listen to. You've probably already listened to some of the cd on Maryann's radio show on WDCB, 90.9 FM, as I have, but the entire album is far more fun taken as a whole, you know the old "the whole thing is far more valuable than the sum of it's parts" or something like that. Well, when I got my play copy I shared it with some friends and well all agreed that



it is just a work of art. The vocals, the music, the arrangements are all outstanding and worth the time it takes to listen, which will boost your mood and drive away the blues. AND the good news continues because Connla will be at Milwaukee Irish Fest this August and that's reason enough to head North all by itself in my book. Connla, make a note, you will want to see them this year and, barring that, at least give them a good listen.

The Fretless (www.thefretless.com) is a band that has been plowing new ground with an exciting and unique take on Irish music. The band lineup is Trent Freeman, Karrnel Sawitsky, Ben Plotnick and Eric Wright. They play three fiddles and a viola, all instrumental and they play with a passion and joy that is infectious. Their new cd "LIVE from the Art Farm" is an ambitious undertaking, raw and spontaneous with all the energy of the live performance and all the delight of the audience. Beautifully recorded to capture the performance in it's finest form.

In last month's column I announced the

closing of my store and I must have overstated my situation because I have been flooded with folks expressing their grief. I'm not going out of business! I will still be working festivals and doing mail order and I'm certainly not going over the cliff with the lemmings or consigning myself to the lap robe and chair in the sun. Cheer up people! You can still catch me at the store, 630-834-8108, until April 14th and online at store@rampantlion.com Slainté

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**Women of Concern
Luncheon
Friday, June 1st**



**Concern Honorees former
US Secretary of State
Madeleine Albright, (top) and
Dr. Joanne Smith, (left)
President and CEO of
Shirley Ryan Ability Lab
Below: A sign outside the
Maikona Girls Secondary
School in Marsabit
County, Kenya.**

*Photo: Kieran McConville
Story page 4*

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