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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



Twenty Years On

In 2007 the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland, composed of young people from both sides of the Border, and both parts of the sectarian divide, performed in Chicago's Symphony Centre. I remarked afterwards that the young musicians from the North were the first generation of schoolchildren from there since 1969 not to have grown up in an environment blighted by violence. The era of Peace had commenced with the IRA Cessation in August 1994 and had been cemented by the political settlement known as the Good Friday Agreement concluded after lengthy negotiations in 1998. The Agreement was twenty years old last month.

The occasion was marked in Belfast despite the immediate pall cast by the continued absence of a power sharing Northern Ireland Executive, one of the cornerstone institutions established under the Agreement. And despite also the looming threat to the economic, political, and social status quo throughout the island posed by the impact of Brexit, however it eventually pans out.

The attendance at the main event on 10 April included most of those politicians of various hues who had participated in the negotiations leading up to the Agreement. These included Bill Clinton, whose hands – on approach had probably been vital in helping to persuade doubters, as well as Senator George Mitchell, who had chaired the all-party negotiations. Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, who stayed with the negotiations despite the death of his mother during the fraught final week, was there, as was Tony Blair, who remarked at the time that he felt "the hand of history" on his shoulder. The group photograph includes also the former First Minister and Deputy First Minister for Northern Ireland, David Trimble and Seamus Mallon, as well as retired Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams together with representatives of minor parties.

The only major figure missing from the occasion was John Hume, sadly unable to attend through illness. This was particularly unfortunate given his role over the decades as a monumental and tireless worker for peace and reconciliation. He was there at the outset of the Civil Rights campaign. He was there through Sunningdale. He it was who conceived and worked at bringing in the

benign involvement of Irish American politicians. He was there during the dark days in the aftermath of the Hunger Strikes and the relentless violence

of the mid and late Eighties. He was the vital element in helping to bring Sinn Fein in from the cold when he undertook the dialogue with Gerry Adams, that process that eventually found fruition in the Downing Street Declaration of December 1993 and the cessation of violence that followed. The debt we owe him is enormous. John Hume stands out.

There were many people involved in contributing to bringing about peace. Tanaiste Simon Coveney described the Good Friday Agreement as a "child with many parents and godparents" and indeed it was – not just politicians but also dedicated and talented officials who never gave up trying and whose efforts and achievements behind the scenes are often overlooked. A landmark event recognising their contribution, prompted by the GFA anniversary, took place in Dublin in late March - a one day Conference in the Royal Irish Academy. Entitled "Reflections on the thirty-year Road to the Good Friday Agreement" the Conference focussed on the input and experience of Irish officials from several Government Departments, but chiefly from the Department of Foreign Affairs, in dealing with events in Northern Ireland since 1969.

Virtually all the senior officials and advisers involved, – most now retired - made contributions to panel discussions in four chronologically ordered segments. The first covered the early years from the origins, through Sunningdale (1973-4), to the New Ireland Forum (1983-4). The second dealt with the mid 1980s including the Anglo Irish Agreement (1985) and the early years of the Maryfield Secretariat. The third segment addressed the road to the cease fires via the discussions and negotiations which led to the Downing Street Declaration of December 1993. The final panel discussion took the story up to the Good Friday Agreement and its aftermath. The result overall was a fascinating insider account of the complexities involved and encountered in working through to a durable settlement. The proceedings were recorded and will constitute a valuable oral archive.

The Good Friday Agreement was very much a game changer. Thanks to it the North has had weapons decommissioning, the normalisation of security arrangements, including root and branch reform of the police, prisoner releases, progress on equality and

human rights, and, at the political level, the establishment of a power-sharing executive and a devolved legislature. These "Strand One" issues have been complemented by Cross-Border / North-South ("Strand Two") political institutions as well as some all-island economic bodies to enhance cooperation. The overwhelming endorsement of the Agreement in separate referenda (71% in favour in the North, 94% in the South) has seen the South give up its Constitutional claim to Northern Ireland and the enshrinement of the principles of self-determination and consent.

It has not all been positive, as the current political impasse (now over twelve months) at Stormont exemplifies. Yet we have been there before – the Executive has been suspended on several occasions, including a four and a half year period from 2002 to 2007. The issue which prompted Sinn Fein's withdrawal was hardly insurmountable – the refusal of Arlene Foster to step aside temporarily - but masked a number of parity of esteem issues, including the Irish Language, which again could surely be overcome. Cue Brexit; a deal was in the offing when the DUP's ten Westminster MP's, flushed with the hubris of keeping Teresa May in power, and staunchly pro-Brexit, scuppered it.

Any hope also that the Agreement would help "normal" politics to supplant tribal affiliations has so far not been realised. Indeed the chief political development of the last two decades has seen growth in support for Sinn Fein and the DUP, representing the more extreme rather than the middle, at the expense of the two centre parties – the SDLP and the Ulster Unionists – with little prospect of reversal; the moderate and non-sectarian Alliance Party remains mired at less than 10% of the vote. Nor has there been sufficient progress in reconciliation between the communities or in treating legacy issues adequately, while paramilitary activity, especially in racketeering, has yet to be addressed.

Nevertheless overall there has been a profound transformation in the North, with tourism booming and the quality of

life for its citizens across the board greatly improved. And, the most obvious political manifestation – that despite the suspensions, the DUP and Sinn Fein have learned to work together. The Agreement has changed the image of Northern Ireland immeasurably and led to major investments in hotels, in new jobs, and generated a widespread feel-good outlook. The Border has all but melted away and with it some at least of the paranoia and fear among unionists. By any standard the Agreement has succeeded. It is not perfect but what settlement ever is? Right now, however, there is uncertainty regarding Brexit. While a return to the nightmare of the past seems unlikely, there is no telling what will happen. A known unknown. There is little doubt that a restored Executive, pulling together, would help.

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My Dinner with an Irish Movie Star

By Mike Houlihan

One of my great ambitions in life was to be an Irish movie star. I kind of imagined I'd be this Peter O'Toole type character from MY FAVORITE YEAR, when O'Toole created the great character of Alan Swan doing live TV on the Sid Caesar show. He was charming, the ladies loved him, he told great stories and consumed huge quantities of booze while flipping off epigrams

wherever he went. But when they informed him that the show would be LIVE, he panicked. The kid who idolized him said, "What's the big deal? You're an actor!" O'Toole then brilliantly announced, "I'm not an actor, I'm a movie star!"

I'm way beyond the age of being an Irish movie star now, and long ago settled for being merely "eccentric". It's almost as much fun.

But last week I got to hang out

with a real Irish movie star. He's also the great actor, Barry Ward. He was in Chicago for the 21st European Union Film Festival screening of MAZE at The Gene Siskel Film Center on Easter Sunday. Barry was in the midst of shooting another film in Ireland and Easter was the only day he could make it to the windy city. Hence the scheduling of the artist in person on the High Holy Day.

Each year I help produce the Annual Irish American Movie Hooley with my partner Barbara Scharres at The Siskel Film Center, so I'm not exactly a stranger to Irish movie stars. We've hosted plenty of actors and directors from Ireland for the Hooley over the last four years, and I enjoy helping out with other Irish films screening at the Siskel. But leaving my family on Easter Sunday was not an option.

I volunteered to entertain Barry on Saturday night and Barbara very graciously invited him for Easter brunch at her home on Sunday. We recorded interviews with Barry in London for two weeks running on The Skinny & Houlihan Show and our pal Sean Ginnelly had him on Good Morning Ireland the week before, calling in from the Rome Irish Film Festival. I thought it would be tough getting an audience for the film on Easter Sunday, but appealed to many of our pagan listeners to catch the screening that afternoon. It worked too, they tell me the Siskel was packed!

On Saturday night I invited Barry to join my son Paddy and I at The Gage on Michigan Ave,

right around the corner from his hotel. As a man of simple means I had to figure out a way to find a host because I had no intention of washing dishes or feet for our Holy Saturday supper that night.

I sent my old friend and Gage proprietor Billy Lawless Jr. a text, "Hey Billy, I'm bringing Irish movie star Barry Ward to The Gage Saturday night, hoping to get comped, can you help?"

Billy immediately texted me back with "Who the f#*k is Barry Ward?"

I explained that Barry was the star of the film playing that weekend and had also starred in the Ken Loach classic "Jimmy's Hall", as Jimmy! "He's legit, google him!"

That night my son and I dined at the absolutely delightful Gage with an Irish movie star. He wasn't O'Toole, but he was charming, the ladies loved him, he told great stories and we consumed plenty of booze and Barry did indeed flip off an epigram or two between many laughs that evening. The folks at the Gage treated all three of us like movie stars and we left that night as friends after delivering a Chicago Failte to the Irish movie star. Thanks to you Billy Lawless Jr.

Unfortunately in my reverie I had forgotten to get a photo of us at the Gage! I sent a note to him requesting that he take a selfie there over the weekend, not expecting him to waste his time. But he came through and these photos attest to that fact. Also Susan Murphy got a great shot of Barry at Easter brunch with Barbara Scharres and Tim Bradbury.

So that's how we take care of our Irish cultural heroes in Chicago, whether it's for the European Union Film Festival or The Irish American Movie Hooley, we treat our guests like movie stars! Please save the dates of Friday, Saturday, Sunday Sept. 28, 29, and 30th for our Fourth Annual Irish American Movie Hooley, presented by Slane Irish Whiskey, so you too can meet our movie stars!

AND as we went to press, just received confirmation of a grant from Culture Ireland to bring three Irish filmmakers to Chicago next September!



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(l to r); Barbara Scharres, Tim Bradbury, and Barry Ward

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Family Friendly Prices and Activities at Gaelic Park's Irish Fest May 25, 26, 27, 28

Unlimited carnival rides, great entertainment and all kinds of fun exhibits for one low admission price of \$10 for adults and \$8 for kids (during first hour of each day) has to be one of the best deals in the southland all summer and it can be found at Gaelic Park's Irish Fest, 6119 W. 147th St, Oak Forest IL.

Online discounts include a four day pass for only \$28 when purchased by May 24th.

Throw in a petting zoo, horse exhibition, a stage dedicated to the wee folk and you have a great holiday adventure for one very low

admission price.

The leprechaun stage has all kinds of magic acts and face painters.

Irish Fest is not just for the youngsters, however. This indoor/outdoor festival will feature over 40 acts including Emmet Cahill, James Kilbane, The Fitzgeralds, The Gothard Sisters, Maggie Speaks, American English, Pigeon Kings, Backwest Music, Sophie & Fiachra, Turas, Rory Makem, Sean Wilson & Tony Mac. The Performing Arts stage located in the main building in the Celtic Room on the 2nd floor includes great one act Irish plays.

Admission includes all entertainment, unlimited carnival rides, parking, Irish step dancing competition, and various Irish exhibitions.

Hours are Friday, May 25 from 4pm to 11pm, Saturday, May 26, from 2pm to 11pm, Sunday, May 27, from 1pm to 11pm (Mass at 11.30am) and Monday, May 28 Memorial Day, from 1pm to 8pm.

Daily admission is \$15 for adults, and \$12 for seniors and kids aged 4-12 years. For information and additional on-line price discounts visit www.chicagogaelparkirishfest.org or call for tickets and information at (708) 687-9323



Tim Brophy of the Irish Society of County Will Running for Treasurer

Tim Brophy, a long standing leader of the Irish Society of County Will has been nominated by Democrats in the Joliet City Council to be their candidate for Will County treasurer in the Nov. 6 election.

Brophy was nominated to fill a vacancy on the ballot when no one ran for treasurer in the primary in March.

Brophy will be running against incumbent Treasurer Steve Weber, who was un-

opposed in the Republican primary. Democratic precinct



workers still need to collect at least about 1,000 petition signatures to put Brophy on the ballot.

Brophy was a Joliet council member from 1995 to 2011.

Brophy is the associate executive director for the North American Spine Society and a real estate broker for Dow Realty in Joliet.

He also serves as president of the Will County Habitat for Humanity, president of the Irish American Society of County Will, and is a member of the Joliet Arsenal Development Authority.



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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. This program is available to all eligible applicants, without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, sex, political affiliation or religion.

Peggy Roche Boyle, Integral Part of the Fabric of Chicago's Irish Community Passes Away Unexpectedly, at Age 73

**By Co-Authors:
Charles Brewick
(Friend of the Family)
Siobhan Boyle-Luedtke
(Daughter)**

steps of her father, the late Pat Roche, developing an absolute devotion to all things Irish from a very young age. She grew up on the west side of Chicago, 1 of 8 brothers and sisters.

She had her hand in so many things. She was an ambassador for anything and everything Irish. She helped her father on air with his Chicago Irish American radio program for years. Peggy organized an Irish singing group "The Traveling People." It was in this group that she met the love of her life, Jim Boyle. With Jim she raised a brood of 5 children which expanded to 15 grandchildren spanning almost 50 years. Irish dancing was one of her great loves. Peggy started teaching with her father at age 13, the two spent decades keeping the tradition for children and adults, alike. Peggy took over her father's Irish dancing school (Harp and Shamrock School) and

taught champion Irish dancers for years. When the demands of family became too great, she sent her young students to Jim McGing and Mark Howard, but she continued to teach adult classes at various locations, including St Xavier University for 10 years. She was certified by An Coimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha as a teacher and adjudicator and was an asset to the many Feiseanna, Oireachtas, and countless other competitions both in Chicago and around the world.

She remained a teacher and promoter of Irish dance her whole life. All of her children became involved, to one extent

eventually ended up on Peggy's doorstep. If she didn't know the answer to a question, she knew the person who would. When they showed up on her front porch, they would get a cup

would probably be a welcoming gift there to greet you. Of course Peggy knew the pub just around the corner that only the regulars visited. She knew all of the places to visit off the beaten path, to

experience Ireland at its best. You want to golf, Peggy would get you into the exclusive clubs. You want to watch soccer, Peggy would finagle the best seats. You wanted to go riding, Peggy knew the perfect stable. How could she keep all those relationships and all that information straight, we lesser beings had no idea and will never know.

Peggy's close friend for over 60 years, Kate Flanagan, explains "Peggy and I were life-long dancing partners and friends and shared a love of Irish culture, particular Irish music and dance. We were able to pass that enthusiasm



Peggy Roche Boyle

or another, some competing and entertaining nationally and internationally. If any child knew even one Irish step, Peggy would diddle an Irish melody, smile, and encourage the child to bring out his or her best abilities. Every child who sang or danced for her felt like a star. Her enthusiasm for anyone singing or dancing to Irish music was infectious. When she had a couple of spoons within reach, she would beat out amazingly complicated percussive beats to accompany the singing or dancing. Peggy's childhood friend, Sister Rosemary Connelly, explained "Hearing Peggy playing the spoons was a memorable treat few forgot. She seemed to know everyone who was Irish in Chicago and many throughout the U.S. At any ceili or dance competition, no matter where, it seemed that everyone knew and adored Peggy."

Peggy was involved in Irish American genealogy and history. Historians and graduate students would seek her out. Authors who were writing in relation to Irish American history,

of tea or a spirit and receive the answers they sought outright or be directed to the right person to ask. When you wanted to get the word out, you told Peggy. When you wanted to know what was going on, you asked her. Peggy was one of those people who was a clearing house, a font of information, the connecting tissue for friends, relatives, travelers, and students of all kinds.

Her love of everything Irish included the desire for everyone to visit the Emerald Isle. She ran a travel agency specializing in travel to Ireland called Roche Tours. You wanted a quiet B&B in the heart of Clare or Galway, Peggy knew just the place. You wanted to spend a night in a castle, Peggy knew one where you would be treated like royalty. You wanted an intimate hotel in the hustle and bustle of Dublin, Peggy knew of the place to fit your dream vacation. Not only that but when you got to the castle or B&B or hotel the owner/manager/ proprietor had a story to share about Peggy. When you got to your room there

onto our children (we each had 5 - including a Packy and Kathleen apiece) and they continue the tradition today. She encouraged me to become a certified Irish dance teacher and supported my Irish Dance school in Winona, MN for over 43 year. Peggy was an integral part of the research for my book, Steps in Time: The History of Irish Dance in Chicago. Without her able assistance, it would not be the comprehensive work that it is."

Peggy's son Seamus Boyle said "my mom was one of those people who never met a stranger. The first time you were introduced to her, you felt like her best friend. Her door was always open and our house usually crowded. No matter how many were at her table there was always room for one more. Such a huge chasm she leaves in so many of our lives. She will be truly and very deeply missed."

Her dear brother Michael Roche fondly recalls, "there is a missing Irish heartbeat today, but it still beats for her in all of us."

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Schumer Endorses New 'McGuinness Principles'

On the heels of personally meeting with the sons of the late Martin McGuinness, a former leader of the Irish Republican Army turned statesman, politician and peacemaker, who helped broker the historic Good Friday Agreement twenty years ago, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer endorsed the McGuinness Principles, a set of guidelines for the British and Irish governments, and all key stakeholders in the north of Ireland to fully realize several major commitments made in the Agreement.

"The torch of Martin McGuinness is being carried forward by his two sons, Fiachra and Emmett, who have courageously and correctly called on all parties to the Good Friday Agreements, including the British government, to uphold critical, yet unfulfilled elements of the Agreement, so that full equality, mutual respect, lasting peace and a shared prosperity can be fully realized in the North – and throughout all of Ireland," said U.S. Senator Charles Schumer.

"I had a productive and very informative meeting with the McGuinness brothers, Laborers International President Terry O'Sullivan, the AOH and Brehon Law Society, and am pleased to throw my full support behind the 'McGuinness Principles' and the worthy effort to energize the forward momentum to fully realize the promise of all critical parts of the historic Good Friday Agreement. That historic agreement, now 20-years old, did so much to bring the situation in the north from one of armed violence to peaceful coexistence and resolving conflict through politics – however slow and difficult that has proved. But more must be done now to fully realize its promises."

The McGuinness Principles, which were drafted collectively by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Brehon Law Societies, and the Office of New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, include four basic tenets:

1. The Enactment Of A Bill Of Rights

Per the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission was tasked with putting forward recommendations for an Irish Bill of Rights. In 2008, the Commission proposed official recognition of a broad range of social and economic rights in Northern Ireland, but successive British governments have failed to act on these recommendations. The McGuinness Principles affirm the urgent necessity that the rights of Ireland's citizens in the North be

protected in accordance with the Good Friday Agreement.

2. Full Statutory Equality For The Irish Language

The McGuinness Principles call for the British Government to honor its commitments in the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent St. Andrews Agreement of 2006 to "take resolute action to promote the [Irish] language; facilitate and encourage the use of the language in speech and writing in public and private life where there is appropriate demand" by establishing full statutory equality for the Irish language.

3. Equal Justice For Victims of the Conflict And Their Families

Many victims of the conflict in the North and their families have waited decades to learn the full truth about what happened to them and their loved ones. The McGuinness Principles call for funding so that formal inquests into accusations by all parties be allowed to move forward.

4. A Referendum On Unity To Affirm Irish Self-Determination

Under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, the British government committed to formally "recognize that it is for the people of Ireland alone, by agreement between the two parts respectively and without external impediment, to exercise their right of self-determination on the basis of consent." The Good Friday Agreement committed the British government to not making "any change in the status of Northern Ireland save with the consent of a majority of its people." In light of Brexit, which was not supported by a majority of voters in Northern Ireland, the McGuinness Principles call for the British government to adhere to the terms of the Good Friday Agreement by allowing the Irish people to determine their future through a referendum on unity.

The McGuinness Principles are supported by more than a dozen Irish-American organizations: the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the New York City Brehon Law Society, Nassau Brehons, Suffolk Brehons, Westchester Brehons, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, American Irish Historical Society, the James Connolly Irish-American Labor Coalition, Irish National Caucus, International Transport Workers Union, Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union, the Institute of Irish Studies at Molloy College, Laborers' International Union of North America, and the Hudson Valley Irish Center.

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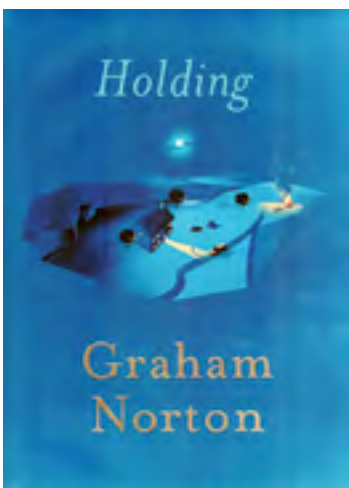
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By: **Graham Norton**
Atria Books/Simon and Schuster

A mechanical digger turns up human bones at the building site. This happens near the village of Duneen in west Co. Cork. There is a huge hole in the skull. The person was murdered! The police observe that the bones are from a young



person and they have been buried for twenty to twenty-five years. Duneen is an idyllic village, but there is an unseen reality. The police investigation reveals a reality of suppressed emotions and unfulfilled lives. Gossip focuses on Tommy Burke, who disappeared those many years ago. When he

disappeared, people said that his complicated love life caused him to suddenly leave on a bus for Cork city. The local guard decides to find out if anyone actually saw him get on that bus.

Holding is Graham Norton's debut novel. He was born in 1963 in a suburb of Dublin, and raised in Bandon, Co. Cork. He studied English and French at UCC, then attended London's Central School of Speech and Drama. Norton is a popular TV talk show host in the U.K., and lives in London.

Norton's language is plain and direct, almost conversational. His writing is not subjective or obscure.

Norton's writing skill is strongest at showing the long-hidden emotions and suppressed inner lives of the characters to show us how important it is to live life and not to defer living until a problem-free time in the future.

Quotes you may like are:

One of the characters had been in love with the young man: "Since Tommy had left her brokenhearted, she had shut down that side of her life. For a quarter of a century, she had not allowed herself to feel anything for a man..."

About three unmarried sisters: "Life had taught them well. Feelings were to be feared, pain was

to be avoided...and if that meant not experiencing joy, then so be it."

A middle-aged woman "looked at girls now and was amazed at all the choices they had. They could go anywhere and do anything. Sometimes, she was jealous, but on the other days..." she was happy to see changes in Irish society.

Barlow Laid Bare

By: **John McAllister**
Glenlish Publications

The mystery is set in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, in 1960. As the mystery unfolds, McAllister delightfully shows us the society of the times too.

John Barlow began serving as a policeman in 1936. And as he says, felt "responsible for a town of people." Policemen were such highly respected members of the community, that they were often not even armed.

My grandfather would understand that. He too was a policeman in rural Ireland. When he, or Barlow, were on patrol, they were completely on their own. They had no "back-up," no radio, and usually no gun. Then, a policeman could only rely on his confident demeanor that demanded respect. He had to rely also on his intelligence and "street smarts." His inner strength made him able to stare-down an adversary.

Despite his appearance of great emotional strength, we see that Barlow has all the fears and fragility of other humans. But he



has triumphed over his fears and because of this, we see him as a truly strong person.

John Barlow served in World War II. When he returned to civilian life, society hadn't changed much. This was true for the late 1940's and early 1950's. But by the late 1950's and early 1960's, society and policing had changed completely.

Here he is waiting to talk with the Inspector of his station; he "focused his gaze on the posters coming into the province. In his innocence, he had believed there were only two drugs to worry about; hashish and cocaine. The posters gave a list of drugs he'd barely heard of."

The mystery develops: he finds a strange plant in his garden. He pulls it out, and too late realizes it is poisonous. He almost dies, and is lucky to be rushed to the hospital. It takes many days for him to recover. He was thankful that he discovered it and not his daughter.

A body is found of a person killed with his gun. Then a gas can is planted in his shed. All of this could cause him to be tried for murder. He is astonished at "the amount of personal hate that some-

one had for him. Who? Why?"

Barlow reviews his arrests and the criminals he has dealt with, but can think of none with the skill and determination to do these things.

The author, John McAllister, is a lifelong resident of Ballymena. He is married and has two children. He is an accountant, but found time to earn a Master's Degree in Philosophy at Trinity College Dublin.

These quotes will tell you much about the subtle beauty of the book.

In the moonlight, Barlow "stared out over the fields of wheat watching a vagrant wind moving the heads in an elegant swath this way, then that. The wheat was like a lake of yellow in a dark green landscape...Wisps of clouds appeared in the sky, making moonlight flicker uncertainty."

"Lug (pronounced Loo) is the Celtic god of the sun. The rays from his radiance bring warmth and light for the world." On the harvest feast of Lug, his followers "held service in his honor," as they had for thousands of years.

I love the low-key, dry humor McAllister lets Barlow use.

In the police station interview room where Inspector Harvey is gleefully trying to frame Barlow, Officer Pierson, who hates Barlow: "put a cup of tea in front of him... the buggers spat in it, thinks Barlow. He passes the cup to Inspector Harvey (who Barlow despises) and helped himself to another... Not by a flinch did he betray his enjoyment at the look of horror in Pierson's face."

Later Barlow asks where a person is and is told: "He's in Belfast talking to the bankers." Barlow says, "He'll get nowhere with that lot. They only lend you an umbrella when it's a dry day."

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With Dawn of a New Day Comes the Same 'Troubles'

Do you remember what happened on June 23rd, 2016? Well, for one thing, it was my 17th birthday. If you forgot, don't worry, I don't take it personally. The other, admittedly smaller, thing that occurred on that day was the United Kingdom (UK) referendum to leave the European Union (EU).

Now I know what you're thinking: "Oh yeah, I forgot that happened" and then "Wait, did that ever actually happen?" The answer to that question is no, it hasn't happened (not yet anyway). The UK has been dragging its feet on the whole process of leaving the EU for the past couple of years, but the deadline to leave is fast approaching—they're scheduled to formally leave the EU on March 29th, 2019.

The next thought you'll prob-

ably have is "What's this got to do with anything? This Conor O'Connor guy is wasting my time!" Alright, I get it, I do. But hear me out: Under the current political arrangement in Ireland, Irish citizens don't have to show their passport when they cross into Northern Ireland (the six northeastern counties governed by the UK). That could all change if the UK follows through on their promise to leave the EU.

The last time there was any sort of division between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, a lot of terrible stuff happened. "The Troubles" began 50 years ago and, some would argue, continue to this day. The Good Friday Agreement of 1998 between the Republic of Ireland and the UK created stability in the region and laid the foundations

for lasting peace. Those foundations could be compromised by Brexit.

While the circumstances that brought on "The Troubles" are much different than the ones that could bring on what would inevitably become "The Troubles 2.0," the consequences a hard border would have on the residents of Ireland and Northern Ireland could be catastrophic. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair has said that the removal of visible signs marking the border in Ireland were an important part of the Good Friday Agreement, explaining that having few border markers would represent "part of the nationalist aspiration" to have "an open border between North and South."

There have been hints of trouble brewing in Northern Ireland in the two years since the Brexit referendum. According to the New York Times, "power-sharing arrangements at the legislature in Stormont in Belfast—one of the central pillars of the [Good Friday] agreement—have broken down amid disputes over how to deal

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with the legacy of 'The Troubles' and a disagreement over Irish language rights." As a result, Northern Ireland has been running without an executive in office since January of 2017.

The separation between Northern Ireland and the rest of the island has been a source of contention ever since Ireland's successful revolution ended in 1921. That being said, no one wants to see instability return to the region. Since the start of "The Troubles," almost 3,500 people have lost their lives. Thousands more became permanently injured, mentally scarred, or worse. It is imperative

that peace be the priority of British legislators that are working to solve the many problems posed by Brexit. If we are to avoid starting a second period of unrest, the border between North and South must remain permeable in the coming years.

I implore Theresa May and Leo Vadakar to find a solution that will preserve the most lives and ensure continued stability and nonviolence in a dis-unified region. The decision they choose to make regarding Northern Ireland will have a lasting impact on the world. Here's to hoping they make the right choice.

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When I was told what this month's paper was focused on - suicide awareness - I instantly knew what I needed to write about. It is something that is not often discussed openly, and one that I, in my almost 30 years of life, have recently began to realize is one of the most important things we can do for ourselves. So ladies and gents, I would like to take a little time out of all the usual happenings around town to talk about self love.

Being one who has always struggled with self confidence, it was hard for me to make the mental switch to allow myself to fully

accept all that makes me, me. Ginger and all. Every curve, under-achievement, and "flaw" that I saw in myself. It is easy for one to get obsessed over one minor detail you may not love about yourself, that you can neglect to realize all the other amazing attributes you do have.

Who you are as a person is not based on what you look like or your career. Your social status or bank account. As cliché as it sounds, who we are is so much more than what we look like on the outside. It is who we are on the inside. I'm guessing you are prob-

ably sitting there rolling your eyes at this very overused statement. I too have been there, reading some article hoping to get more insight on how to better myself, rolling my eyes at the 'it's what's on the inside that counts' statements.

However, the more time I have spent on myself, by myself, focusing on just myself, I have realized that this statement holds so much power. In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, we seem to get stuck in a routine that makes us focus on everything but ourselves. Work, children, significant others, family, friends. The list goes on. We forget to take time for ourselves, to focus on what it is that we need internally.

Taking a little time for yourself; whether that is meditating, exercising, journaling, reading, having that 10 minutes of quiet in the morning before the kids wake up.. etc.. can cause a monumental shift in your overall well being.

Self love is a very important aspect of who we are. I think it may even be the most important. In order to make others happy and be truly genuinely happy in life, you must first and foremost be happy with yourself. Which fully starts by making sure you are happy on the inside.

I am an advocate for self love and acceptance and believe it is never too late to make a change in your life.

I have many friends who are married and have children and I actively like discussing how they can very easily help better themselves mentally and physically - which in turn will help them be better for their children and marriage.

I have recently started making a change in my own life, making sure I take the time to slow down and focus on myself. In doing so, I have found an outlet where I can not only help myself, but maybe help others too. You can follow me along

on this journey through Instagram - @ginginthecity - and my soon to be launched website. For motivation, inspiration, healthy recipes, happenings around Chicago, and much much more!

As part of this new journey, I have started to experiment with recipes with a goal to make them a bit healthier. For the wonderful readers of *Irish American News*, I have decided to focus on traditional Irish dishes and give them a healthy spin. For the next few months, I will be trying out a new recipe and sharing it with all of you!

For this month, I decided to try an old Irish favorite, Shepards Pie, but with a twist! Steamed and mashed cauliflower is used in place of mashed potatoes. I found this recipe on tiredandtasty.com, but tweaked it a bit.

I cooked this last night for my two junk food loving, healthy recipe hating cousins- who both devoured the whole dish! My cousin Wyatt even declared, "Wow, this is amazing! I can't even taste the difference between the cauliflower versus actual mashed potatoes!" That right there is a WIN in my book! So please, give this recipe a go and let me know what you think!

A few notes :

Instead of canned, used fresh green beans and corn (about a cup and a half each - steamed for about 5 minutes).

If you are a lover of that mashed topping, I would suggest trying it with two heads of cauliflower. I used one large one, but felt that a thicker topping of it would be even more delicious! For spices, the more the merrier!

Ingredients

1 lb. ground turkey
1/2 med. onion, diced
1 tbsp. olive oil
1 tsp. garlic salt
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. oregano
1 (15.25 oz.) can of corn, drained
1 (14.5 oz.) can of green beans, drained
1 (15 oz.) can tomato sauce
1 head cauliflower, roughly chopped (removing center)
1/2 c. shredded cheddar cheese

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350.
Steam cauliflower until soft; approx. 10-15 minutes.
While cauliflower is steaming, heat olive oil on medium-high in a large pan and saute onions until translucent; 3-5 minutes.

Add ground turkey; brown and season with garlic salt, salt & oregano.

Add corn, green beans and tomato sauce. Heat through-out.

Once cauliflower has softened, drain all water and mash with a potato masher, hand mixer, or if you're like me and don't have any of these gadgets, a good old fork does just the trick!

Spoon meat mixture into the bottom of a casserole dish and cover with prepared mashed cauliflower. Sprinkle the pie with shredded cheese and bake for 10-15 minutes until cheese is melted. **I kept it in for about 6 minutes longer on broil to crisp up the cheese a bit.



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Clutter Buster

By Rita Emmett

Procrastinate No More!

Seriously – How Many Magazines Do You Need??

Your success does not rely on HAVING a ton of information, but on how you select, manage and use the small amount of information you need.

~ Rita Emmett,

The Clutter-Busting Handbook

If I asked, "Would you pay money, would you pay your hard-earned cash, to increase your paper clutter?" Most of you would say,

"No, never! Why would I pay to add to it?"

Well, that's exactly what you are doing each time you subscribe to a magazine you don't need or read.

How do you decide if you're receiving a "too-much-of-a-good-thing" magazine? When your magazine arrives, do you shout, "Hooray! It's here! I'm going to read it before I fall asleep tonight"? Or do you mumble, "Oh, good... another issue...I'll read it after I catch up on the past six month's worth that I haven't found time

to read..."

Ask yourself, "Why did I subscribe to this magazine?"

For the technical articles? The health tips? The recipes? Investment information? Then tear out the articles you need, file them and toss the remaining pages into your friendly wastebasket or recycling bin.

Are you buying it to read every single word?

If so, do you have time to read the entire issue each month? If yes, fine, there's no problem. If you don't have the time, stop and reevaluate the situation.

Would you be better off buying a copy or reading it online every few months when you do have the time to enjoy it, rather than letting back issues accumulate, and feeling guilty? Are you buying them because they contain important information that is necessary for your career or hobby? Then create a place to store or file them and accept the fact that you don't

have time to

read every word, but they are available as reference material. There's also a chance that the same reference material is available on the internet.

Years ago, when helping a friend move to a new house, I noticed that among all the boxes were eighteen years of National Geographic magazines. The guy explained the pictures are so wonderful, they just can't throw them out." I asked how often he had looked at the pictures in old copies. He replied, "Never".

Eighteen year's worth was a lot of boxes. Heavy boxes! And I was one of the turkeys schlepping those boxes.

If you have the space to store magazines and you are happy to be the caretaker of them, then

fine. No problem. But if you are ready to let go of them, consider donating them to a hospital or a library or to your doctor's office. Perhaps a teacher or scout leader could use magazines with

wonderful photos. Or simply put them in a recycling bin.

Once you accept that your world won't end when you courageously get rid of old or unread magazines, you will no longer be overwhelmed by all that paper clutter coming into your life.

Also, you won't be spending your hard-earned cash to have all those unread magazines stacking up in the corner adding to your guilt and worse – adding to your paper clutter.

And if you are on the brink of subscribing to a new one, ask yourself, "Seriously – how many magazines do you need?"

HAPPY CLUTTER-BUSTING
Rita Emmett is a "Recovered Pack Rat", Professional Speaker, and author of *The Clutter-Busting Handbook*, To subscribe to her free monthly "Anticrastination Tip Sheet", www.RitaEmmett.com 847-699-9950 or REmmett412@aol.com.

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'Homecoming – Live From Ireland'

In Champaign on June 14th and Rosemont on June 17th

Multi-platinum international music sensation, CELTIC WOMAN returns with their brand new live CD and DVD: 'Homecoming – Live From Ireland'. Recorded live in Dublin, Ireland, in September 2017, Homecoming features singers Susan McFadden, Mairéad Carlin, Éabha McMahon and the group's new violinist, Tara McNeill.

Since its debut, global musical sensation Celtic Woman's concerts continue to touch the hearts of a huge audience that spans the globe. Both an accomplished recording ensemble and a world-class performing collective, Celtic Woman celebrates Ireland's rich musical and cultural heritage, while continuing its remarkable legacy of introducing some of Ireland's most talented singers and musicians onto the world stage. Celtic Woman successfully melds the traditional and contemporary.

Following its debut on PBS in 2005, the group has achieved massive success encompassing twelve chart-topping albums, eight DVDs and nine public television specials leading to sales of over ten million

albums, with platinum success in nine countries. Each of its CDs – including 2016's *Destiny*, which was nominated for a Grammy in the World Music category, has debuted at #1 on Billboard's World Albums chart. The group has been named Billboard Magazine's #1 World Albums' Artist six times.

Celtic Woman continues to



transcend national and cultural boundaries to celebrate the timeless emotion of Ireland's centuries-old heritage. A one-of-a-kind live act, Celtic Woman combines the country's finest musical talents with an epic stage production to present a uniquely inspiring live experience. As a touring powerhouse, the group has performed

for over four million fans across 23 countries and six continents, with an especially devoted following in America. The show is renowned for its high-quality entertainment, exceptional musical performances and stunning visual productions, enthralling audiences of all ages. Homecoming captures this chapter of their extraordinary musical

journey in this stunning live CD and DVD.

Celtic Woman are on tour in the US to support this new recording nationally and will appear in Champaign on June 14th at the Virginia Theater and in Rosemont on June 17th at the Rosemont Theater all tickets at

www.Celticwoman.com

Druid's Acclaimed Production Of Waiting For Godot Comes to Chicago Shakespeare Theatre This Summer

*"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 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 pro-

duction, 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.

Single tickets are on sale now for \$68-\$88 (subject to change). Special discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Box Office at 312.595.5600 or visit the Theater's website at www.chicagoshakes.com.

For full details on the tour visit www.druid.ie

Waiting for Godot will be on the WorldStage at Chicago Shakespeare, May 23-June 3, 2018.

What the critics said:

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

'5* - *Exceptional ... Miraculous ... As vaudevillian as it is philosophical ... I never wanted them to stop.*' *The Irish Times*

'A welcome reinvention ... A must-see.' *The Sunday Business Post*

'I felt once again its tragicomic grandeur.' *The Guardian*

'5* - *Startling, penetrating ... This arresting production reaps rich dividends.*' - *Broadway World*

'5* - *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.



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Hopeful Hopkins by Desmond Egan

Goldsmith Press. 120 pages
Reviewed by
Kevin McEneaney

The cheerful title of Egan's book echoes through its eight chapters. This collection of essays emphasizes the spiritual and artistic vision of Hopkins an inter-

twined helix. In part, Egan reacts to middle class biographies out of touch with the difficulties and rigors of Victorian life, as well as often neglected deep religious roots of Hopkins the priest. That often dour focus on the melancholy circumstances of Hopkins'

introverted character favored by many critics manages to obscure the real achievement of Hopkins as transcendental mystic and eloquent poet. The amateur psychological tendency to privilege art as an expression of neurosis results in an amusing essay that satirizes such an approach as lacking in common sense and a basic misunderstanding of the artistic project.

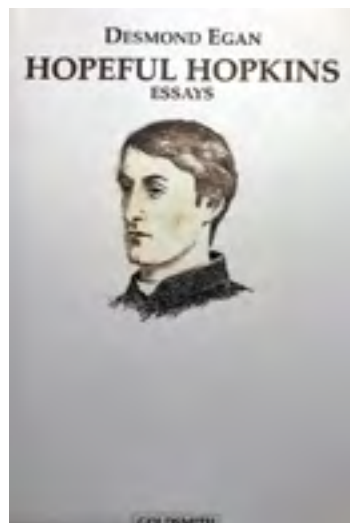
Like any unrecognized artist of great merit, there is a tinge of self-pity in certain moments of Hopkins' life, as his all-too candid letters and poems display, yet this remains countered by great heights of fervid, hopeful affirmation for not only his life but the human situation. Egan points out that dour commentary neglects those aspects of Hopkins as priest. With corrective lens Egan prefers to examine aspects of mystical transcendence in the poems and letters of Hopkins. There is a whole chapter devoted to "As Kingfishers Catch Fire." Yes, there are brief moments of despair in Hopkins' lesser works, yet his greater poems express exultation, celebration of a Divine vision, and hope to communicate that vision to others: "And, true poet that he is, metaphor is at the



Desmond Egan

mysterious heart of it."

The chapter on Hopkins as a major node that influenced the development of 20th century poetry speaks of Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams, John Berryman, and T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets. Somewhat ironically,



the influence of Hopkins was predominantly secular with the first two. Egan points out that Pound's "make it new" motto was more apt in the case of Hopkins than of any poet Pound ever knew.

There is an interesting chapter on the profound influence of Hiberno-English in the language of Hopkins' poems during the five years spent in Dublin and the Irish countryside near Newbridge where Hopkins composed some of his finest poems. An insightful chapter of the artist as internal exile compares Hopkins to the plight of Oliver Goldsmith and Patrick Kavanagh.

The penultimate chapter of the book, an essay on James Joyce, is astonishing because of the new ground that Egan breaks with his analysis of Joyce's references to Hopkins in *Finnegans Wake*. It is remarkable that the hydra-headed legion of Joyce scholars have not brought Hopkins to bear on Joyce's mischievous funnery of words. Educated by the Jesuits, Joyce certainly had a belated eye on the most famous Jesuit resurrection in Ireland. Any library that boasts a serious collection of books on Joyce should purchase this book for this brilliant essay that illumines the conclusion of *Finnegans Wake*. Egan's essay is likely to birth other essays that follow in his footsteps.

There is an eloquent, perceptive, and lively Introduction by Professor Robert Smart of Quinnipiac University. Although heavily footnoted, Egan clear prose makes these essays an enjoyable read for an average literature audience while he amusingly needles academics for being occasionally asleep at the whirling wheel of poetry.

—Kevin T. McEneaney

Kevin T. McEneaney is a freelance writer and former adjunct professor. The cultural reporter for *The Millbrook Independent*, McEneaney is also the author of several books, including *Russell Banks: In Search of Freedom* (2010) and *Tom Wolfe's America: Heroes, Pranksters, and Fools* (2009), a Choice Outstanding Academic Title.

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The French Disconnection

Somebody asked me a few months ago about the first time I left home to travel out of the Country. As I recalled the events, I meant to write about it at the time. However, better late than never,



the following are some details of that great odyssey when I was a nineteen year old!

Having worked a few school summer holidays in the Hilltop Hotel in Youghal, Co. Cork, I decided I would like to spend the summer of 1977 working in a French Hotel. I picked a Hotel in a place called St. Lary out of a cata-

logue one night, wrote to the Proprietor in French, and they asked me to come along in the middle of June. That was the first in a long series of judgemental errors; St. Lary was in the foothills of the Pyrenees, and their second language would turn out to be Spanish and

not English, as I would soon find out to my cost.

They started me off in the kitchen where I couldn't do too much damage. I had a great grasp of written and oral French at the time, but there was a huge difference in dialect between where I had ended up now and the five years of Parisian French I had learned up to

then. Then the nightmare began to kick in. The French guy who was Supervisor in the Restaurant left after a stand up row with Madame Clouzet one afternoon, and they asked me to step into his position. It was a bit of a nightmare at first, but I soon switched to thinking, speaking and writing in French fully and it looked like I might actually get away with it.

Wednesday Afternoon's were a nightmare for me, though. We each had to take a turn to spend an Afternoon in Reception, and Wednesday was my afternoon. I thought I was doing a great job taking bookings from families who wanted to book rooms in the Hotel that night. At about 10pm each Wednesday night, without fail, there would be a sound of raised voices and panic coming from the Reception area. I would then be hauled out from the Restaurant to explain the lack of commonality between the bookings and the amount of people who had actually turned up. Week by week, it was a repeatable scene that could slide effortlessly into an episode of 'Fawlty Towers'.

There was another strange occurrence in the cellar where I went each morning to collect the wines for lunch. On some mornings there would be a smashed bottle and a label on the ground but not a single drop of the red wine to be found anywhere! I told the owner about this, and we were all puzzled. The mystery was solved one particular evening when I had to dash down to the cellar unexpect-

edly for a bottle of local wine. The family cat, Minou, was licking the red wine off the floor! She would go to the top shelves, where the most expensive bottles of red were stored, push them on to the ground and then go down and drink all the spilled wine. God Bless you little Minou, and your expensive taste!

And then there was the drink. I hardly drank at all before this trip and I remember having a few pints of Carling beer in Youghal but didn't like the taste of it. My system was to get a fair shock over the next few months.

I got to know and hang around with the Owner's son, Remy, who was the Head Chef. Some mornings, about 5am, we would drive into the mountains before work with a few bottles of Beaujolais and watch the native 'Isard' deer jump vertically from cliff to cliff. In the afternoons we would take a drive to the local taverns in the

mountains and have generous amounts of beer and ricard pastis. Every night, after work, we would head off to the night club for a few bottles of gin. This schedule was repeated for seven nights every week for the total amount of weeks I spent there!

It was largely a Basque country area and the people in the village were very nice to me. They thought I was a full blooded Republican from Ireland, and I just went along with it! It was a great experience, and I fully believe that young people should be encouraged to travel abroad as early as possible in their lives. Very soon the reality of life and living will kick in and there will be little time available for personal exploration. The perfect journey is circular, the joy of departure and the joy of returning home once again. By the way, that year was also the wettest summer in the Pyrenees - in living memory!



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Review: The Gentleman Caller

By: Phillip Dawkins -
Reviewed by: Frank West

Wow! What acting! The performances are vivid, dynamic, and intimate. The play has only two actors. And they are on the stage for the whole two hours. The actors are Rudy Galvan, who plays Tennessee Williams, and Curtis Edward Jackson, as William Inge.

bides time in St. Louis before the Goodman theater, pre-Broadway try-out of the play he was entitling 'The Gentleman Caller,' critic Inge invites the young playwright to his garden apartment for a supposed interview and hopeful tryst. When the two are reunited in a Chicago hotel room after witnessing Tennessee's masterful play, retitled



Thanks to director Cody Estle for eliciting those great performances. The result is a fine example of the transformative power of theatre. Quoting the press release: "The Gentleman Caller is based on the true story of the meeting, friendship, and sexual tryst of Tennessee Williams and William Inge."

The play "imagines what might have happened behind closed doors... They are now regarded as two of America's finest playwrights, but in the fall of 1944, Inge was a dissatisfied arts critic for the 'St. Louis Star Times,' and Tennessee was an 'emerging' playwright yet to experience anything close to success. As Tennessee

'The Glass Menagerie,' it sparks a relationship which radically alters the...American Theatre."

The play encourages us to accept ourselves. And what makes us the way we are? Tennessee answers the question: "A playwright is made the same as anyone else—by their parents." And he says in a quote that is not from the play: "Everybody is nothing until they are loved."

Now thru May 27 at the Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark St., Chicago. Thur, Fri, and Sat at 8:00pm and Sun. at 3:30pm. Tickets \$32-\$46. Thursdays, patrons under 30 can purchase tickets for \$15. 773-338-2177 or raven theatre.com



It Takes A Mentor

In an age of post-clerical abuse, scandals and the like there is general distrust of all things religious. There is good reason for this sort of thinking but I'd like to offer the following story as another perspective. At fifteen-years-old, I left secondary school to enter the workforce. Being among a large group of boys who took advantage of leaving before completing any examinations, I was excited to 'strike out'. My academic life, up until then, had been nothing to boast about. I'd failed every mathematics and English test. My history results were mediocre, and the only bright light in my education record was art. Geography was a close second to art but when our teacher experienced a mental breakdown we were blamed for his ill health and refused any further study of the subject.

Most of my secondary education took place in the heart of a republican stronghold during the height of the Troubles. My final year at school culminated with being housed in prefabricated huts surrounded by a steel fence. Education was the least of our teachers concerns. We were rioters, potential recruits for the IRA, and as such not to be trusted. However, herding together a group of teenage boys is a recipe for disaster, especially when you try to fence them in. Gangs formed, alliances with bullies became necessary for survival, and every day brought new challenges.

I had no idea what I wanted to be when I left school. None of the usual trades appealed to me. I would never be eligible for a career since they required qualifications that I didn't have. So, with a friend of mine, we started our apprenticeship in joinery (carpentry). For anyone who knows me, this choice of trade

will be a laughing matter. I'm not the slightest bit inclined to being handy. My DIY extends to changing lightbulbs. In the first year of my apprenticeship, my instructor advised me to find something less dangerous. His advice came from witnessing my fight with a band saw and breaking the saw. Added to which, he was incapable of showing his despair when it came to seeing the results of my work.

I kept at it for a while, but my labour, Herculean to me, was in vain. I joined an ecumenical community. If I couldn't be trusted to run a piece of wood through a plane, I pretty safe at running off at the mouth, well, almost. I still have trouble in venturing into areas of discourse where angels fear to tread. However, I did seem to have a knack for learning new ideas. My brain was a sponge for philosophy, theology and literature. I was a ferocious debater, though untamed and undisciplined in my study.

It wasn't until I met Ian Petit, a kindly Benedictine monk, that my life changed course. Ian was an accomplished speaker, always in demand, and, for some reason, he took me under his wing. I spent two years living in a parish in Preston, England, under his tutelage. It was nothing formal. He was a friend who saw potential where I saw none. In those two years, I began to see a world outside of my limited, territorial, thinking. Derry and Northern Ireland still had claim over my thoughts but my mind was no longer held so tightly in its vice.

When my time in Preston came to an end, I decided to return to Derry. Ian understood the pull towards the familiar had on me but was afraid that I would simply regress in the absence of any meaningful stimuli. Before I left England, he made me promise that I would pursue an education. He didn't want to break my spirit, or create some kind of

Eliza Dolittle. Instead, he wanted me to use the potential I had to good effect. Ian, as an educator himself, believed that education was not about what you put into someone's mind, but what you draw out of them. His progressive approach to learning was inspirational. So inspirational that I did what he suggested.

I enrolled in a university access course studying Sociology, History, and English. In an environment free of fences, mentally and physically, I excelled. Completing the course with the highest honours, I was admitted into university where I complete three degrees in English (B.A, M.A, Ph.D). The failed woodworker, restless teenager, had found his mind unfettered among the beautiful words of others. I had proved that I could do something, if only to myself and it felt good.

Sadly, Ian did not survive to see me graduate with my doctorate. He passed away while I was completing my dissertation. When I went to see him at Ampleforth Abbey in Yorkshire, England, he was very sick but also proud. He had inspired me to become more than I thought possible. The untamed mind, still a bit of a troublemaker, was at least a bit more polished in his delivery. When I think back to his influence on me, and I listen to those who have suffered by other less caring individuals in the church, it makes me thankful to have had such a positive experience.

Mentors are those who inspire us to be more than we think we can be. They do not control, nor abuse their power. Everyone should have someone in their life who enables them to become their own person. Someone who can gently nudge them in the right direction without compromising their sense of autonomy. A mentor is friend whose influence lasts long after they are gone. Ian was such a person. So, when I sit in the service that I attend and it comes to remembering those who have died, I think of him and thank God for peopling my life with a priest who lived up to his vocation.



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Cháirde

We've asked people what they like best about Chicago Gaelic Park's Irish Fest, and we get many different answers. Some, like me, treasure the opportunity to discover new bands and enjoy a wide variety of music including traditional Irish, ballads and rebel songs, Irish rock, Irish and American country, and American pop and rock. Others enjoy the theatre, and are looking forward to the debut of the Junior Gaelic Park Players. Some come to dance with their friends or to perform or watch dance, or to compete at the Chicago Feis. Younger guests enjoy the unlimited carnival rides while their parents are off

enjoying the music. And many enjoy all of the above, along with the chance to be with their family and friends, and with friends they have yet not met.

First time visitors are impressed with the size and the scope of the fest, and appreciate the choice of six entertainment stages, two of which are indoors. They enjoy seeing multiple bands and moving freely from covered stage to covered stage. If you haven't been to the largest Irish Fest in Illinois before, we hope you will join us this year.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan

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Fri	May 4	Ray Gavin	7:30pm
Sat	May 5	Vocal Illusion	8:30pm
Wed	May 9	Frank Rossi (Rib Night)	6:00pm
Fri	May 11	Jerry & Kara Eadie	7:30pm
Sat	May 12	Kieran Byrne	8:30pm
Fri	May 18	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Sat	May 19	Bernie Glim	8:30pm
Fri	May 25	Ray Gavin	7:30pm
May 25-26-27-28 IRISH FEST WEEKEND			

NO COVER CHARGE

Chicago Gaelic Park
6119 W. 147th Street • Oak Forest, IL
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2018 CGP Calendar of Events 2018

MAY

May 2	Monthly Musical Luncheon*	Noon
	Music by Joe McShane	
May 6	Classic Carvery: Music by Joe McShane	3:30pm
May 9	Ladies Auxiliary	7:30pm
May 13	Classic Carvery: Mother's Day	
	Music by Ray Gavin	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		
	Lessons 7pm/Ceili	7:30pm
Sunday Evening CGP Radio Live WCEV 1450 AM		7:05-9:00pm



CGP Office 708.687.9323 www.chicagogaelpark.org

Visit the CGP Library in the Shamrock Room



Celebrate Mother's Day at Gaelic Park

Sunday May 13, 2018

Make your reservations now!

Enjoy a wonderful all-you-can-eat dinner buffet with soup, an extensive salad bar, prime rib, baked ham, chicken vesuvio, a potato bar with all the toppings, vegetables, and penne pasta with marinara. The children's station features chicken tenders, French fries, corn and mac n cheese. Cookies, brownies & ice cream with all of your favorite toppings for dessert!

Musical entertainment by Ray Gavin

Dinner is served from 3 to 6pm, entertainment lasts until 8:00pm

Reservations are required—and must be paid in advance

Adults \$26.00, Children 4 to 12 \$12.00

Admission includes dinner and entertainment—Cash bar

Call 708-687-9323 for reservations.





Chicago Gaelic Park

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Irish Fest Schedule

FRIDAY, MAY 25th

\$8 Admission 4pm-5pm Only!

EMERALD STAGE

4:15-5:45pm - GERARD HAUGHEY & SEAN O'DONNELL
6:00-6:30pm - McCORMACK-FAY DANCERS
7:00-8:30pm - THE FITZGERALDS
9:00-10:30pm - THE GOTHARD SISTERS

CELTIC STAGE

4:15-5:45pm - BACKWEST MUSIC
6:00-6:30pm - ELISH SULLIVAN SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE
7:00-8:30pm - DANCING NOODLES
9:00-11:00pm - MAGGIE SPEAKS

CROSSROADS STAGE

5:00-5:45pm - THE FITZGERALDS
6:15-7:00pm - THE GOTHARD SISTERS
7:30-8:15pm - BACKWEST MUSIC
8:30-10:00pm - LIAM DURKIN

TARA STAGE

4:15-5:45pm - JOE CULLEN
6:00-6:30pm - CROSS KEYS DANCERS
7:00-8:30pm - BERNIE GLIM and COUNTRY ROADS
9:00-10:30pm - SOUTH CITY REVIVAL

LEPRECHAUN STAGE

4:30-5:15pm - MEASNER' MAGIC
5:30-6:15pm - ROB NACU MAGIC
6:30-7:15pm - *TRICKS WITH JOHNNY*
7:15-8:00pm - ROB'S *IT LOOKS LIKE MAGIC*

PERFORMING ARTS STAGE

6:00pm - *TRIBUTE* THE JUNIOR GAELIC PARK PLAYERS
7:00pm - *FIRST CONFESSION* NEW IRISH LITERARY THEATRE
8:00pm - *TRIBUTE* THE JUNIOR GAELIC PARK PLAYERS

BECOME A MEMBER OF

Chicago Gaelic Park

between May 1st - May 28th at 4pm
and you could

WIN \$300

Visit the information booth for details

SATURDAY, MAY 26th

\$10 Admission 2pm-3pm Only!

EMERALD STAGE

2:15-2:45pm - FOY IRISH DANCERS
3:00-4:30pm - LARRY NUGENT
5:00-5:30pm - SHANNON ROVERS PIPE BAND
5:45-6:15pm - BLACKBIRD ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCING
6:45-8:30pm - EMMET CAHILL
9:00-11:00pm - THE FITZGERALDS

CELTIC STAGE

2:30-4:00pm - RORY MAKEM
4:15-4:45pm - SHANNON ROVERS PIPE BAND
5:15-6:45pm - BACKWEST MUSIC
7:15-8:45pm - THE NEW INVADERS
9:15-11:00pm - ROCKS OFF

CROSSROADS STAGE

2:15-3:00pm - BERNIE GLIM
3:15-4:00pm - JAMES KILBANE
4:30-5:15pm - SOPHIE AND FIACHRA
5:45-6:30pm - THE FITZGERALDS
7:00-7:45pm - THE GOTHARD SISTERS
8:00-8:45pm - RORY MAKEM
9:00-9:45pm - LARRY NUGENT

TARA STAGE

1:45-3:30pm - TURAS
3:45-5:15pm - THE GOTHARD SISTERS
5:30-7:00pm - JAMES KILBANE
7:30-9:00pm - SEAN WILSON AND TONY MAC
9:30-11:00pm - JOE CULLEN AND FRIENDS

LEPRECHAUN STAGE

2:45-3:15pm - ROB'S *IT LOOKS LIKE MAGIC*
3:30-4:15pm - MR BLARNY'S ILLUSIONS
4:30-5:15pm - NACU'S MAGIC TRICKS
5:30-6:15pm - *TRICKS WITH JOHNNY*
6:30-7:15pm - MEASNER'S MAGIC
7:30-8:15pm - MR BLARNY'S *ITS MAGIC*

PERFORMING ARTS STAGE

3:00pm - *SONGS OF THE IRISH HARP* SHARI SARAZIN
4:00pm - *FIRST CONFESSION* NEW IRISH LITERARY THEATRE
5:00pm - *TRIBUTE* THE JUNIOR GAELIC PARK PLAYERS
6:00pm - *SONGS OF THE IRISH HARP* SHARI SARAZIN
7:00pm - *TRIBUTE* THE JUNIOR GAELIC PARK PLAYERS
8:00pm - *VIKINGS AND MUSICIANS ONCE AGAIN* WILDFLOWER
9:00pm - SOPHIE AND FIACHRA

SUNDAY, MAY 27th

Mass 11:30am • \$10 Admission 1pm-2pm Only!
Chicago Fels Dancing Competition 9am-3pm

EMERALD STAGE

11:30am - MASS
1:00-2:45pm - TURAS
3:00-4:30pm - PADDY HOGAN AND THE NOBLE CALL
4:45pm - PIPES & DRUMS OF THE EMERALD SOCIETY
5:30-7:00pm - EMMET CAHILL
7:30-9:00pm - THE FITZGERALDS
9:30-11:00pm - BACKWEST MUSIC

CELTIC STAGE

1:00-2:15pm - SHEPHERD SCHOOL OF IRISH MUSIC
2:30-4:00pm - BOHOLA
4:15pm - PIPES & DRUMS OF THE EMERALD SOCIETY
5:00-6:30pm - THE GOTHARD SISTERS
7:00-8:30pm - PIGEON KINGS
9:00-11:00pm - AMERICAN ENGLISH

CROSSROADS STAGE

1:15-2:00pm - PADDY HOGAN AND THE NOBLE CALL
2:15-3:00pm - THE GOTHARD SISTERS
3:15-4:00pm - JAMES KILBANE
4:15-5:00pm - SOPHIE AND FIACHRA
5:15-6:00pm - BOHOLA
6:15-7:00pm - SEAN WILSON
7:30-8:15pm - BACKWEST MUSIC
8:30-9:45pm - RORY MAKEM
10:00-10:45pm - PIGEON KINGS

TARA STAGE

3:30-4:00pm - LAVIN CASSIDY IRISH DANCERS
4:30-6:00pm - THE IRISH MUSICIANS/SET DANCING WITH TERRY CARMICODY
6:30-7:00pm - THE DENNEHY DANCING SCHOOL
7:30-9:00pm - JAMES KILBANE
9:30-11:00pm - SEAN WILSON

LEPRECHAUN STAGE

2:45-3:30pm - MC MEASNER'S *TOUCH OF GREEN ILLUSION*
3:45-4:15pm - ROB'S *IT MUST BE MAGIC*
4:30-5:15pm - DON'S *MAGICAL FORCE*
5:30-6:15pm - TRICKS WITH ROB NACU
6:15-7:00pm - MEASNER'S ILLUSIONS
7:15-8:00pm - MR BLARNY'S *FUN WITH MAGIC*

PERFORMING ARTS STAGE

2:30pm - *SONGS OF THE IRISH HARP* SHARI SARAZIN
4:00pm - *VIKINGS AND MUSICIANS ONCE AGAIN* WILDFLOWER
5:00pm - *SONGS OF THE IRISH HARP* SHARI SARAZIN
6:00pm - *VIKINGS AND MUSICIANS ONCE AGAIN* WILDFLOWER
7:00pm - IRISH STORYTELLER: TIM O'SULLIVAN AND FAMILY
8:00pm - SOPHIE AND FIACHRA



Chicago Gaelic Park

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Irish Fest Schedule

MONDAY, MAY 28th

\$10 Admission 1pm-2pm Only!
Chicago Feis Dancing Competition 9am-3pm
Memorial Salute 3pm

EMERALD STAGE

1:00-2:30pm - SEAN WILSON
3:00pm - MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE
3:15-4:45pm - JAMES KILBANE
5:15-7:00pm - LARKIN & MORAN BROTHERS

CELTIC STAGE

1:15-2:45pm - KIERAN BYRNE
3:00pm - MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE
3:15-4:45pm - PIGEON KINGS
5:15-7:00pm - SOUTH CITY REVIVAL

CROSSROADS STAGE

2:00-2:45pm - JAMES KILBANE
3:00pm - MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE
3:15-4:00pm - SEAN WILSON
4:30-5:15pm - SOPHIE AND FIACHRA
5:30-6:15pm - PIGEON KINGS

TARA STAGE

1:15-2:45pm - SOPHIE AND FIACHRA
3:15-4:45pm - GERRY & KARA EADIE
5:15-7:00pm - JOE AND DECLAN MCSHANE

LEPRECHAUN STAGE

2:00-2:45pm - MEASNER'S MAGIC POT "O" GOLD
3:00pm - MEMORIAL SALUTE
3:15-4:00pm - LETS SMILE WITH ROB NACU
4:15-5:00pm - MEASNER'S ILLUSIONS
5:15-6:00pm - TRICKS WITH ROB NACU

PERFORMING ARTS STAGE

2:00pm - "TRIBUTE" THE JUNIOR GAELIC PARK PLAYERS
3:00pm - MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE
4:00pm - IRISH STORYTELLER; TIM O'SULLIVAN AND FAMILY
5:00pm - "TRIBUTE" THE JUNIOR GAELIC PARK PLAYERS

**Schedule Subject to Change*



**All Stages. All Rides.
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To make hotel reservations for Irish Fest Weekend, please visit www.ChicagoGaelicParkIrishFest.org

For Visitor Information

Chicago
Southland

Convention & Visitors Bureau

Toll-free: 888-895-8233

VisitChicagoSouthland.com



FEST HOURS

Friday, May 25 - Gates Open at 4pm

Saturday, May 26 - Gates open at 2pm

Sunday, May 27 - Gates open at 1pm

Monday, May 28 - Gates open at 1pm



Chicago Gaelic Park

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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: office@gp@chicagogaelicpark.org

The Easter Bunny and Friends



Thank you to the wonderful audiences who came to see our production of "Mammy's Boy" by Jimmy Keary, directed by

Gail Lauryn. We will be taking our production on the road to Calgary, Canada as part of the Acting Irish International Theatre Festival. It is an annual festival held in a different city each year where community theatre groups perform Irish plays and are adjudicated.

Troupes come from the USA, Canada and Ireland to participate. We will be taking the stage on May 24th. Break a leg to our cast and crew!

Also we look forward to seeing you at the 32nd Anniversary of Irish Fest over the Memorial Day Weekend in the Celtic Room. We will have a lot of great performances by many great groups, including members of our own Gaelic Park Players!

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Gaelic Park Players, the meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm at Gaelic Park. Anyone who is interested in either auditioning for our spring production or being a part of the crew, please join us for a meeting or contact us via the Website gaelicparkplayers@gmail.com.

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TAKE A MOMENT AND "LIKE" US!



As we approach warmer weather, I am reminded about a wonderful act of Pope Francis last summer—he paid to rent a small beach near Rome so that people with disabilities could enjoy the sun and sea.

Annually organized by a local charity group, the beach is equipped with boardwalks, ramps, and water access vehicles. The goal of the beach, which is open to sunseekers of all abilities, is to be a "place without mental or architectural barriers, where everyone can enjoy the sea together."

Pope Francis paying for the beach called attention to an issue that has become a passion for him: challenging our attitudes about people with disabilities, and ensuring that people of all abilities are considered and included in all aspects of life, especially the life of the Church. He reminds us that each person has unique gifts and talents to share with the community, and we must ensure that our minds, our hearts, and our physical surroundings are able to receive all of these important gifts.

The Pope's vision of a more inclusive Church echoes a beautiful campaign started more than 20 years ago by Cardinal Bernardin and his good friend and theologian, Fr. Henri Nouwen, called "Open

A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors." The goal of this campaign has been to make parishes places of access, welcome, and inclusion by removing psychological and architectural barriers that prevent all people from being full participants in the Church.

Over the years, Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors has made great strides. But now, with the vigorous enthusiasm and media attention of Pope Francis, we have a renewed opportunity to make lasting changes in how we think about people with disabilities. As we watch Pope Francis joyfully reach out and interact with the boy with cerebral palsy, the young woman with Down syndrome, or the elderly and infirm, maybe we too can overcome our discomfort in these situations. Maybe Pope Francis can give us the courage to also reach out, ensuring that no one feels isolated or "other-ized," and allowing ourselves to benefit from the gifts that they bring to God's altar.

As the Director of Human Services for

the Archdiocese, I have the privilege to oversee the Office with Persons with Disabilities (OPD), which brings together a number of ministries including the Archdiocesan

Commission on Mental Illness, Misericordia Home, the Office of the Deaf, Spred (Special Religious Development), and Pathways.org Inclusion in Worship. The goal of the Office is to support parishes and families in the Archdiocese to ensure that all are welcome, and that people of all abilities are included in the life of the Church in Chicago.

We recently renamed this office from the "Office for Persons with Disabilities" to the "Office with Persons with Disabilities." The change highlights a shift in thinking that we need to do things "for" people with disabilities, to instead showing that we are walking "with" our brothers and sisters, and making sure they have the opportunity to fully develop and share their unique gifts and abilities. It is the difference between seeing a ramp as an accommodation "for" people with disabilities, to seeing the ramp as a necessary part of the church so that everyone can benefit from the participation of all members of the parish. And it is the difference

between seeing persons with disabilities, who may look or act differently than we do, as separate from us, to embracing their differences as part of their God-given human dignity and becoming comfortable with them so that we can provide an atmosphere of authentic welcome.

Just as the beach near Rome is made accessible to sunseekers of all abilities to enjoy together, let us open our minds, our hearts, and our doors to parishioners of all abilities so that we may enjoy God's endless glory—together.

Please see <https://www.archdiocese.org/offices-and-ministries/persons-with-disabilities> or call 312-401-1754 for more information about the OPD.

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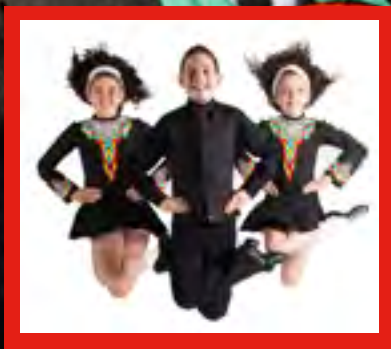
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From Ireland to Chicagoland

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



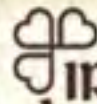
Caroleann Gallagher
312-543-4642
cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com



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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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**



Town Hall and IAHC Board Nomination Meeting

Listen to what the IAHC has planned for the rest of 2018 and nominate a member to run for the IAHC's Board of Directors. **Friday, May 11, 7pm**



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, May 18, 8pm, \$60 per team**



Sophie Lavoie and Fiachra O'Regan Salon Concert

Sophie Lavoie and Fiachra O'Regan take the traditional music of Quebec and Ireland and mate it in a unique way, remaining true to their roots, while creating a new and original sound. Lavoie's voice and fiddle playing and O'Regan's uilleann piping and banjo playing is sweetened by Gaelic and French Canadian song arrangements. **Thursday, May 24, 7:30pm, IAHC Members: \$20, Non-members: \$23, 18 and under free**



Tea with Sojourner Truth

Join us for another in our Saturday Morning Tea Series. Actress Pamela Welcome portrays abolitionist and women's rights activist with stories and spirituals that Truth performed as a preacher. **Saturday, June 2, 11am, Adults: \$25 and children 12 and under: \$8**



Ancient Order of Hibernians Division #32 and IAHC Golf Open

The outing features 18 holes of golf, a cart, contests, BBQ buffet and cocktails. **Friday, June 8, 11:30am-9pm, Edgebrook Golf Course, \$105 or \$40 for golf only**



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President's Message

May is always a welcoming month, especially after this year's April showers, which also included snow, sleet and icy temperatures. The Craic at the Center really warmed us up and allowed us to keep the fireplace lit in the Fifth Province where the music gets hotter and hotter. Join us for live music and a bite to eat every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.



mittie. Maybe this building will someday be in the Hall of Fame, with all the good times and experiences people have had in our home. We are grateful for the music, dance, language, writing and art teachers who have shared their talent, experience and expertise to the future

generations of pupils; passing on the traditions and pastimes of our Irish heritage. June Board Elections are around the corner, so join us at our Town Hall Meeting on May 11 at 7pm. You can nominate someone for a position and hear what we have planned for the rest of 2018.

There's never been a better time to get involved at the Center. I had a rewarding four years as a board member and I enjoyed being surrounded by some very smart and hard-working volunteers and staff. We look to continue growing our membership, so I encourage you to renew, join and become a volunteer.

Eugene M. Cooney, President

More great news about our Auditorium. Thanks to the the generous gift to the Center from the Erin Homes for Mentally Disabled Women, our auditorium will soon be fitted with an HD projection system and screen, which will benefit of our whole membership. Be on the lookout for information about free movies for members!

Congratulations goes out to our new inductees to the Irish American Hall of Fame, and a very warm thank you to the hard working com-

May 2018

5/1	Mother Jones Birthday Party	Fifth Province	6pm
5/2	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 306	10am
5/3	Ryan McKasson and Eric McDonald Concert	Fifth Province	7:30pm
5/4	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
5/5	For the Love of Art Exhibit	Art Gallery	3pm
	Baile An Salsa Concert	Auditorium	8pm
5/6	For the Love of Art Exhibit	Art Gallery	3pm
5/7	Shaw vs. Tunney Staged Reading	Fifth Province	7:30pm
???	Shamrock American Club Social	Shamrock American Room	8pm
5/11	Town Hall Meeting	Room 109	7pm
5/12	Piobairi	Fifth Province	6pm
	St. Patrick Fathers Social	Room 109	8pm
5/16	Tara Club Monthly Musical Gathering	Room 306	11am
5/18	Quiz Night	Room 309	8pm
5/20	Great Books Club <i>Irish American Autobiographies</i>	Library	1pm
5/22	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7pm
	Shamrock American Club Meeting	Shamrock American Room	8pm
5/24	Sophie Lavoie and Fiachra O'Regan Salon Concert	Room 109	7:30pm
5/27	Genealogy Workshop	Library	1pm

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 311	7pm
	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
	Spring Watercolor Class (through 5/16)	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	Art Gallery	Noon

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- 5/12 St. Patrick Fathers
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- 5/19 TBA
- 5/25 Joe McShane
- 5/26 L.J. Slavin



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

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The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

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On the Upbeat

By Maryann
McTeague Keifer

Ah, the merry month of May has arrived, and we definitely are ready! The first festivals of the season are ready to begin, and along with the flowers blooming, the new albums and performances are also ready for us. Irish Fest at Chicago's Gaelic Park heralds in Memorial Day weekend. Debuting for those of us who love good Trad are the members of Back West who hail from Galway and Tyrone. Those of you who listen to *Ireland Tonight* have been enjoying their new album "The Long Walk." Also headlining are the great Bohola, Larry Nugent and Friends, Paddy Homan and the Noble Call, the high energy Fitzgeralds, Turas, Emmet Cahill, Rory Makem, The Pigeon Kings, Sophia and Fiachra, The Gothard Sisters, Larkin and Moran Brothers, Joe Cullen, Joe McShane, Gerry Haughey, The Shepherd School of Irish Music, American English and many more. Go to their website www.chicagogaelicparkirishfest.com for all the performers, activities and schedules. Hope to have a pint there with many of you, and of course, my Winston's Bridie and meat pie.

Scotland has gifted us with an amazingly talented singer and pianist. At just 20 years old, Iona Fyfe has burst upon the Trad/Folk scene. She has been nominated for and has won several prestigious awards, being noticed and respected for her beautifully haunting voice and musical drive.

Hailing from Huntly in Northeastern Scotland, Iona was raised with the music native to this region. She is presently



balancing the study of Traditional Music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland with touring Europe and Canada with her band. She is one busy lady!

A labor of love, *Away From My Window* is a collection of folk songs of the music elders, more modern writers, and her own composition. All showcase, in their own way, Northern Scotland. The album opens with an upbeat example of a "bothy." Bothies are songs the poor farmworkers would sing to keep themselves entertained as they spent the long nights in the outhouses where they slept which were called bothies. "Glenlogie" is a well-known story of a young lass who is bereft learning the man she loves is promised to another. Unlike many of these ballads, however, this one has a happy ending.

"Banks of Inverurie" on the other hand, is a song of rejection. She sings with such confidence and intensity, that we actually feel the story as she sings. All the selections

on this album are story songs well told by Iona's mesmerizing voice. You will be listening to this album over and over enjoying it more each time you hear it.

In the last two issues, I have spoken of two bands, Imar and Talisk who are WOWing audiences everywhere they go, and were just winners of top in their categories in the BBC Radio Musician of the Year Awards. An individual winner who is

in both bands is concertina master Mohsen Amini. Mohsen met an unusual combo at school in Limerick who have morphed into a vibrant untraditional Trad band called Fourth Moon. Along with Mohsen who is from Scotland, there is David Lombardi from Italy on fiddle, Jean Damei from the south of France on Guitar, and a native of Austria, Geza Frank, who plays flute and whistles. As you can see, there are no Irish roots, but their love of the music brought them together to fuse each of their county's music with the Irish, and oh my, it works!

Although it was a tough task with Mohsen in the two other active bands, as well as each of their own projects, ELLIPSIS was completed and has just been released. Comprised of nine sets of tunes, most written by band members, you will recognize the core of traditional music. What is exciting is the innovation brought by



each to their compositions. Each set takes you on a musical journey that has you excitedly anticipating how the tune will proceed. You will never be disappointed!

Every one of these talented gents are masters of his instrument. Geza Frank on flute and low whistles will have you replaying tunes on which he is featured—just beautiful! Jean Damei's guitar holds and supports all while still quietly being there having you want to pick it out and listen. David Lombardi's fiddling has you toe tapping on some tunes while pulling your emotions on others. He has written most of the tunes on the album, and you will be very aware of his talent as you listen. Mohsen is truly gifted on the concertina. He brings an energy that picks you up and transports you through the tune. Put them all together and you have music magic! We will definitely be hearing more from Fourth Moon!

It was with intense sadness that we lost yet another great musician this past month in the passing of Liam O'Flynn. He will be remembered for much, but his quote says it all for me: "When I am playing, I'm certainly lost within it. The only way to describe it, is that it's like looking inwards. I think when a performer engages with the audience, and vice versa, it's like a spell is cast and a terrific passage of feelings moves from the musician to the audience and back again." (Liam O'Flynn Biography Tara Music)

Thank you, Liam, for passing your gift on to us! RIP.

Slainte

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Help Send Tony Home to Ireland

Daniel 'Tony' Naughton came to Chicago from Killorglin, Co. Kerry in the mid-1980's. He lived on the north-west side for many years before moving to the Uptown neighbourhood. Six months ago Tony was diagnosed with lung cancer. While he has been able to access medical treatment, Tony faces an uncertain future and now feels that it's time to move



back to Ireland to be near home and family. Tony hasn't worked since his diagnosis and on medical advice he will need a family member to come to accompany him on his journey home. Irish Community Services is raising funds to make sure that Tony can return home to his loved ones as he continues to battle his illness. Please help Tony go home by donating what you can. You can

send checks payable to ISC to our office at 4626 N Knox Ave #301, Chicago, IL 60630. You can also donate online through Go Fund

Me at www.gofundme.com and search 'Help Send Tony Home to Ireland'. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated!

Mental Health vs Mental Illness

Let's start a conversation with each other about mental health. Our mental health dictates how we handle stress, develop and maintain relationships and even how we make decisions. HeadTalk's mission aims to better educate the Irish American community on the various types of mental illness, where to find support services and how to best support loved ones struggling with a mental illness. Mental health is the lens through which we experience our daily lives helping us to define our interactions while balancing our emotions. Mental health undoubtedly has the greatest influence on our overall personal happiness at any given point in our lives. 1 out of 5 adults in the U.S. suffers from mental illness in a given year. Mental illness has many signs and symptoms and can be characterized by distorted thinking, changes in mood and behavior as well as the impairment of normal functioning that persists for prolonged periods

of time. Caused by a variety of reasons, mental illness is common and treatable. Those who suffer from mental illness can seek help and recover with the skills to live self-directed, meaningful lives. HeadTalk provides information on common mental illnesses, their signs and symptoms to watch out for, and a multitude of resources to seek help from mental healthcare professionals. Each month in this corner of IAN 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 on the Good Morning Ireland Radio Show as well as on the Irish Festival circuit this summer. In starting a community conversation about a typically taboo subject for the Irish, people who suffer from mental health issues must know that they are not alone, that there is help and there is always hope. Let's talk.



Upcoming Events

Legal Clinics

- **Thursday, May 17th (4-7p) IAHC (appointment only)**
- **Tuesday, May 22th (4-7p) Location TBD (appt only)**

Social Events

- **Tara Club - Wednesday, May 2nd (10a-12p) IAHC**
- **Emerald Club - Wednesday, May 9 (10a-12p) Gaelic Park**
- **Monthly Musical Gathering - Wednesday, May 16th (11a-12:30p) IAHC**
- **Emerald Club - Wednesday, May 23rd (10a-12p) Gaelic Park**
- **Irish Cultural Hour - Friday, May 25th (10a-12p) Mount Greenwood Library**

Celebrating 20 Years of Service Moving Forward, Looking Back

20 Years of Services from ICS – Moving Forward, Looking Back Chicago Irish Immigrant Support (CIIS) was established in 1998 with an agreement between Francis Cardinal George, the Irish Bishops, and a small group of devoted Irish community members who saw the need for pastoral and social services for a new wave of Irish immigrants to Chicago. As CIIS grew, the organization began to expand its offerings to include comprehensive immigration, naturalization, and senior services. CIIS became very active in the movement for immigration reform both at the national and state level. Although the services have grown and evolved with time, the mission of the organization remains embedded in service to the community. In March 2018, Chicago Irish Immigrant Support officially became Irish Community Services; a representation of how our services have expanded and will continue to evolve with the needs of the community. In 2018 we'll take a look back at some of the defining moments of the last 20 years of service to the

Irish community and some of the many dedicated people who made it all possible. If you have any particular memories you'd like to share with us about ICS or the people involved please get in touch with us at 773-282-8445. *We'd like to let you all know about our latest intern from Ireland. Amy Hibbits is from Co. Louth, Ireland and is a second year social work student at Trinity College Dublin. As part of her professional training, Amy must spend 10 weeks interning at a social services agency and we're fortunate that she picked us! Amy joined the ICS team at the end of April and will be with us unit July. During her time at ICS, Amy will help run our senior group programs, do friendly visits, and work on a variety of projects that we have running at the moment. As someone who has volunteered a great deal in the past with all kinds of social services agencies, Amy brings a lot of experience to her role as intern. We're delighted that Amy will be contributing her talents and energy to our work and if you see her out and about be sure to give her a warm Chicago welcome!*

Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



Clergy Sex Abuse

To quote my dearly departed aunt, Margaret White, in County Kerry, "Mother of God!" Pennsylvania now has six Dioceses under investigation for child sexual abuse. A grand jury was impaneled in 2016 and is expected to deliver its findings this month (May, 2018). The Diocese involved are the Harrisburg, Allentown, Pittsburgh, Greensburg, Scranton, and Erie.

Hundreds of priests, thousands of victims, and this is only one state. The numbers are astounding.

The following are excerpts from the Patriot News in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in an article by Ivey DeJesus.

Advocates for victims of clergy sex abuse are bracing for what they say is certain to be stunning findings out of the most current investigation into abuse across six Catholic dioceses in Pennsylvania.

One of those advocates, Shaun Dougherty, himself a childhood victim of sexual abuse by a priest, warned that the findings expected out of the grand jury investigation could be extremely troubling.

"There's some graphic things coming," Dougherty told PennLive during a phone interview from his home in New York. "If the report reflects the reports I'm hearing, some parts are going to make the Altoona-Johnstown report look like Disney World. This is huge."

Dougherty, whose testimony to law enforcement agents was included in the 2016 grand jury investigation report of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese, said victims often withhold information. "I don't know if I'm ever going to fully disclose what happened to me," said Dougherty, who was 10 and a fifth-grader at St. Clement School when he was abused by George Koharechik, a pastor at the school.

"Those reports . . . they are graphic . . . but I don't know if ev-

erybody has disclosed everything. Who the hell wants to share these things with even family members or friends, let alone the public? Let alone the office of the state attorney general? Let alone go to the Capitol constantly and stand on the steps in front of 50 cameras?"

In the Altoona-Johnstown report, investigators found that hundreds of children had been sexually abused over a period of at least four decades by priests or religious leaders in the diocese. The findings revealed a troubling history of diocesan superiors concealing the child abuse as part of an effort to protect the church's image.

Diocese of Harrisburg

Over the years, at least 15 priests who had at one time served in the Harrisburg Diocese have been identified in allegations of child sex abuse - several of which were deemed credible.

Officials with the Harrisburg Diocese on Thursday told PennLive that they may revisit an earlier plan to release a list of priests who have been accused of child sex abuse.

The diocese in 2016 tables such a plan after the state attorney general's office advised the diocese not to release the list. Officials declined to say how many priests were on the list.

Diocese of Allentown

The diocese has over the years faced multiple accusations against priests with lawsuits alleging that the diocese systematically covered up decades of sexual abuse by priests through secret files, code words and transfers, according to Bishop Accountability.

Past lawsuits have claimed the diocese promoted accused priests, supported them and transferred them without revealing past allegations.

Diocese of Pittsburgh

In 2004, more than two dozen complaints were filed against the diocese, alleging that it covered up child sex abuse accusations against

five priests.

The statute of limitations had expired on all the cases. Attorneys for the victims sued the diocese and not the priests, naming then Bishop Donald Wuerl and the late Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua.

Diocese of Greensburg

The diocese has been named in a number of lawsuits alleging clergy sex abuse of children over the years.

In 2005 lawsuit filed in Westmoreland County court, a 52-year-old man accused the late Rev. Francis Lesniak of abusing him in the mid-1960's, when the man was a 12 or 13 year-old boy.

According to the lawsuit, the abuse happened when Lesniak worked at the St. Stanislaus Church in Calmuth. The boy was a parishioner. Lesniak did in February 1991. The lawsuit named the diocese and retired Bishop Anthony Bosco as defendants.

Diocese of Scranton

More than 25 priests from the diocese have been accused of child sexual abuse allegations since 1950, according to the Pocono Record. In April, the diocese removed the Rev. Martin M. Boylan as pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in West Scranton and episcopal vicar for the Northern Pastoral Region, after an allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor surfaced. The alleged abuse happened in Wayne County, according to the media outlet.

Diocese of Erie

Friday, April 6, 2018, Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico released a list of 34 priests and 17 lay people - some dead, others living - who had over the past 70 years been identified in credible accusations of child sexual abuse.

According to a story on goerie.com, the Erie Diocese previously had never disclosed the names of the priests accused of or dismissed in the past over allegations of sexual abuse. The diocese in 2004 released information that showed 20 priests were credibly accused of sexually abusing 38 minors in the diocese from 1950 to 2002.

Irish Quotes

"A face without freckles is like a sky without stars."

"Life's too short not to be Irish."

"A goose never voted for an

early Christmas."

Memorial Day

In the past we have dwelled on the men and women who served in the Armed Forces. On this day we also remember family members and friends through the years.

Chicagoan, John Joseph Kelly, Pvt., USMC, 28th Co., 4th Regiment, 2nd Division, October 3, 1918 Blanc Mont Ridge, France, was awarded the Medal of Honor for running through a barrage of bullets, killing a German machine gunner and taking 8 prisoners. He

brought them back through the barrage. Put. Kelly is buried at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines.

Chicago Weather?

We're not alone. For the last 2 months Ireland's been wracked with storms, and heavy snow. Kerry wasn't hit too hard, but my cousin, Dermot Cooney, near Mullingar had 10 ft. snowdrifts behind the house. Local farmers opened the main roads with front loaders.

Normally the new potato would have been planted over a month ago.

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PROUD MEMBER OF:



Turning Hopelessness into Action: Suicide and Some Things Being Done to Counteract It

By Cliff Carlson

When we are put into grim life situations that shock us into reality, we can do a number of things with them. We can mire in the misery of it, or we can, as Ed Sexton Sr. puts it, simply "make lemonade out of lemons."

Ed is the owner of a commercial floor care business, Sexton Complete Care, and was an advertiser in my former publication, *Food Industry News*, when his family met personal tragedy. On June 13, 1987 Ed's son, the fifth child in a family of eight, committed suicide.

Ed is a pretty private fellow, but he didn't grapple with the pain and the perceived shame surrounding suicide for very long. Within six months, Ed and his family set up the Stephen Sexton Memorial Foundation dedicated to raising funds for suicide prevention. The foundation has raised and distributed over 1.4 million dollars in the last 31 years to various Chicagoland organizations that help people fight their suicidal intentions and with scholarships to help the underprivileged get a leg up in life.

In Ed's words, "We helped Dr.

David Clark and Rush Presbetyrian St. Luke's. Dr. Clark is an expert in the field of suicide analysis and prevention. When he left to go to the Medical College of Wisconsin, we followed him because we valued his input so highly. The second agency we gave money to was Maryville, the City of Youth in Des Plaines which works with youth at risk, and the third agency we funded works with youth is the Glenview Northbrook Youth Agency. They work very diligently towards suicide prevention at the high school level. The fourth agency is The Standing Tall Foundation of Fr. John Smyth, which collects donations to fund scholarships for at risk students. The thinking behind this is that suicide prevention and education are collateral goals. The better educated you are the more likely you are going to be able to deal with your problems.

Occasionally, we have made donations to the Loss Organization, which stands for Loving Outreach to Suicide Survivors, and provides refuge and support for people who have had suicide in their family.

We started out raising money by conducting a 3 on 3 basketball

tournament which we did for 15 years, but we found the effort that went into conducting the tournament was not commensurate with the money raised.

Raffle to Help

www.ssmf.co

Now most of the money that we raise comes from our family and a raffle that we hold every year. Everyone who participates in the raffle is guaranteed a prize. There are three categories, \$200, \$150, \$100. We get between 70 and 90 participants. We are now dealing with an aging support base. Most of our donors have been donating since the foundations inception. We need to broaden the base and get more outside support.

We are trying to obtain a Suicide Awareness Day from the state.. Maryville is working on obtaining it," said Ed.

"It's always rewarding to move forward, as opposed to sitting back and doing nothing. It helps soothe the wound by being proactive," said Ed. "You do the best you can with any problem in life. There are very few people

that go through life without any problems. You can either take it, or try and fight back. That's what we as a family have done," Ed continued.

The family, through the Stephen T. Sexton Memorial Foundation, has underwritten all kinds of seminars, events and scholarships at the agencies above.

When Ed's wife passed away a couple of years ago, the family established a scholarship fund in her memory through the Standing Tall Foundation, indicative of the value they place in the organizations listed above and the good work that they do.

According to Ed, when Stephen died, a lot of people didn't know what to do. Suicide was treated like cancer was treated years ago. "Nobody wanted to talk about it. Through these like organizations suicide is talked about now. It's not something that survivors should be ashamed of, or that they should feel they were responsible for," said Mr. Sexton.

"There are high rates of suicide in the military and in police

departments. It's a never ending battle that needs to be fought.

There are experiences in your life of such a nature that leave an indelible imprint. This is one of them. You deal with peoples addictions, and you are going to have problems. How do you handle them? Don't be too self indulgent, and don't expect other people to pick up after you.

The night my son died, my wife and I went out to dinner with my brother. Before we left we went to Stephen's room to say goodbye to him. My wife was very worried. She could feel, like a miasma, coming off of him. The irony of this is my brother, who had been through some problems with alcohol, said that we had to have tough love. Well, that seems to have been absolutely the wrong thing in hindsight. I do agree in a lot of cases tough love is called for but it's difficult to discern when it's appropriate and when it's going to have a negative effect, continued Ed.

"Stephen was receiving treatment for depression at Evanston hospital, and the therapist who was treating him called the night after the funeral. She was stunned beyond belief. So much so, she asked for a review by her superiors to see if she was competent to do the work. That's how difficult it is. She had talked at length to Stephen, and did not think he was suicidal," Ed stated.

Contemplating the might have beens, Ed said, "Sometimes I think that if you did a line graph of the events of that particular day, and those particular circumstances with the lines intersecting, if it had been on any other day and those lines hadn't intersected, his suicide might not have happened. It's just a combination of circumstances that if he had survived that night he might still be here with us. We'll never know.

Edward Sexton, Sr, and his wife, Mary Alice, (front row center) and the extended family.

*Suicide Prevention
Continued to Next Page*



Joan Freeman and Pieta House

By Cliff Carlson

Joan Freeman lost a sister to suicide in 2003. She went through the grief process that anyone who loses someone to suicide experiences but she felt she had to do something.

Driven by her own guilt - feeling in hindsight that she could have done more - she started reading everything she could on suicide and after a long time of reading and researching she knew that she had to find a way to be a voice that changes how society thinks about suicide and self harm.

In 2006, Joan and her husband took out a mortgage on their home, and started Pieta House in Lucan, a suburb of South Dublin.

The name, Pieta House, was inspired by Michelangelo's sculpture, Pieta. Its the only sculpture signed by Michelangelo and it depicts Our Lady holding the dead, lifeless body of her grown son.

A lightbulb went off for Joan as she searched for ways to help other people who were suicidal.

Since 2006, Pieta House has served those in Ireland who contemplate suicide, offering up to 15 sessions for those who are struggling, to find their way from darkness into light. "By the eighth or tenth session, they're usually through the darkness. Their

Pieta House Now Solace in the U.S.

Compiled By Rebecca Skedd

Solace House provides free, confidential, one-on-one counseling for people who are experiencing suicidal thoughts, people who have attempted suicide, those who engage in self-harm, and for people who have been bereaved by suicide. As our service is completely free of charge, we do not require health insurance or a doctor's referral, thus, making our service easily accessed by all. All of our therapists are Licensed Clinical Social Workers.

We also offer Community awareness workshops, known as, Mind Ur Buddy, where one of our therapists train and educate the public on how to identify the signs & symptoms of suicidal ideation. By providing these crucial tools we are empowering members of the public to become the vital link between a person in distress and Solace House, thus, helping us save lives.

Our Model

Solace House offer sensitive interaction and the provision of tangible and supportive care. The Solace solution allows a person in distressed to be helped during the most difficult and challenging time of his or her life. Instead of viewing our clients through a medical microscope, they are actively listened to, encouraged, and supported.

first year opened they serviced 72 people.

Joan brought the Pieta House fundraising walk to America after it proved highly successful in Ireland, drawing as many as 120,000 people walking through the dark before dawn into the light of day to help prevent suicide.

In collaboration with the New York Irish Center, Pieta House opened its first center in Long Island City in September 2015.

On May 27, 2016, Joan was selected by the Taoiseach of Ireland at the time, Enda Kenny, to serve as a Senator. Later that same year she was honored at iBAM!, the Irish Books, Arts, and Music Celebration, receiving the 'Person of the Year' Award for her work with suicide prevention.

In 2014 Rebecca Skedd, an Irish woman in New York, convinced Joan to bring the Darkness Into Light Walk to New York City.

Shortly after that walks were set up in other cities in America, and Chicago was one of those cities. This year the Walk is under Joan's new banner, Solace.

Solace in Chicago takes place on Saturday, May 19, 2018, 5:00 AM - 8:00 AM CDT at Gaelic Park, 6119 147th St Oak Forest IL 60452. For information contact www.solace-sunrisewalk.com/venues.html.

Our focused approach not only helps them through the current dark period in their lives, but also teaches them how to become resilient when confronted with future difficulties. This confidential, loving and embracing environment, offered without a judgmental ethos, and free and easily accessible, has proven to be the most effective and successful approach for people who are suicidal or who are engaging in self-harm. This approach has proven to be equally effective for men, women and children of all ages and all Nationalities. The goal, in all cases, is to provide compassion to the clients and families we serve. It is a service that supports, advises and strengthens a family who may have a loved one who is suicidal or has died by suicide. Success comes down to the pragmatic but empathetic approach that must be taken to suicidal ideation, no matter the reason behind it and no matter the person.

Our History

Joan Freeman is the Founder of Solace House. Prior to this undertaking in the U.S., Joan was also the Founder of Pieta House in Ireland. It is in this prior capacity that she led a team that developed this successful and widely acclaimed approach in this area. Her journey began in Ireland in 2006, when

she established The Center for the Prevention of Self-harm or Suicide, which is more commonly known as "Pieta House". Her vision was to offer critically needed support services within 100km of every person in her country of Ireland who was suicidal or otherwise in danger of self-harm. These services were offered free of charge so as to make it easy for those in need to access and avail of them. Ten such centers were subsequently opened throughout Ireland, making Pieta House one of Ireland's true success stories. As a testament to the appreciation of the Irish Nation for Joan's work, she was recently named as a Senator in the Irish Seanad, where she has focused her energy on improving services in the mental health area.

In 2014 Joan brought these same life saving services to the U.S. She worked with the New York Irish Center, to set up a service that would initially target the Irish in New York, operating under a two year pilot program as Pieta House. While it was a very successful two years, it was evident that we needed to tweak the therapeutic model to better serve the people of New York and meet the more specific needs of our community. This led us to re-brand our service and welcomed Solace House in November 2017. Two years later, Solace House has become a place of therapeutic refuge for all Nationalities. With a solid administrative team and a panel of fully qualified Licensed Clinical Social Workers who each have extensive



Michelangelo's Pieta.

experience, its welcome services are already reaching out to the far wider audience of greater New York and we are thrilled to announce the opening of our second service in Yonkers, New York.

Our goal is to expand our service across the U.S. and the starting point for that goal is the significant development of the Solace Sunrise Walk, formerly known as Darkness into Light.

The Solace Sunrise Walk

It was in May of 2014 an Irish girl by the name of Rebecca Skedd reached out to Joan Freeman, Founder of Pieta House Ltd., Ireland, with the hope of bringing the first Darkness into Light walk to the U.S.

Rebecca had been in New York just over a year at this stage and working in the New York Irish Center - a center that provides Community, Culture and Care for the Irish Diaspora in New York. Working on the care component Rebecca would hear about suicide and self-harm frequently within the



Irish Community, in not only New York but also right across the U.S.

In addition, the stigma, which commonly surrounds suicide and depression, was still very much in existence. Joan was thrilled to proceed with Darkness into Light in New York and it didn't stop there; Joan Freeman

had a Nephew in Washington D.C. who reached out inquiring about hosting a walk there. To further our elation, a man by the name of Paul Dowling from the Chicago Irish Immigrant Support center reached out expressing their interest in hosting a walk, also. The build up to the walk was just captivating. Everyone was so eager to be involved. We had men from construction companies stepping forward to volunteer, clubs, sports teams and schools all wanting to be involved and part of this global movement. The sense of connection to Ireland,

and other countries across the World was incredible. Everyone was on the same side and wanted the same outcome; to create awareness and to prevent suicide and self-harm by demolishing the dreadful stigma that surrounds it, making it comfortable for people step forward and ask for help when they need it most.

There was a robust sense of Community, for me this movement identified how strong

and united the Irish Community truly are- even thousands of miles away from the place that we call home. In 2015 we held three walks in the U.S. and were overwhelmed by the amount of support we received and the success of our first walks. After the first walk, we were contacted by so many people right across the U.S. that wanted to be involved and organize a walk in their community.

The Solace Sunrise Walk takes place on May 19th, 2018. We have 11 venues across the U.S. and Canada.

Our venues include: Bronx, New York, Queens, New York, Catskills, New York, Hoboken, New Jersey, Philadelphia, **Chicago**, Boston, Austin, San Francisco, San Diego, Toronto, Canada.

Register for a walk at Solacesunrisewalk.com or call 718-482-0001

Our Board

We have been blessed with a truly fantastic Board; each Board Member brings amazingly individual traits and qualities that attribute to our success. They are actively involved in ensuring Solace House is of the highest standards and that performance is innovated. They are creative with fundraising and advocate on our behalf at all times. Paul O'Brien and Pat McGowan are our founding members; they believed in our mission since day one and have been the backbone of our organizational growth and prosperity. They offer support, structure and organization, along with all of our other Board members, Loretta King, Frank Ombres, John Concannon, Angela Dillion, Clin Maters, and Bill McNally.

Staff testimonials

"I began working part-time with Solace House just over two years ago now. I was so happy to help provide a service to the Community that was open to all in need of our services regardless of their resources. My goal with my clients is to bring solace, compassion, empathy and guidance to those who feel depressed, suicidal and hopeless and to the families and friends who may feel helpless as witnesses or are mourning a suicide. My hope is that an accepting, caring and non-judgmental milieu will help my clients begin their journey towards hope, happiness and resilience.- **Sheila Sullivan LCSW & Psychotherapist for 25 years**

"I have spent most of 18 year social work career working with people from disfranchised and marginalized populations, so I very much understand the need for and the value of the free services offered at Solace House. We offer a warm, supportive, nonjudgmental and compassionate alternative to the sterility and coldness of hospital emergency rooms for people who are distressed and in emotional crisis, experiencing suicidal thoughts or in bereavement for a friend or family member who has died by suicide. Our clients represent the diversity that makes up New York and come from varied cultures, ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds. Our services are culturally competent, holistic, client centered and confidential and can be accessed by anyone in need regardless of their financial resources. Our goal is provide a safe space and guidance and support for our clients. - **Elizabeth McGowan LCSW & Psychotherapist 8 years**

apist 8 years

"Here at Solace House, I am able to help individuals with a wide array of clinical crisis and situational issues. I find immense fulfillment in helping people navigate difficult issues in their lives utilizing compassion and by providing a safe, caring, therapeutic alliance in an environment which is completely confidential and nurturing. At Solace House, we do not give a diagnosis to our clients but provide empathy and

me the day I entered Solace House. The caring and welcoming atmosphere, the excellent team of staff and therapists, the warm cup of tea upon arrival, is all a wonderful base for beginning the healing process and welcoming back life's joys." - **MaryAnn**

"After facing several years of workplace sexual harassment and retaliation, I was at breaking point. While I was already in therapy, a friend suggested that I speak with Kate who is a resident LCSW at Solace House. Unlike my previous therapist, Kate offers a unique approach to therapy. She is very solution focused and has allowed me to share my traumatic experiences in a judgment-free environment. Kate is empathetic, kind and sensitive to her clients' needs and is someone I now regard as a friend. Her desire to help me navigate the uncharted waters was clearly evident and she has been and continues to be, instrumental in my healing." - **Kevin**

.....

While we are just scratching the surface of what can and is being done to prevent suicide, the gist of these stories is that help has to start somewhere. The Ed Sexton family and the Joan Freeman families made something happen for the good. Others have stepped up and joined them.

If you would like to step up, or are in need of help, here are some of the places that are helping.

Stephen Sexton Memorial Foundation, Ed Sexton Sr. 847-827-1196 www.ssmf.co

985 Graceland Ave., Des Plaines IL 60016

The National Institute of Mental Health (www.nimh.nih.gov/statistics/index.shtml): maintains the single most informative website about mental disorders and suicide prevention. Statistics on prevalence of serious mental disorders and suicide in the US are available there at <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/statistics/index.shtml>.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/suicide): has an injury and violence prevention

center with lots of information about suicide trends, risk factors and prevention strategies at www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/suicide.

The American Association of Suicidology (www.suicidology.org): based in Washington, DC is a membership organization for all those involved in suicide prevention and intervention, or touched by suicide. AAS is a leader in the advancement of scientific efforts in suicide prevention through research, education and training. The AAS website includes the most current available US statistics on suicide rates and trends at www.suicidology.org/stats-and-tools/suicide-statistics, and a directory of support groups for family members and others who have lost someone by suicide, listed by state and city at www.suicidology.org/web/guest/sssg-e-k.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention www.afsp.org, is dedicated to preventing suicide through research, education and advocacy. AFSP raises money to fund suicide research and offers educational programs for professionals. There are 50 community based chapters.

Continued to next page

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understanding of where they are emotionally. This enables me to provide my clients with the support and coping tools they require to move forward with their lives. It continues to be a pleasure to witness my clients integrate the information and skills provided in our counseling sessions with a sense of renewed purpose in their lives" - **Kate Bowden LSCW & Adjunct Professor at Fordham University 28 years**

"When I first met Joan Freeman, through Rebecca, in 2014 I knew instantly that this partnership was the right way forward. In my position, being on the front line of community outreach, the need for a free and focused suicide prevention service was vital. The struggle for undocumented Irish Immigrants to have access to free counseling was a huge contributor to the number of suicides within the Irish Community. The proven success of Joan's approach to the problem in Ireland made it an easy decision, and within weeks the New York Irish Center was home to America's first Pieta House." - **Paul Finnegan, Executive Director New York Irish Center.**

Client Testimonials

"The journey from hopelessness to hopefulness began for



Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



Stay Safe in the Playground

Spring appears to finally be showing her longed for face and if your kids are like my three and five year old's, getting them outside is going to be a welcome blessing. Chicago Winters are tough on our adventurous and care free little souls but the warmer days bring with it some added concerns for parents.

Children have continuously been injured on playground and gym equipment due to defective playground equipment, improper playground surfaces and/or the property owner or operator's failure to properly inspect or maintain the equipment. In my practice I have seen these types of injuries range from minor cuts and lacerations to severe fractures that require surgery. None of us want to see our little ones hurt so here are a few pointers to keep in mind as your children head out to play.

Under Illinois law, a hazard in a play area or playground is the responsibility of the playground owner, operator, and/or school. Having a safe play area for our most precious little ones is crucial but the adults accompanying those kids, also bear some responsibility in supervision. Young children are not always able to measure distances and have difficulty foreseeing dangerous situations and so you and your child's supervisors need to be very observant of the areas you are letting your children play in.

The important factors in evaluating the safety of any playground are proper surfaces, the design and spacing of the equipment followed by proper equipment inspection and maintenance by the owners and/or operators of the area.

A proper playground surface is one of the most important factors in reducing injuries, as the most common playground injuries result from falls. When inspecting a playground for its suitability for your child, make sure that the surface under the playground equipment is both soft enough and thick enough to soften the impact of a child's fall. Concrete, asphalt, and blacktop are unsafe and unacceptable. The cushioned surface should also extend at least 6 feet past the equipment. In addition, as a parent, be observant and look for possible dangers on the ground such as rocks, broken glass or standing water that could cause kids to slip

and fall.

Playground equipment should be designed for three different age

groups: infants and toddlers under 2, 2- to 5-year-olds (preschoolers), and 5- to 12-year-olds (school-age kids). Make sure your child is using the equipment that is appropriate for their age and ability. In the safest playgrounds, play areas for younger children are separated from those meant for older kids and signs clearly designate each area to prevent confusion.

Guardrails and protective barriers should be in place for elevated surfaces, including platforms and ramps. Be sure there are no spaces that could trap a child's head, arm, or any other body part. All openings on equipment (for example, rungs on a ladder or bars on a guardrail) should measure less than 3½ inches or they should be wider than 9 inches.

Playground equipment with moving parts should be checked and should be free of any pinch points that could pinch or crush a child's finger or hand. All hardware on equipment should be secure, with no loose or broken parts. There should not be any splintered or rusted surfaces. If the playground has a sandbox, check for objects such as sharp sticks or broken glass. Sandboxes should be covered overnight to prevent contamination from animals. Check to make sure that metal equipment is not too hot for the child, especially in the summertime.

Illinois Law requires playgrounds to be certified safe before they can be open to the public. The playground equipment and the property itself should be inspected by a nationally certified playground safety expert. The Consumer Product Safety Commission provides individuals extensive education and training on playground safety prior to being certified. These licensed safety experts have specialized training in identifying hidden hazards.

It may seem obvious, but Illinois law also requires that a day care director or other supervisor inspect the playground for hazards before children go outside to play — a guideline which helps to ensure there are no damages or hazards present. Thus, it is important for the day care director, teacher or supervisor to be knowledgeable of the type of safety hazards that can exist in a play area.

Meeting playground safety and compliance requirements is of high importance, as a child's life could be at stake if the requirements have not been met.

In my practice, at Dwyer & Coogan, but also as a mother of two active and boisterous

little girls, I understand that seeing your child in pain caused by an accident on a defective playground is devastating. If your child has been seriously injured on defective playground and/or gym equipment or while under the supervision of an indoor children's gym, call me and we can discuss the facts of what happened. I can help you protect your child's rights and ensure justice on their behalf and let you focus on helping your child recover from their injuries.

**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.*

Continued from last page

The AFSP website also includes a directory of support groups for family members and others who have lost someone by suicide, listed by state and city.

The International Association for Suicide www.iasp.info, has a mission to prevent suicidal behavior, alleviate its effects, and provide a forum for all interested in preventing suicidal behavior.

Erika's Lighthouse www.erikaslighthouse.org, was started by the family and friends of a teen who died by suicide to shed light on adolescent depression via understanding, early identification and stigma reduction. Erika's Lighthouse provides a message that is positive, honest, fact-based and all inclusive, along with a parent handbook on childhood and adolescent depression, written by parents for parents,

and sponsors a comprehensive adolescent mental health awareness program for middle school students.

Erika's Lighthouse, 897 1/2 Green Bay Road, Winnetka IL 60093 847-386-6481 info@erikaslighthouse.org

Elyssa's Mission® provides resources to help prevent teen suicide. The community-based organization was founded in 2006 in honor of Elyssa, a bright, gifted and outgoing Chicagoland girl who bravely battled post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. Elyssa's Mission® provides hands-on support to area public and private schools in order to educate students, staff and parents on how to recognize and assist those teens most at-risk. We have helped educate over 300,000 students since inception. elyssasmision.org.



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Metathesiophobia

Or "the fear of change" is a natural survival instinct ingrained in humans. Heredity and genetics train us to resist change so as to feel ever in control.

The internet's brought revolutionary change in human society. The first completely bookless, entirely digital public library opened in San Antonio in 2013. Social media have made communication fast and furious, connecting people of all ages instantly to current events.

Today's crisis is often gone from public consciousness in a week. Not so the most angst-inducing, elusive and enduring "crisis" of the past two years: alleged Russia campaign collusion. Politicians and media have worked hard to keep that on front pages, acting as a powerful deterrent to political change.

In July 2016 the liberal Huffington Post, then supporting Bernie Sanders, addressed Hillary's complaints of Russian propaganda

in the election: "meddling in foreign politics is a great American pastime, and one that Clinton has some familiarity with." They said. "For more than 100 years, without any significant break, the U.S. has been doing whatever it can to influence the outcome of elections — up to and including assassinating politicians it has found unfriendly." I doubt you'd read a similar Huff Post comment now.

Facebook found thousands of ads that Russian interests may or may not have purchased to influence the 2016 election. Anyone can post on Facebook; it's not illegal. But the left seeks proof they lost the 2016 election because the Trump campaign conspired with Russia. Legal expert Alan Dershowitz calls such investigation futile, saying: "Even hypothetically, if the administration or the candidate got together with the Russians and said, 'Please help me become president. Do whatever you can to help me.' That wouldn't be a crime... Collusion with the Russians is not criminal conduct".

In March CBS 60 Minutes aired an investigative report, "Hacking Democracy", leading with a statement that: "our democ-

racy is under attack... the US intelligence community has concluded there is no doubt the Russians meddled in the 2016 presidential election, leaking stolen e-mails and inflaming tensions on social media".

That may sound like earth-shaking news to Americans busy all year with their own meddling trying to accomplish the very same end: to delegitimize the 2016 presidential election; until one realizes that "leaking stolen e-mails and inflaming tensions on social media" is routine practice for monarchs of media.

CBS peppered its report with alarming words and phrases (large scale intrusion, FBI, Homeland Security, Russia, digital fingerprints, unprecedented attacks, incredible threat). Viewers were told Obama officials grew so concerned that they accessed a "cyber hotline" for the very first time to tell Moscow to stop, and Obama issued a plan to counter a possible election day cyber-attack by actually mobilizing the military and dispatching armed federal agents to polling places! Obama did issue a press release saying "the Kremlin intended to interfere with the US election process". The media ignored it. So why weren't news giants all over such an incredible news story? CBS didn't say. Instead they put that question to Obama's White House "Cyber Czar" Michael Daniel, who told viewers there were "other news events that happened around the time of that statement that tended to swamp some of it out". I sense a strong, fishy presence. The "swamp" news was the Podesta e-mails and the release of a decade old tape made in 2005 by NBC "Access Hollywood" host (promoted to Today co-host) Billy Bush, nephew to president George H and cousin to George W, in which Trump said "the P word".

The videotape allegedly sat on a shelf until an unnamed NBC "Hollywood Access" producer suddenly remembered it and showed it to Executive producer Rob Silverstein. An NBC source claimed "Access" was preparing a story, but no one claimed to know how it got from NBC to Washington Post reporter David Farenthold, a close friend of NBC executive Noah Oppenheim, first. (Farenthold has since been hired by as an NBC consultant and Oppenheim promoted to President, NBC News.) That October surprise "P word" story happened to break two days before the second 2016 U.S. presidential debate between Trump and Hillary. Washington Post said it became "the most concurrently viewed article in the history of its website". Wolf Blitzer prepped CNN viewers saying the tape is "very, very graphic and very disturbing". It was all over TV up to election day. (You may recall NBC

also killed the Weinstein sex scandal story before Ronan Farrow got The New Yorker to print it.)

Andy Lack began his career producing shows at CBS, including 60 Minutes, and was hired as president of NBC News in 1993, in part to restore credibility to the news division after Dateline faked an explosion in a truck safety expose'. Lack was president of NBC News in January 1999 when Dateline interviewed Juanita Broaddrick about her alleged rape by Bill Clinton. NBC didn't air her testimony until February 26, two weeks after Clinton's impeachment hearing ended in acquittal (February 12). Broaddrick also accuses NBC of editing out the portion of her interview concerning Hillary Clinton's campaign to silence her and other victims. Her calls for Lack to re-air the interview in its entirety have fallen on deaf ears.

When Bryant Gumbel left Today, Lack installed his close friend, Matt Lauer. Later, when Lauer was accused of improper sexual contacts with staff, NBC News management said it was unaware of any allegations, although they knew Variety was preparing to publish them.

After the hot mic recording of his off-color Hollywood Access conversation with Donald Trump appeared, Billy Bush was fired from the Today Show. Access Hollywood co-host Natalie Morales said Trump had appeared on the show "hundreds of times". Asked if the show had other tapes of Trump using vulgar words, an NBC source said: "Not that I know of."

Back to 60 Minutes. The breathless rhetoric of its "Hacking Democracy" story continued for fully 10 minutes before Obama's "Cyber Czar" Michael Daniel revealed on camera that on election day, absolutely nothing happened- no chaos, no military mobilization, no armed agents dispatched to polls.

How hard is it to expose official BS propaganda? Perhaps you can't conceive of such duplicity by your government or press- unless you remember Jerry Conlon and the families of those shot and maimed on Bloody Sunday. 46 years later no soldier involved has yet been convicted. After three long and very expensive inquiries the British government has issued no more than a terribly belated "sorry".

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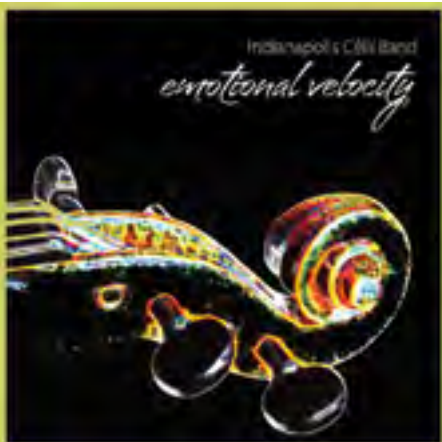
Jack Baker



Is it Spring Yet?

Sitting here writing this in the middle of April, Cub's home opener postponed because of snow and the furnace is roaring away still. Luckily the music scene is hot as ever with sessions going on every day of the week and new cds coming out regularly.

I was honored to be asked to vend at the Comhaltas and, while doing so, the room lit up with the 100 watt smile of Robyn Jedlicka, a young musician of considerable talent. I asked if she'd gotten a cd out yet and to my absolute delight she said yes! She went on to show me the new cd from The Indianapolis Ceili Band, of which she's a member. The Indianapolis Ceili Band (www.indyceiliband.com) was formed in 2009 in conjunction with the Irish Arts Academy of Indianapolis in an effort to promote traditional Irish



music. Well their new cd, "Emotional Velocity" is a perfect vehicle to introduce new ears to the best in traditional music. The recording starts off with a great march and proceeds into reams of dance tunes, reels, waltzes, jigs and a pair of lovely songs, "Lord Courtown" and "My Irish Molly-O", all of it performed with great joy and precision. It is truly an enjoyable cd to listen to and definitely hits the marks when it comes to it's stated purpose. Ok Robyn, now it's time for your solo cd.

No sooner had the light of Robyn's smile faded than we were graced with the high voltage smile of master fiddler Katie Grennan. Katie, who has gotten well known as the new fiddler with the

band Gaelic Storm, has released her second solo cd, "The Second Story" (www.katiegrennan.com) and it is one lovely collection of some of the finest fiddle you could ever want to hear. Katie

is of the new generation of fiddlers that has taken traditional Irish fiddling and added their American influences to the mix and come up with a very definitive style that is all their own and glorious in it's own right. Four of the tracks are Katie's own compositions and are beautiful examples of her skill at composition. On the cd she is joined by John Williams, Ja-



mie Reynolds, Dave Eggar, Dave Curley, Jimmy Moore, Steve Holloway, Jacob B. Little and Kayla Embrey and together they have crafted one stunning recording. Katie's fiddle playing is bright, fresh and, coming from a dance background, as steady as they go. Her humor and joy of the music is communicated in her playing and is a constant source of joy. Don't miss a chance to see her performing with Gaelic Storm and see what she adds to that heady mix and don't miss a chance to see her in solo performance either. She is a joy and pleasure to behold.

My column seems to be all women this month and there's nothing wrong with that. A cd I received in the mail this spring proved to be another "can't-stop-listening" recording by a family band/trio, The Friel Sisters, (www.frielmusic.com). The sisters, Anna, Sheila and Clare Friel are traditional musicians born and brought up in Glasgow with their family roots firmly entrenched in the Donegal Gaeltacht. Having played together since they were babies they have a tight blend on fiddle, flute, uilleann pipes and their lovely voices. They sing in Irish and English and sparkle in both. Their new recording, "Before the Sun", is a joyous celebration of music of a caliber we seldom see.

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Greener Than Shamrock

There was something hidden in the shamrock this St. Patrick's Day in New York. For 257 years the New York Irish have celebrated our patron saint in grand manner. They have proudly marched up Fifth Avenue (and, the old joke goes, stumbled down Third). That has been done in honour of Patrick, a unifying figure whose legacy to bring people together in celebration and mutual acceptance is matchless.

The Mayor of New York City, alert to the political value of aligning himself with this tradition, did so in spectacular fashion on March 17th 2018. He made this declaration to Gerry Adams: 'I, Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New

York, do hereby proclaim March 17, 2018 in the city of New York as 'Gerry Adams Day'. The event at Gracie Mansions was attended by, among others, the Taoiseach, who congratulated Adams.

If the redesignation of St. Patrick's Day was not opposed by the Taoiseach in New York, it certainly was back home. Austin Stack, whose father, a former prison officer, Brian Stack, was murdered by the IRA, publicly demanded that de Blasio dedicate next year's St. Patrick's Day to victims of IRA atrocities.

De Blasio's proclamation was so egregious that he managed that rare feat of uniting people in Northern Ireland, if only in condemnation. UUP MLA Steve Aiken characterised it as 'an attempt to rewrite history... The presentation

of a proclamation to Gerry Adams by the Mayor of New York was a kick in the teeth for the victims of terrorism and brings shame on the office which he holds... it is an insult to the law-abiding majority on these islands who celebrate the day'.

Wouldn't it be ironic if something so partisan as 'Adams Day' succeeded in eliciting a bipartisan letter, co-signed by engaged people on both sides of the border, which demands that the Irish government clarify its position on de Blasio's proclamation? That would constitute an occasion to revisit the occurrence, and to do so would benefit the government in several ways.

De Blasio's implicit unwillingness to acknowledge the people who are dead because of the IRA's campaign to unite Ireland at the point of a gun, while glorifying a terrorist campaign sustained over thirty years, is a farrago of deceit. The Irish government should be unambiguous about that. The government should take distance from any proclamation that upholds Gerry Adams as a man who has, as de Blasio put it, 'in all he has done, accepted that a life of fighting for

change came with peril, came with the threat of violence and the experience of being attacked... history will remember Gerry Adams for being one of the people who did something truly heroic and truly revolutionary... [Adams] found a path of peace... so many are alive today because of that'.

Secondly, many people who took a stance against the IRA, both in Ireland and elsewhere, paid a hefty price for so doing and their efforts are completely ignored in the mayoral statement. During the Troubles de Blasio's comments would have constituted a dismissal of those who sought to remedy the injustices of Northern Ireland through constitutional means, positioning de Blasio with such politicians as Mario Biaggi (Congressman for New York from 1969 to 1988). The impact of senior politicians in the US advocating extreme views in the Troubles validated violence, in the eyes of some, and thickened the stream of funds to fill IRA coffers. Today, lionising Adams (who was, it is widely believed, both chief of staff of the Provisional IRA and a member of the IRA army council) picks up that thread of validation of IRA

violence, something that is very damaging both to a clear-headed Nationalist interpretation of recent Irish history and to the prospect of retaining the trust of Unionists in the impartiality of political America on the Irish Question.

While Adams Day was in full swing, Sinn Féin Senator Máire Devine saw fit to retweet a post from the anonymous

twitter handle, @rnerriionstreet, which characterised Brian Stack as a 'sadist prison officer'. Devine was suspended by Sinn Féin for retweeting the slur. While retweeting a calumny about a dead man is callous, ordering executions as part of a guerrilla campaign is a crime. Families of victims have been deeply hurt by the first, but incensed by the ambivalence that de Blasio's encomium for Adams suggests about the latter.

Apologias for the IRA campaign tend to rely on the lie that there was no alternative to violence. Yet there was. In Ed Moloney's essential study of the organisation, A Secret History of the IRA, an IRA volunteer admits that in sabotaging the 1973-74 power-sharing Executive in Northern Ireland the IRA 'wanted to make our presence felt as a force without which there could be no solution which was not to our liking'. An Phoblacht, the IRA's media mouthpiece, excoriated Northern Nationalist politicians such as John Hume and Gerry Fitt for taking their seats in the 1973-74 power-sharing Executive. But Hume and others were putting into practice a politics that it took Adams and his colleagues decades to adopt—while innocents continued to suffer and die.

Hume's statement after the fall of the Executive in May 1974, brought on by a mixture of Unionist and Republican strong-armed tactics, is therefore increasingly important to recall: 'The only way to solve the problems of Northern Ireland is not through conflict of the different sections of our people, but through partnership. It would now appear that the representatives of a majority of people in Northern Ireland have rejected that concept. I think that is a tragedy'.

The long road to return to power-sharing in Northern Ireland was far from heroic or revolutionary: it was a litany of tragedy. Bill de Blasio might do the memory of victims of a generation of violence the courtesy to consider the facts before his next proclamation.

Maurice Fitzpatrick's latest film, *John Hume in America*, and his book, *From Derry to DC: John Hume in America*, are on release.

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pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



May is Mary's Month - Save the May Crowns and Pray for the Unborn

Had enough wintry April? ShopVac the seepage in the basement more than you'd care to mention?

Well, it is May, boys and girls and the temperatures are hitting 80 now and then. The flowers are blooming. Chalk art appears on most pavements. T-Ball and Little League has snared parents to enjoy the lush greens of Kennedy, Beverly, Ridge, Mount Greenwood and Duffy Parks in the 19th Ward and Evergreen Park. High school seniors are planning their long-awaited 'skip days.' College kids are home and looking for work. Mary the Mother of God is expecting some chat from us all.

Whether or not Our Lady gets some chin music from her poor, banished children of Eve, or not depends upon just how woke, unsophisticated, too, too evolved we happen to be. . . now.

To be sophisticated

- We are expected to be for a woman's right to abort her child and euphemize that horror by

calling it 'health care.'

- We are expected to deny the binary truth concerning gender.

- We must accept polyamory as the next threshold in human evolution

- We must accept Sanger, Gurley Brown, Kinsey and Steinem as gospel and cast a jaundiced eye upon Paul, Augustine, Aquinas and Our Lady

It said that in the UK and Ireland fewer than 7% of young people under the age of 30 identify as Anglican and less than 10% as Roman Catholic. Ireland will determine if abortion truly frees women from priests, abusive husbands and 2,000 years, or more of metaphysical torment.

Artists have formed the Artists Against the Hateful 8th in opposition to Ireland's 1983 8th Amendment which affirms the rights of the unborn.

They now have more than 3,500 signatories from every arts discipline in Ireland, including high-profile supporters such as

writers Anne Enright and Edna O'Brien and actor Saoirse Ronan. "Immediately it opened, artists were signing up in thousands," says Maher. "It gave us great courage. Then we moved into actions, because we thought, we've got all these signatories, what are we going to do with them?"

It seems that sophisticated ladies will move other people to accept the slaughter of the innocents as a benchmark in Irish evolution.

Here in America, far too many priests and bishops have evolved on the abortion issue and provided cover for Catholic politicians who support abortion and its providers. Since 1964 when a band of "Judas priests" met on the Kennedy compound of Hyannisport to tweak situational moral theology for politicians to reap the bloody gold of the abortion lobby, Catholic politicians of both political parties have betrayed Our Lady and millions of unborn children.

The former Jesuit priest Albert Jonsen, emeritus professor of ethics at the University

of Washington, recalls the meeting in his book "The Birth of Bioethics" (Oxford, 2003). He writes about how he joined with the Rev. Joseph Fuchs, a Catholic moral theologian; the Rev. Robert Drinan, then dean of Boston College Law School; and three academic theologians, the Revs. Giles Milhaven, Richard McCormick and Charles Curran, to enable the Kennedy family to redefine support for abortion.

Mr. Jonsen writes that the Hyannisport colloquium was influenced by the position of another Jesuit, the Rev. John Courtney Murray, a position that "distinguished between the moral aspects of an

issue and the feasibility of enacting legislation about that issue." It was the consensus at the Hyannisport conclave that Catholic politicians "might tolerate legislation that would permit abortion under certain circumstances if political efforts to repress this moral error led to greater perils to social peace and order." Wall Street Journal

Yanks are much more sophisticated than the Irish. We don't even pretend that Mary, Mother of God, matters too much.

May is the Month of Mary. Do some thinking about that. Willful killing is murder. Truth is not all that sophisticated.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



Remembering the Legacy Of M.L.K.

Last month saw the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King. For me, MLK was an authentic prophet in the biblical sense; that is a spokesperson for the living God.

The role of the prophet is to address and confront injustice in all its forms in society. The gift of prophecy is one of God's greatest gifts to humanity to help us in forming a just and equitable world. Some folks think that the prophet belongs to ancient times and has little relevance to us today. I disagree; I think that prophets are needed in every age to remind us of our dignity as men and women. The prophet is also needed to remind us of where we have strayed from our truest selves and calls us to change for the better.

With that in mind, I would like to point out a number of ideas that are central to the message of MLK. These ideas are as relevant today as they were in 1968.

1. He preached that each person has the power to do something concrete to change the world for the better. And when people of a like mind begin to inspire each other to work together for a just cause, then real change is possible. He called everyone to join the movement to put an end to segregation and discrimination in the USA.

2. Like every true prophet, he was not afraid of controversy. He believed that the message of Jesus "would comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable." This led him to challenge the unjust status quo and work for peace and justice for all. And because he challenged and upset the existing unjust order it eventually led to his death.

3. The sad reality in the US today is that the issue of racism has not gone away. Also, poverty, which is at the root of so many of our social problems, is very real in our country. The latest figures estimate that we have a minimum of one and a half million people living at or below the poverty line today. This is a real scandal in this country, a nation that has been richly blessed in so many ways.

I will conclude with a series of quotes from the writings and sermons of MLK. On injustice

In a letter from the Birmingham city jail

in 1963, King wrote:

- "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

- "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality,

tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

On racism and violence

King delivered a speech in Finney Chapel in which he said:

- "The non-violent Negro is seeking to create the beloved community. He directs his attack on the forces of evil rather than on individuals,"

- "The tensions are not between the races, but between the forces of justice and injustice; between the forces of light and darkness."

On religion & Science

In the book *Strength To Love*, a collection of sermons that he wrote on a number of topics, including religion.

In one of King's sermons, he preached the need for a "tough mind". "The modern world", he said, has far too much "softmindedness" of "unbelievable gullibility".

King also had great appreciation and respect for science.

- "There may be a conflict between softminded religionists and toughminded scientists. But not between science and religion.

- "Their respective worlds are different and their methods are dissimilar.

- "Science investigates; religion interprets. Science gives man knowledge which is power; religion gives man wisdom which is control. Science deals mainly with facts; religion deals mainly with values. The two are not rivals. They are complementary."

On education

- "To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of the chief aims of education. Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction,"

- "Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education,"

- "If we are not careful, our colleges will produce a group of close-minded, unscientific, illogical propagandists, consumed with immoral acts. Be careful, brethren! Be careful, teachers!"

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

Michael@straussrealty.com

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello! Everyone,

My mind was wandering back to the year 2000 and a visit from a good friend of mine Pdraig O'Sabhain. Pdraig lives in Connemara where he and I first met. It was Chicago, September 11, when the Twin Towers were attacked in New York. Pdraig was worried because his brother was working in the same vicinity as the tragedy occurred. We kept calling from Chicago and then later that day, thank God, we were able to get in touch with his brother and he was safe.

Soon, we set off on a road trip to visit the Badlands of South Dakota. Pdraig is very sympathetic towards the Native Americans, as am I. Along the journey, he told me about an Oglala, Lakota, Sioux woman, JoAnn Tall, who was very prominent in fighting for human rights and especially for her own people. JoAnn had been to Ireland to take part in the famine walk from Louisburgh to Doolough, an annual event to remember the cruelty millions of our people endured at the hands of Queen Victoria. Like the rest of Ireland, the Famine had a devastating effect on the Louisburgh area in Mayo.

On Friday 30th of March 1849, two officials of the Westport 'Poor Law Union' arrived in Louisburgh to inspect those people who were needing help. And to verify that they could receive help. Instead, the officials went on to a place called Delphi Lodge (a hunting lodge), approximately 15 miles south of Louisburgh. The people were



Joe McShane, "Big" Tom McBride, Margo.

told that they would have to make their way to Delphi Lodge at 7:00 am the following morning if they wanted to receive any relief. So 600 people walked all night arriving exhausted to be totally ignored outside the lodge. It was a time of very cold, stormy weather. They were left with no choice but to

start the journey back. Three hundred made it back. The others died along the road, some rolled down into the lough.

The famine walk

was where Pdraig met Jo Ann Tall. He said "after the walk was over Jo Ann, went to Beagh, Kilinkere, Co. Cavan. She stood by the place where General Philip Sheridan was born and forgave him for all the atrocities he had done to her people". That is the nature of the Native Americans, and I realized that more after spending some time with them. Jo Ann lives in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, a very poor place with much poverty. She now lives in a nursing home looking after her elders. It was a great honor to meet this wonderful lady. While we were at Pine Ridge Reservation, we went to Wounded Knee. Where In 1890 the U.S. Cavalry slaughtered about three hundred of the Sioux tribe, including women and children. - It's a shame this kind of thing isn't documented in the so-called history books. JoAnn Tall won the - Goldman Award in 1993, as recognition of her great work for human rights.

I was telling Jordan Moge about my experience. One thing led to another and then as often happens with Jordan and me, a song was born. It's titled - 'Louisburgh To Doolough' (Pine Ridge To Wounded Knee). I wanted to write about it for this May edition, because the Famine walk this year is on Saturday 19th May. A warmer time of year than that terrible day back in March 1849, and the comfort of footwear.

I just heard the news that **Big Tom McBride** has passed away. Tom's wife Rose passed away a very short while ago. They

were a very loving couple and I know his heart was broken when he lost the love of his life. Tom touched our hearts with his music for over five decades. Through it all, he remained a humble man and a blessing to anyone who ever met him. We send our sincere sympathies and prayers to all the McBride family circle. As in the title of one of Tom's songs reads - 'When The Roses Bloom

Again', Tom and Rose are together again. Thank you for all the wonderful treasures, songs and memories you left us. R.I.P. Big Tom and Rose McBride.

Hopefully, Declan and I will see you at the Memorial Weekend Irish Festival at Gaelic Park. Be good to one another. **Joe**

'Louisburgh to Doolough'

(Pine Ridge To Wounded Knee)

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Six hundred starving people, women, men and children

Less than half returned from that mansion to their homes

Chorus

Fifteen miles from Louisburgh to Doolough

Fifteen miles there and back again

On a cold and stormy day in eighteen forty-nine

Three hundred souls were lost there in the glen

Verse 2

She came all the way from the Pine Ridge reservation

To walk the sacred walk of Irish suffering and pain

Her name was JoAnn Tall from the tribe of the 'Lakota'

She knew both our people had suffered much the same

Chorus

Fifteen miles from Louisburgh to Doolough

5 miles from Pine Ridge to Wounded Knee

In the year of 1890, December twenty-nine

Three hundred souls were lost there by the creek

Verse 1

There's a sacred walk in Ireland from Louisburgh to

Doolough

In memory of the perished who fell there long ago

Verse 3

Before she left old Ireland she stopped in County Cavan

Where a man named Philip Sheridan was born

She stood among the rubble of his home of long ago

And forgave him for his savagery and scorn

Bridge

So don't forget to smile you politicians

Once a year when the cameras in your face

All you're really after is your picture in the paper

So go back to your mansions in disgrace

Go back to your mansions in disgrace

Chorus

Fifteen miles from Louisburgh to Doolough

5 miles from Pine Ridge to Wounded Knee

In the year of 1890 and the year of 89

Six hundred souls were lost because of greed

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Irish American News, iBAM! the Irish Books Arts and Music Celebration, and the O'Connor Irish Radio Show were honored recently with the issuance of a resolution by the Cook County Board of Commissioners in Cook County for their cultural and educational contributions to the community.

Pictured (l to r): Cook County Board of Commissioners President; Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board Commissioner; John Daley, Irish American News Publishers, Cliff Curry Carlson and Cathy Curry Carlson, Cook County Board Commissioners; Bridget Gainer, and Sean Morrison, and Siobhainn O'Connor Van Santen of the O'Connor Irish Radio Show. Go Irish!

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Scuba Diving Brings Health, Hope to Injured & Disabled

Scuba diving can be an exotic and enriching activity, but for many, it can also be a therapeutic one.

The weightlessness of a water environment allows individuals with a range of injuries or disabilities to exercise, relax, have fun, and gain confidence. Children and adults with challenges including traumatic brain injuries, amputation, spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, and blindness can enjoy the physical and psychological benefits of scuba diving.

Diveheart, a nonprofit organization founded in 2001, trains thousands of volunteers and works with injured and disabled individuals across the world, in areas including the United States, Mexico, UK, Malaysia, Israel, Philippines and the Caribbean.

As Darrell Young, a Vietnam veteran who is paraplegic as the result of a spinal cord injury, explains in a testimonial on the Diveheart website, "Diving gives me a high expectancy of myself. It gives me a goal to accomplish knowing that when it comes to the finish line it doesn't matter how I finish my dive, but the feeling of strength I gain from diving," he says.

Diveheart relies on volunteers and donations to help provide adaptive diving and scuba therapy experiences at no cost to the participants. Most of the initial training and first diving experiences occur in school or community pools. Participants don't even need to know how to swim to benefit from therapeutic scuba diving, and the learning curve is almost immediate, according to Diveheart's web-site details.

Diveheart works to spread the word that diving is a real option with many benefits for the individuals affected with injuries and for the volunteers who get involved as "dive buddies." The basic experience of being in the water with the support of a trained "dive buddy" can relieve pain, improve focus, and bring joy, according to Diveheart participants.

Diveheart also provides adaptive dive training for those who want to take the next step and

become adaptive divers or dive buddies to help others.

Most Diveheart participants are eager for destination scuba-diving

dive getaway. In addition, Diveheart works with the science and medical communities to provide data and



adventures once individuals are trained and comfortable with the scuba experience. Diveheart offers opportunities for fundraising and also works to find grants for those who struggle with the cost of a

re-search opportunities on the benefits of therapeutic scuba diving for a range of medical conditions.

For information on participating, volunteering, or donating, visit diveheart.org.



Pat Finnegan, Jack Callahan and Mike Austin working hard over the St. Patrick's Weekend in Chicagoland.



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Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



This month I will cover Co. Kildare the, "thoroughbred county". In the April issue I covered Co. Wicklow and I would just like to add and give credit about a few famous people from there. Mike Dwyer (1772-1825) he was one of the leaders in the United Irishmen. He fought in the 1798 rebellion at the Battle of Arklow Wicklow and Vinegar Hill, Wexford. He was imprisoned at Kilmainham Gaol. He later was transported to Australia when he died in Sydney. Next Ron Delaney born 1935 in Arklow Wicklow became famous as a middle-distance runner his most famous achievement was winning the gold medal in the 1500 meter at the 1956 summer Olympics in Melbourne Australia. A big Thanks to Hugh Doyle from Wicklow we had a great conversation the other day about his home county.

On to lovely Co. Kildare its name means the church of the Oak. (cill dara) population about 222,000. Co Kildare is rich in history, kildare is one of the oldest towns in Ire-

land it originated in pre-Christian times. There was a monastery there founded by St. Brigid in the 5c called the Kildare Abby, unfortunately it was destroyed in the 12c. It has become one of the most important Christian foundations in Celtic Ireland. It was said that St. Brigid's mother was a Christian however, she was reared in her father's family. St. Brigid learned about dairy farming and the care of cattle, her occupation after she made a vow to live a life of holy chastity. Both St. Mel of Ardagh and Bishop Mac Caille have been credited with the consecration of St. Brigid. After which St. Brigid established a community beneath an oak tree on a hill on the edge of the Curragh hence the name Cill Dara. It is said that St. Brigid's father was a druid a rather vicious man who kept with him a sword always. He was also a man who was interested in fortune and fame. He was a good friend to the King, he wanted to get his daughter to marry the king. However, this was against St. Brigid wishes, to marry any man for that matter. She wanted to live a life of purity and do the work of God. One day her father took her in a cart to the palace of the king. Brigid waited outside while her father talked to the king. An old beggar approached St. Brigid and said he was hungry, cold and broke. So out of the goodness of her heart she gave the beggar her father's sword. Later her father and the king came to her with big smiles as if they reached an agreement. Suddenly St. Brigid's father noticed his sword went missing. St. Brigid told him what had happened, and he was furious with her and acted out of line. The king noticed this and said it would be unfair for Brigid to be forced into a marriage she didn't accept. She was happy that King came to that realization. St. Brigid's day is February 1st and coincidentally my birthday is also February 1st. In the 1750's the Carmelites built an Abby and school in Kildare. The stain glass in the church includes scenes from our Lord, the blessed virgin Mary, St. Brigid, St. Patrick and the four evangelists'.

Onto a great hobby in Kildare, on July 2, 1903 the Gordon Benefit cup ran thru Kildare it was the 1st international motor race to be held in England as then was. The honors went to Selwyn Edge (Australian/brit) who had won 1902 event in Paris driving a Napier. The auto clubs of Great Britain and Ireland wanted the race to be hosted in the Islands. Their secretary Claude Johnson suggested Ireland as the venue because at that time racing on public roads in

England was illegal.

A few people that come from Kildare include: Christy Moore (singer), John Devoy (fenian), Arthur Guinness (brewer) and Michael Gorman (politician in the Wisconsin State assembly). Ron Wood of the Rolling Stones band has a home in Kildare. There is a lovely song about Kildare, "Curragh of Kildare". I spoke to a kind man from Kildare, Will Geraghty and I think he represents Kildare very well, thank you Will.

Many is the time my dad Michael and I stopped in at Naas Kildare on our way to a Kilkenny hurling game in Dublin. My dad told me when he was at an all-Ireland which Kilkenny was playing, and they were down by 2 goals with 4 minutes to go. Dad headed for the gate on his way to the Kilkenny train he got on the train and someone asked, how did Kilkenny do? My dad said they were beaten badly the man said you're mistaken. They scored 3 goals by the final whistle and won by 1 point.

I want to include a little poem/prayer to life spirits today. God bless all of you readers.

May you treasure wisely this jeweled, gilded time
And cherish each day as an extra grace
Whose heedless loss would be a tragic crime
In today's tasks may you find God's tender face.
May you know that to miss love's smallest chance
Is a lost opportunity, a senseless waste.
May you see need in every anxious glance,
May you sort out of the dull and commonplace
An invitation to God's merry, manic dance
And may the Lord of the dance bless you
As he invites you to the dance of the hallowed present
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



would have to decide to champion the idea. Ideally, that person might be the boss of the area. But it is not essential that the change agent be the boss; all it takes is an employee with the spirit, enthusiasm and chutzpah who wants to make a difference.

The change agent models his idea to his fellow employees on how the office might be more fun.

Encourage people to speak positively to everyone throughout the day; and do it with a friendly voice. Similarly, encourage people to listen to the other's point of view. Create an expectation that anyone in need will be provided with the necessary support. Celebrate the successes, even minor ones, of everyone in the office. Congratulate others occasionally whether it is for their birthday or anniversary. Make it your business to help one of your colleagues once a week. Volunteer for one tough assignment per month. Have lunch with one of your fellows at least once a week. Always remember to compliment others publicly, but also remember to criticize or correct employees in private. Obviously no one likes to be embarrassed publicly.

Vital to this whole process is your willingness to extend yourself with your office mates. Let everyone know that you are sold on the company. To start with, find out a couple of pertinent facts about each person in the organization:

- Where else did they work before joining "your" company?
- What did they do there?
- Can their previously acquired skills and talents be used with "your" company?
- Learn something about their families... interests, issues, kids.
- Where do they live?
- What are their educational backgrounds?

As the author Jim Collins says, one of the real keys of successful organizations is having the right people in the right seats on the bus. And the likelihood of this happening is enhanced by getting to know some "things" about your fellow employees. Take a moment to think about it; could you answer the simple questions listed above about people you work with on a daily basis?

I am a two time Loyola University-Chicago graduate, so I watched the Ramblers get to the Final Four with intense interest. When they were interviewed, everyone seemed to talk about how well they knew each other. They were celebrated for their 32-6 season but that great season was driven by the marvelous teamwork they showed.

Two of the players, Richardson and Custer, had played basketball with each other since they were in 3rd grade.

After their victory over the University of Nevada of Nevada, Custer volunteered to an interviewer that his buddy, Richardson was the best player on the floor for Loyola in that game. In my mind, an obvious display of team spirit and teamwork. Perhaps it is a reflection of Coach Porter Moser's positive and loving attitude. How do you get your department mates to show such teamwork?

There is a quote by Theodore Roosevelt that seems quite appropriate at this point: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

And of course for this process to work, you have to be willing to share some pertinent information about yourself. Teamwork is not a one way street. But many of us resist telling people about our lives, for whatever reason. Perhaps we don't have a positive view of our life experience. Perhaps when we did share our experiences with others in the past, we got "burned". But we often don't appreciate how helpful our past experiences might be in certain circumstances. As they say, many of us play our cards close to our vests. Why do we do that? Perhaps so we are not viewed as braggarts or loud mouths, but it creates a barrier all the same.

I am proposing if you decide to take on the responsibility for turning the culture around that you share some limited pertinent information with your colleagues. Of course, you don't tell them every "secret" of your past until you feel comfortable doing so. Remember that old expression commonly attribute to President Reagan, "trust but verify". You want to be sure that the other person is not abusing the relationship by sharing your secrets with others.

Alternatively you can continue to work in this "dead zone" and complain about it day and night. Why not try to improve the environment? It will be more fun and engaging working there. That could be a great improvement over your current situation. It's your call. CARPE DIEM.

For Your Consideration: "Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat."

Theodore Roosevelt.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., a Naperville, IL-based senior executive coaching and career transition firm.

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Jamesffitzgerald.com

Do You Work in A 'Dead Zone' ?

I suspect if you are reading this article, you have at one time or another worked in a "dead zone" (AKA your place of employment), whether an office, a factory, auto dealership or dental office. It was a place that you may have dreaded, but it was your work home. It was not a friendly, cordial, caring place. No, it was a place of dullness and dreariness, a place to be tolerated but not enjoyed. Many of us may have stayed in this deadening environment far longer than we should have. Most of us would probably quit after a period of time and find some other dull place to work. Why not turn your current location into a happier place? As we all probably know, "happy" work places are more productive and more fun than dreary places.

What would it take? First, it would mean that someone

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Blowing Earth's Dust Away...

I never wanted to have children. I came to that decision back in my twenties; and it was about the most sensible one I ever made, in a lifetime of doing things that weren't all that sane at all.

I'm too selfish, for one thing; enjoy living alone, for another. An ex-wife and several ex-partners will probably attest to that. And so, take it to its logical conclusion: I'm not someone who should have had children. So I didn't wander down that road. And I'm glad I didn't, now that I look around me at this crazy world.

Of course, that decision cost me relationships down the years.... And that's the way it goes. It seemed to me to be a sensible choice to make when I was twenty; and now that I hit sixty, it still feels that way.

Here's the thing: I don't actually mind kids as much as I make out; can even just about bear them sometimes. There are three six-year-olds who live close to me and I enjoy listening to them playing. But they seem to be the exception. Hell, for a start they are laughing and having fun with each other, with nary a zombie-phone in sight. It's nice to hear. Even this Grumpy Old Git likes the sound of children laughing.

And I actually missed that wonderful sound of laughter when they all went away for Easter. Actually missed it, who would have thought that of me? But I do think that these kids are the exception.

Yet the other side of it includes being sick and tired of children being allowed to run around the place, be it the supermarket, any given shop or even in the church. Their witless parents think that their precious little darlings are 'entitled' to make

life a misery for everyone else. And since I'm not someone who is able to keep his mouth shut, grin like a lunatic and pretend that all is well when it isn't, I get tired of falling out with the dopey parents. And I always get the same thing: "You'd know you haven't children yourself". Usually delivered in a waspish tone that suggests that they have just given the ultimate put-down. It's a good thing, really, that I'm not the thin-skinned, sensitive type. If I were I would undoubtedly be 'triggered' and have to run off to my 'safe space' – or whatever the current moronic jargon is.

And when I say that's a decision I made and maybe they should have made the same one because they seem to be pretty useless as parents, it doesn't always go down terribly well.

I just don't think that they are doing either themselves or the children any favours in the long run. This idea of entitlement is everywhere. Too many seem to be unable to say a simple "no" to their little munchkins anymore; and so the rest of us are left looking in bewilderment at a crazy world where a child's most frivolous wish is granted – and of course, granted immediately. Instant gratification, because...well, bless 'em, don't they look so damned cute as they stand there all red-faced and bawling. The kids, I mean, not the parents; although that can happen too.

It's easier just to grant their wish. No wonder the world is going to hell.

Meanwhile, the world of supposed adults threw up another manner in which society is going down the tubes with the recent case in the North of Ireland where rugby

stars Paddy Jackson and Stuart Olding were found not guilty following a rape trial, with their friends Blane McIlroy and Rory Harrison being acquitted on other charges. The verdict led to many spontaneous demonstrations as the public got an insight into how these trials were conducted. Indeed, it seemed at times as if the girl herself was on trial, not being allowed to call any character witnesses, having her underwear passed around the jury and a hundred other things that seemed weighted towards simply grinding her down.

Well, the verdict is what it is, but the really shocking thing that emerged as regards Jackson and Co. was the utter lack of respect they hold for women. Any women. By now, you'll have seen the texts that these fine upstanding young men passed around between each other. I've no desire to reprint them here, but they were dreadful in their complete disrespect for any woman. Not that they can have much respect for themselves, to write such appalling stuff in the first place. If this is the culture that Rugby creates, I'm glad I have no time for it.

These vile men used words and imagery to reduce women to lumps of meat, whilst ignorantly congratulating themselves for being 'top sh--ers'. Well, they're top something all right, but I'd have another word for them. And it was this insight into their world and warped mindset that led in part to such a huge reaction against them.

I'm no saint and have undoubtedly made remarks at times that I've regretted, but the texts from these guys go so far beyond what is even remotely acceptable as to be on a different plane altogether.

This is nothing to do with the #metoo movement. The world and macho subculture that this trial opened up for us is one that should shock men and women alike. Indeed, men were conspicuous at the demonstrations afterwards; and I don't mean

the usual white-knight virtue signalers that we saw wearing their sad little pins at the recent Oscar ceremonies. These guys were out there on the streets because they were as upset by what these sportsmen had written as women were. Certainly, I wouldn't like to be mistaken for the same species as them either.

And although it's hard to see why any woman would be willing to make a complaint to the police after this (and I hope I'm wrong), something good may just come out of this terrible case.

I've not much time for that strident generation of feminists who don't even want a man to open a door for them; but I think that the coming generation of women is going to be a whole lot more rational when it comes to the differences between us. They will be more confident and sure of themselves. And they're not going to be taking any more macho nonsense from the likes

of Jackson and his pack.

That can only be good for both sexes. Hell, we all have to share this planet together.

And I had only typed that last sentence when I heard the news that America, France and Britain have overnight been bombing Syria. Crazy world, indeed.

I'm thinking of these lines from H.P. Lovecraft's poem 'Nyarlathotep':

Soon from the sea a noxious birth began;

Forgotten lands with weedy spires of gold;

The ground was cleft, and mad auroras rolled

Down on the quaking citadels of man.

Then, crushing what he chanced to mould in play,

The idiot Chaos blew Earth's dust away.

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Corkman Alex O'Shea to Attempt 32 Marathons in 16 Days for Charity

Cork based Ultra Runner Alex O'Shea, the running Fireman, launched his latest challenge that will see him tackle 32 Marathons in 32 Counties in just 16 days on Tuesday March 20th at Irish Guide Dogs for the Blinds national training centre. The ambitious challenge is being done to raise funds for Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind. Alex will be supported on the challenge by his friend and running partner Garda Ollie O'Sullivan.

Alex has worked with the charity since 2014 when he broke the world record by almost an hour running the Cork City Marathon in full Fire Gear in just 3h 41m, a cool hour faster than the previous record. This new challenge is on a far grander scale. People will have the opportunity to support Alex by raising funds or running part or all of each Marathon with him. Details of how to support can be found at www.guidedogs.ie

Speaking at the launch of the effort Alex O'Shea said, "I am really excited to be taking on this challenge, it's a huge charity and personal challenge, which I hope people will embrace and get behind. I have worked with Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind for a number of years now and I hope this latest challenge will bring much needed donations to the charity to help them continue their great work."

Speaking on behalf of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind CEO

Padraig Mallon said, "This is an awesome challenge that Alex is taking on and we are delighted to be part of it and to support him in achieving his goal. We rely heavily on the efforts of Heroes like Alex and all those who support our various events and collections across the country. We hope that people embrace this challenge and come out and run with Alex along the way, he will need the encouragement no doubt."

The challenge will start on September 1st with the Dingle Marathon and will go on from Kerry moving up the west coast before travel through the North and then back to the Midlands and East Coast. A serious logistical effort Alex has been planning this for over a year now. If people would like to learn more about the challenge and to keep up to date with details they can visit www.alexoshea.ie or www.guidedogs.ie

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind is a national charity which provides vital services to blind or vision-impaired people and families of children with autism to enable them to achieve increased mobility, independence and an improved quality of life. It costs over €5.4 million to fund Irish Guide Dogs annually and with less than 15% of this coming from statutory agencies the organisation and its volunteers are working every day to raise the remaining €4.5 million required.



Firefighter Alex O'Shea Cork City Fire Brigade Pictured crossing the line of the Cork City Marathon with his two older children Noah & Leon breaking the Guinness World Record in 2014 for the fastest Marathon in full fire gear.

This year he will take on his hardest challenge to date and is asking for people to show their support by liking the Facebook page.

What is the Irish Gaelic Language?

The Gaels are apart of a larger group that comprises the Celtic nations which include: Brittany in France, Cornwall in England (near Celtic sea), Wales, Scotland, Isle of Man, and Ireland. In Brittany the language like the Celtic language is called Breton. In Wales they speak Welsh. In the Isle of Man, the language was called Manx, a Celtic language declared extinct in 1974, but efforts are being made to bring it back. In Scotland they speak Scotch-Gaelic, in Ireland it's just Irish. When I thought of my parents' Irish language, the dialect they each spoke was different. My mom learned Connacht Irish and my dad learned Munster Irish. There are three dialects that include: Munster, Connacht and Ulster.

It also got me thinking, how many languages are there in the world? I looked it up and roughly Daytranslations says 7,000 but no one knows exactly. The 10 most spoken languages in the world include: Chinese, Spanish, Hindi, English, Arabic, Bengali, Portuguese, Russian, Japanese and Punjabi. The hardest to learn are Chinese and Arabic. There are about 2,000 endangered and 200 have become extinct over the last 75 years. Language is an integral part of a community's cultural identity. Our language is one of the most important parts of our identity. Irish is spoken as a first language by a minority in Ireland and a second language by a larger group. It has been the predominant language of Irish people for most of their recorded history and they brought it with them to those Celtic nations. It has constitutional status as the national and first official language of the Irish Republic. It's an officially recognized language in the European Union. Foras na Gaeilge & Conradh na Gaeilge are both responsible for promoting the language. The most important official documents of the Irish government must be published in both Irish and English or Irish alone (in accordance with the Official Languages Act 2003, enforced by An Coimisinéir Teanga,

Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



the Irish language ombudsman) In the 18C century the Irish language lost ground because of English rule. I don't want to spend time on that subject I want to write an article that's pure informative and positive.

There are special regions in Ireland where they only speak Irish and they are called Gaeltachts. (Gaeltachtaí) The main Gaelic speaking regions include: Connemara, W. Donegal, Aran Islands, Mayo, Meath (Rath Cairin), and Kerry (Dingle). Irish is also spoken in Newfoundland, Canada and of course America. (a wonderful diaspora) Irish is different than English in it's word order. English structure would be: subject, verb, object and Irish is verb, subject, object. There are several popular English language stories in translation. The hobbit was released in 2011. (an hobad) Gaelic has been in decline but there has been a movement in recent times to revive, promote and encourage its importance and renewal. The plans to foster a revival of the language have been boosted by the government and supported by a broad coalition both academically and socially to achieve this goal.

One of the reasons Irish declined was characterized by diglossia (2 languages being used by same community in different social and economic situations) You had Irish speaking grandparents with bi-lingual children and English-speaking grandchildren. There is a special pin you can get if you speak Irish or are trying to learn, it's called a Fainne. A few famous Irish speakers include: Michael Fassbender, Cillian Murphy, Marty Walsh (mayor Boston) A film producer from Dublin named Manchan Magan, made a film about only speaking Irish in Ireland. It is an interesting film worth checking out, it's called, No Bearla (No English). There is a lot of great Irish singers that

sing in Irish a few include: Enya, Rachel ni Fhaolain and Niamh de Burca. Newspapers with Irish columns include: Irish echo, Irish times, Connaught telegraph. Irish TV includes: TG4, originally known as Teilifís na Gaeilge (TnaG). The station's anchor shows are the long-running soap opera Ros na Rún, nightly news program Nuacht TG4, South Park in Irish, children's shows Cúla 4 and Síle. Irish public broadcaster RTÉ has one channel, RTÉ One, which broadcasts Irish-language programs such as news bulletin Nuacht RTÉ.

I spoke to a very dear friend named Karen Reshkin who is a Gaeilgeoir. (a person who speaks Irish/language enthusiast. She teaches Gaelic along with her husband Mike O'Regan at the Irish American Heritage Center. She teaches through the organization Na Gaeil. To check out their classes: www.nagaeil.org. (classes are Wednesday & Saturday) They also offer Irish classes at Gaelic park. I also spoke to a man named Kevin Joyce who comes from Ros Muc, Connemara, Co. Galway, who grew up speaking the language. He is happy that Irish is gaining popularity and likes to watch the sports in his native Irish. Ta Gaeilge beag agam. Ta broduil agam ar son cainteoiri Gaelige.

Virginia's book club this month is on May 20th at the Irish American Heritage Center. The book is titled, "Irish American Autobiographies By James Silas Rogers.

Gaelic for the month:

Identity-aitheantas, language-teanga, country-tír, Irish-Gaeilge, learn-foghlaim

Seanfhocail:

God and Mary to you and the rest of the saints to yourself- Dia's Muire dhuit

agus cuid eile na naomh leat féin

If you have any comments please email me:

Molanive@yahoo.com

Featuring Soon:

June: Wedding Issue
July: Sports This Summer
August: To Be Announced
September: iBAM! Preview
October: iBAM! Continues
November: Christmas Issue
December: Plan Your Ireland Trip

St. Mary's Camogie Club of Chicago is Celebrating 20 Years This Summer!

Started in 1998 on the Southside of Chicago, St. Mary's has had several successes over the years with 5 Senior North American Titles and one Junior North American titles.

We are currently **looking for new players to join our club**. No experience necessary. All ages are welcome! The Chicago youth are also looking for any girls that would be interested in playing! Please contact us for more info by either visiting our website www.chicagocamogie.com or emailing secretary.stmarys.central.usa@gaa.ie.

Join us for **Run for the Roses party at Lanigan's Irish Pub on Saturday, May 5th**. We are also selling raffle tickets for \$30. 10 chances to win 6 prizes. Come for some drinks and prizes for best dressed!

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
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Sunday, May 27th • 9am-3pm
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To make hotel reservations for
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www.ChicagoGaelicParkIrishFest.org

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 Sunday May 27 - Gates Open at 1pm
 11:30am Mass
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 Monday May 28 - Gates Open at 1pm
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