

Irish Weddings Come in all Shapes and Sizes

Story page 29



*((l to r): Ribbon Girls,
sisters Ever and Winter
precede the bride, their
Aunt Melody*

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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



Mna na Heireann

Barring a last minute surge in support for those opposing repeal, by the time you read this the Eighth Amendment will have been removed from the Irish Constitution. The current wording in Article 40.3.3, in which the "State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn ... with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother" will be replaced by the following one line "Provision may be made by law for the regulation of termination of pregnancy."

Nothing is certain in Irish referenda. A low poll (where the diehards are sure to turn out), overconfidence, complacency, or the sudden ignition of some aspect of an issue sufficient to change minds at the last minute, are all factors, something which could still play out where an emotive issue like abortion is involved. There is also in the Irish electorate, undoubtedly, an element of "the Devil you know..." with a reluctance to opt for change, particularly where the consequences are unclear. The voters have also shown they are loath to give more power to politicians, something which could also be a factor on May 25.

The Eighth Amendment was introduced in 1983 by a two to one majority after an acrimonious and passionate campaign. Subsequent referenda to attempt to address issues generated by the flawed wording in the original were also high on emotion, with the percentage opposing any liberalisation generally close to forty. Indeed a proposal to remove the threat of suicide as one of the limited grounds for abortion was defeated by less than 1% (10,556 votes) in 2002.

This time there has been up to now less passion, in large part because the issues have been fully aired and debated, and because the power, influence and prestige of the Catholic Church, though still considerable, is now much diminished. Apart from the usual antics of fanatics the debate this time around has been sober and reasoned and concentrated on the right of women to choose. The deliberations of the much maligned Citizens' Assembly, which came down firmly for repeal, and the subsequent debates in the Dail have served also to dispel much of the misunderstanding and emotion for the aver-

age middle-ground voter.

The reasons why women opt for abortion are now recognised as complex and the issue as not black and white. The blunt truth that there already IS a regime of abortion in Ireland, with several thousand women travelling annually to England, with others buying unregulated abortion pills over the Internet, has also played its part, by pointing up the hypocrisy involved in denying Irish women the right to have the procedure performed safely locally.

The latest opinion polls show 44% for repeal, 32% against and 17% undecided with a classic tightening of the race emerging as polling day nears. The one issue that has generated unease and which probably accounts for the relatively high percentage of undecided, has been the suggestion, put forward in an options paper from the Department of Health, that subsequent legislation would, inter alia, as well as catering for threats to the mother's health and for fatal foetal abnormalities, provide for abortion on demand for up to twelve weeks.

The polls identify this as the one issue on which many pro-Choice voters are "soft." Though the No campaign is seeking to exploit this, whether it will prove a game changer in the final days is less certain. It is not after all up for vote and it is by no means certain that any legislation to that effect would pass through the Dail; one can imagine the nature of THAT debate! The polls also show the usual division on age grounds (those over 50 favouring NO) and a definite rural-urban split, with the west of the country now evenly balanced and the south and east, led massively by Dublin, favouring a Yes vote.

There have been numerous harrowing accounts in the media of women's health and even lives (remember Savita Halapannavar) affected by the constraints the Eighth has placed on the medical profession to provide adequate treatment for pregnant women in emergency situations. These apart, developments concerning societal attitudes to women and women's rights in other areas have featured strongly in the public consciousness and the media in recent months. Overall, though separate from abortion, these should boost support for the Yes side. They have certainly prompted an increased interest and focus in just how women fare in Ireland.

Currently the country is seized with the revelations that Ireland's cervical

cancer screening programme, operating since 2008, failed to pick up on several hundred cases where women should have received earlier intervention for cancer treatment. Of at least 208 cases identified to date 17 women are dead. Additionally it has emerged that even when irregularities and anomalies in the screening results were realised many of the women concerned were not alerted directly. The scandal emerged after one woman, Vicky Phelan, now terminally ill, spoke out after refusing to accept a confidentiality clause in a €2.5 million compensation offer. The affair, which is still simmering, has damaged the Government politically and has revealed issues of governance in Ireland's Health Service Executive, as well as how the State deals with those seeking redress for officialdom's mistakes.

Elsewhere the "Me Too" campaign has had its Irish dimension in recent months, with allegations of sexual harassment and bullying, at least one tribunal award for unfair dismissal in a case involving alleged harassment and more and more women speaking up about inappropriate behaviour towards them by men over the years. An unedifying and lengthy rape trial in Belfast involving two Ulster and Irish international Rugby players has further focussed interest. Both were acquitted on 28 March but throughout the seven week trial there was massive media coverage and every sordid and intimate detail of the 2016 incident was aired and reported – the South's reporting restrictions in rape cases do not apply in the North. The young woman involved was cross examined for seven days, a further ordeal in itself.

The whole process left a nasty aftertaste, with various tweets and texts between the defendants after the incident exposing a laddish and misogynistic culture that was distasteful and unseemly to say the least. Subsequent attempts at apologies by the players fell flat, with women's groups fired up, demonstrations in a number of cities and the launch of an "I Believe Her" movement. The players'

contracts have been cancelled and so far they appear unemployable, with the Irish rugby authorities distancing themselves and deploring the players' behaviour. If anything positive has emerged it has been to focus the attention of men on the requirement to treat women with more dignity and respect.

Assuming the referendum passes, it will be another significant milestone in the advance of women's rights in Ireland. The Irish Times columnist Fintan O Toole summarised several years ago the progress that had been made since 1970 in putting to right legislative areas in which women were discriminated against. I touched on some of them in my April column. The list is informative and merits a visit. Repeal of the Eighth will add to it. It has been a long march.



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Enrollment Now Open for Milwaukee Irish Fest Summer School

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Returning for the program's XX year, the Milwaukee Irish Fest Summer School will again welcome students and teachers for a week of hands-on learning, August 13 - 17, 2018. A one-of-a-kind experience, the

summer school showcases Irish and Celtic traditions, and features some of the top artists and scholars in Irish and Celtic music, history and culture.

"For adults, children and families alike, there is nothing quite like the Milwaukee Irish Fest Summer School," said Jane Walrath, director of the



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- **The Bogside Artists** - The Bogside Artists, Tom Kelly and Kevin Hasson, first began work-

ing together in 1993 to document the events surrounding the Northern Ireland Troubles. With supplies donated from local residents, they painted several murals on the walls of Rossville Street buildings commemorating the Battle of Bogside and Bloody Sunday. Kelly and Hasson will discuss their murals' history and social impact.

- **Improving Your Vocal Skills** with Hank Cramer - Accomplished folk singer and educator Hank Cramer leads a workshop in vocal techniques specifically for folksingers. Students will gain insight into how to sing louder, enunciate clearly, hit notes cleanly and warm up effectively - all without going hoarse in the process.

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We Get Letters

Editor,
Conor O'Connor's piece in the May edition begs correction. It is not for Taoiseach Varadkar to make amends with Theresa May. This is a British problem which could have been settled after the 1918 elections. The Brexit movement has created contradictions for of a gerrymandered border which all but the ignorant foresaw. Unless Britain is willing to cede a return of Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish constitution, I suggest they make haste and fix this mess on their own.

Niall Fennessy

New And Notable Instructors

• **Robbie Harris** – A bodhrán player and percussionist, Harris has toured extensively with Riverdance, and has performed and recorded with a long list of world artists over the years. He will be teaching both an intermediate and advanced bodhrán class at the summer school, as well as a bodhrán workshop for students interested in taking their skills to the next level.

• **Mary Bergin** - Hailed as “just about the best tin whistle player this century” by the Irish Times, Bergin is known for her legendary albums of Celtic music and as a premier tin whistle instructor. She will be teaching intermediate and advanced whistle classes, as well as a Friday morning workshop for experienced whistle players looking for an intensive class to improve their skills.

End of summer classes and camp for kids

• **Celtic Kids Camp** – Back by popular demand, the Celtic Kids Camp offers children the chance to experience a week filled with Irish and Celtic culture and fun. Kids ages 7-12 will enjoy classes including an in-depth exploration into the singing, rhythm and language behind Irish and Celtic music with the band, Seo Linn. Participants will have the opportunity to explore singing in the Irish language, vocal exercises, drumming and using studio technology to record a song.

• **Irish Music Ensemble** - Teenagers with a passion for music are invited to join the Irish Music Ensemble for Teens class, which will be taught by students from the University of Limerick.

Special Events & Evening Programming

These special events all take place in the Great Hall of the CelticMKE Center starting at 8 p.m.

• **Eugene Byrne Memorial Lecture** – Monday evening join Irish historian and founding member of The Wolfe Tones, Derek Warfield, as he shares insights and history dedicated to the memory of folk singer, festival organizer, travel guide and wonderful friend to many at Milwaukee Irish Fest, Eugene Byrne. Milwaukee Irish Fest founder Ed Ward will moderate.

• **Instructors Concert** – On Tuesday night, the

world-renowned Summer School instructors come together to showcase their talents in concert. Performing in short sets, the School’s musical instructors showcase their abilities in the intimate Great Hall of the CelticMKE Center. Expect spontaneous collaborations between musicians and dancers in this sneak peek of the talent audiences will see at the Milwaukee Irish Fest.

• **Irish Beer 101: Guinness History** – Guinness ambassador Jimmy Callahan presents the Summer School’s most serious subject: the history (and tastes) of Guinness brews. From the history of the famous Irish brand to brewing processes, Callahan will guide attendees on an interactive journey including tastings of three of Guinness’ renowned beers. Free to registered Summer School students, \$10 for the general public. Open to adults 21 and older.

Classes will be held at the CelticMKE Center in Wauwatosa, Wis., as well as surrounding locations. For a complete schedule, instructor bios, class descriptions, updates and registration, visit www.irishfestsummer-school.com. Students who register before June 1 will receive a 10 percent early bird discount. All registered students will receive one complimentary admission to Milwaukee Irish Fest.

About Milwaukee Irish Fest

Milwaukee Irish Fest is the world’s largest celebration of Irish and Celtic music and culture. The four-day festival showcases more than 100 entertainment acts on 17 stages at Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Milwaukee’s lakefront. The annual festival occurs every third weekend in August. The 38th annual Milwaukee Irish Fest takes place August 16 to 19, 2018.

Milwaukee Irish Fest is proudly presented by CelticMKE, a non-profit organization dedicated to igniting a love of Celtic culture in all people. With the help of more than 4,000 volunteers, CelticMKE and Milwaukee Irish Fest promote Celtic music, dance, drama, sports, culture, children’s activities and genealogy through the annual festival, as well as year-round programming. For more information, visit www.CelticMKE.com.



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

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

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Beyond the Pale

By: Clare O'Donohue
Midnight Ink

This fast-action mystery centers around the travels in Ireland, of Hollis, and her husband, Finn Larsson. They are professors at "a small, but prestigious institution in Southwestern Michigan."

Finn is widely respected for his brilliant knowledge of world literature. A person who claims to be an Interpol agent, asks him to go to Ireland and authenticate a newly discovered play written by Brandon Behan.

The agent says the job is simple and won't take long. But, soon after landing in Ireland, "They realize the job is anything but simple. Their contact is a no-show and they're left with fifty thousand euros...and a possible death threat."

They travel all over Ireland, fleeing people who claim they are real agents. But Hollis and Finn quickly learn that some may be real but that some are killers.

The 'agents' seem to lead exciting lives. But as Hollis observes: "In the real world of spies, people are separated from the ones they love, they get hurt or killed. They don't know who to trust."

Hollis and Finn Larsson bring their mid-west American moral values and trustworthiness to this contest with spies, or agents,

or killers.

The author is a young woman with an amazing resume. Clare O'Donohue is a TV writer and producer. She "has worked on documentaries for the History Channel and for A+E" and she is the author of many mystery books.

O'Donohue says: "I spent a



small portion of my childhood in Co. Galway. Though I was raised mostly in Chicago" by parents who were from the west coast of Ireland.

Her sensitivity to Ireland's people and places is shown in these quotes.

Coming from the airport to Dublin, Hollis observes: "Traffic was heavier than she expected. People were running across the street, eyes fixed on their call

phones...and they were dressed in jeans and t-shirts, business suits and A-line shirts. Not a tweed cap or fisherman's sweater in the bunch."

She describes Trinity College: "The campus was gorgeous—sand-colored buildings, wide spaces, and cobbled streets. And though reeked of centuries-old traditions, the place was alive with youthful energy."

The Georgian homes...were no-nonsense brick buildings set off with playfully colorful doors. Just like the Irish people—serious until approached, then smiling and happy to help."

Pale-means outside of human conduct. However, it also means: "In the seventeenth century, the word pale meant a boundary. The British used the word to describe the area around Dublin where they had control."

About caution: "There was no point in being wary of every friendly person, because in Ireland that would open the whole population to suspicion."

A person says he is intimidated by Americans. Hollis asks why? "Well you're all so confident. There's not a one of you that slouches. You walk around like you own the earth...And you smile. All of you Americans. Always smiling."

"Ireland held on to its identity with the fierceness of a mother protecting her child. Even as it embraced all the realities of modern life, it found a way to be separate, to be eccentric, wild and free."

Timepieces: A Dublin Memoir

By: John Banville
Alfred A. Knopf

John Banville, and myself, are about the same age. We are both in the seventy years of age range, and about this phase of life he says: "Looking back now, in the late autumn of life—or is it early winter?"

It is a natural part of growing old that we recall and cherish certain memories. Banville reflects on that: "Certain moments in certain places, apparently insignificant, imprint themselves on the memory with improbable



John Banville
PHOTO: CHRIS MICHAEL LONDER

ividness and clarity..."

John Banville is a prize-winning Irish novelist, screenwriter and playwright. He even was literary editor of *The Irish Times*. Among the many prizes he has won, is the prestigious Man-Booker Prize. The Man-Booker Prize is the Pulitzer of the UK. Banville was born in 1945 in Wexford. He separated from his first wife and now lives in Dublin with Patricia Quinn and their two daughters.

As a yearly birthday present for the boy, his parents would bring



him to Dublin. Part of this novel are his memories of this yearly event. He describes the magic and wonder of his visits to Dublin.

Eventually, he moved to Dublin. He tells stories about people he knew there. One of the stories is about John McGahern—writer of novels and superb short stories.

"My late friend the novelist, John McGahern, used to give a mordantly funny account of the day he was sacked from his teaching job...After his first novel, *The*

Dark, had been banned by the Censorship Guard. He was called to the office of the principal, a bibulous cleric, who said to him: "It's not the book that we minded most, but the fact that you had to bloody well go off and marry a divorced woman, and a foreigner at that..."

"Yes it's funny, but the aftermath was not: John had to emigrate to England and work at odd jobs, including on building sites. The wonder of it was that he harbored so little bitterness..."

The Catholic Church controlled Ireland for most of Banville's life. And it made Ireland into "a hard, mean-spirited place."

As a young man, he visited Communist East Europe. "When I first visited Eastern Europe...I felt immediately and horribly at home: they had the Communist Party to interfere into their lives from the cradle to the grave, while we had the Catholic Church doing exactly the same thing. "The Ireland of those days was a spiritual tyranny...In the 1990's, when revelation of clerical sexual abuse and the Catholic Church cover-ups put an end to the hegemony almost overnight..." my generation breathed a sigh of relief.

I enjoyed the humor and intimacy of John Banville's descriptions of places and people. Quoting the press release about that: "Dublin could not have asked for a more perceptive observer, or a more evaluating portrait."

John Banville was born in Wexford, Ireland, in 1945. He has been the recipient of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize (1976), the Guardian Fiction Prize (1981), the Guinness Peat Aviation Book Award (1989), and the Lannan Literary Award for Fiction (1997). He has been both shortlisted for the Booker Prize (1989) and awarded the Man Booker Prize (2005) as well as nominated for the Man Booker International Prize (2007). Other awards include the Franz Kafka Prize (2011), the Austrian State Prize for European Literature (2013), and the Prince of Asturias Award for Literature (2014). He lives in Dublin.

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Fr. Cullen Urges Support for Legislation to Restrict Travel by Convicted Pedophiles

TDs and Senators have been urged to support a new Bill – the Sex Offences (Amendment) Bill 2018 - introduced in Dail Eireann by Maureen O'Sullivan TD which proposes to restrict the foreign travel of convicted pedophiles. If enacted, Ireland would be the first country in the EU to curtail overseas travel by convicted child sex abusers. Australia has already introduced such legislation.

Addressing a press conference in Dublin, Irish Columban missionary, Fr. Shay Cullen who has ministered in the Philippines since 1969, said the Bill if enacted "will help to curtail child abuse sex tourism and protect children in countries like the Philippines, Thailand, and Cambodia where child protection laws are weak or not enforced."

Maureen O'Sullivan TD said that "There has been an increase in sex tourism by EU, Australian, and American nationals where they are more or less free to exploit children in countries such as the Philippines. The Bill to amend the Sex

Offenders Act 2001 will empower judges to impose travel restrictions on those convicted of child sexual abuse in Irish courts."

"The aim of this legislation is to protect the vulnerable in those parts of the world where



Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan, Sr. Mary Ryan RSM, MECPATHS, Fr. Shay Cullen SSC, and Aisling Murray, Volunteer Coordinator of MECPATHS (Mercy Effort for Child Protection against Trafficking in the Hospitality Sector)

sadly there is little or no child protection. In our globalised world where travel is readily available I believe we must do all we can in Ireland to ensure that our citizens who have been convicted of child sexual abuse,

should they be deemed a risk, do not have a free pass to travel to other jurisdictions to abuse children" she said.

She also said that the imposing of travel limitations is entirely at the discretion of the judiciary and factors such as engagement with rehabilitation and other factors will be taken into account. The Bill has passed 1st Stage in Dail Eireann, and will go to 2nd Stage and the Oireachtas Justice Committee. In practice, the Bill could mean a requirement for convicted child sex offenders to have a special stamp on their passports.

Fr. Cullen pointed out that about 4.5 million children are trafficked globally each year in a business that is estimated at \$32 billion. The majority of trafficked people are female and about 33% are children. Sex tourists pay in advance through money transfer facilities... they don't use credit cards because such transactions can be traced by police.

He said that in the Philippines there are few reliable statistics of the number of children abused but UNICEF estimates it at

60,000 annually. PREDA Foundation – set up in 1974 by Fr. Cullen – has a home for girls and a home for boys. These homes staffed by professionals have helped hundreds of children – some as young as eight years – to recover from the trauma and overcome the pain and anger they felt at being abused.

Sex tourism from Ireland is growing and more Irish bars are opening in the Philippines. In Olongapo where PREDA is located, there are 300 sex bars. "Police and pimps are working together to exploit these children and sell them to foreign tourists," he said. He also pointed out that the government is issuing licences to the sex bars where children are being abused. "They know what's going on and they don't do anything to curtail it – in fact they encourage it."

"The recent media coverage of arrests of suspected child abusers in Ireland, and the jailing of an Irish television producer in the UK has once again shone a light on the problem. However, that is only the tip of the iceberg. The internet or dark web is enticing thousands of pedophiles worldwide to travel to developing countries and abuse children – some of whom they first met online through a human trafficker who is a relative" he said.

Further information about the pioneering work of PREDA can be found at www.preda.org and www.predafairtrade.net.

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Celtic Thunder's Emmet Cahill in Concert 6-17

Emmet Cahill, award-winning Irish tenor and a principal vocalist with the popular Irish music show Celtic Thunder, will be in concert at First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights on Sunday, June 17 at 4:00 p.m.

"I'm excited to be coming back to the Chicago area once again and singing at the beautiful First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights for the first time," says Cahill. "I grew up singing in church at home in Ireland and am looking forward to meeting so many new people at the concert. It's going to be a special Father's Day concert, with songs and stories about my homeland. I definitely expect the audience to sing along with me, so they should have their voices warmed up!"

The 27-year-old from Mullingar, Co. Westmeath is passionate about sharing songs from his homeland to a new generation of music lovers. His debut orchestral album, "Emmet Cahill's Ireland" was released in 2017 on the Sony Music USA label and went

to number one on the Billboard World Music chart. The album includes traditional classics such as "Danny Boy," "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "An Irish Lullaby" and "Wild Mountain Thyme."

"I am very proud to be Irish," explains Cahill. "I want people to feel a real connection to the songs, as well as the people and the stories that they represent. There has always been a special relationship between the Irish and American people, and I want to further enrich that friendship."

In addition to performing selections from his album, Cahill will sing Broadway and movie favorites ("Bring Him Home," "Moon River"), and church hymns ("Be Thou My Vision," "How Great Thou Art").

General admission tickets for Emmet Cahill's concert are \$30 and may be purchased online at <http://www.emmetcahill.com/tour-dates/> or at the door. First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights is located at 302 N. Dunton Avenue in Arlington Heights.





By the time this article is printed, I'll be done with my freshman year of college. My first year at SLU was a blast, but my experience was so much different than I originally anticipated it being.

By the time I graduated from Benet Academy, I was sick of Illinois. Like most of my classmates, I wanted to get out into the world and spread my wings. Since getting here, though, I've become a little more hesitant to get going.

College has taught me that I have a looooooot to learn. Leading up to move-in day, I was nervous but excited. I was nervous because there were so many variables I couldn't control—would move-in day go well? Would I make any friends? Would people like me? At the same time, I was excited to finally get away from home and make a name for myself somewhere new. Funnily enough, those feelings flip-flopped almost as soon as I got to college.

The things I was nervous for—making new friends, hoping people would like me—turned out to be no big deal at all. I found a solid group of people almost as soon as I got to St. Louis. Move-in day was a blur, but getting all my stuff up to the 9th floor of my dorm was a piece of cake. My most memorable, bittersweet memory of that day was one that I thought I was prepared for: saying goodbye.

I suppose I knew it would happen eventually, but, leading up to move-in, I always pushed it to the back of my mind. Suddenly, the event I had been repressing for so long became a reality. I remember the moment well. The sun setting in the west, tinting the sky with hues of orange, violet, and gold. I walked my parents and little brother to the parking garage across the street from my dorm and gave them all bear hugs as they prepared to get into the now-empty Ford Expedition that had hauled all my crap down from Chicago. Tears stained my cheeks as I watched them drive away.

As they headed eastwards across the Mississippi, reality hit me like a truck: things would never be the same. Sure, I'd visit every now and then. And I'd have summers off. But the start of college marked the beginning of the end of an era. Lazy Saturday mornings with Dad are fewer and farther in between. Goofy sibling roughhousing ceased to exist, because we're all so glad to see each other when I do come home. Perhaps what I miss most of all, though, is my mom's home cooking. Qdoba and Subway everyday sounds really good on paper, but they both pale in comparison to the gourmet, delectable dishes my mom would whip up on a whim for almost every evening.

To someone so far removed from leaving home, these experiences may seem trivial, or maybe even small. For me, they were everything. I had never known anything but home. To tie my experience back to the Irish experience as a whole, I suppose what I felt when I left home for college is similar (on a much smaller scale) to what my grandparents must have felt as they left County Galway and County Roscommon to come to the States. They built a life for themselves and their children from scratch.

While leaving home for college is very different from leaving home for an entirely different country, I've gained a deeper appreciation and understanding for what my grandparents and thousands of other Irishmen and women went through as they journeyed to America. With time, the feeling of loss and nostalgia for my Illinois faded some, but throughout the year it never entirely went away. Saying goodbye to my parents and siblings poked a little hole in my heart, one that will soon be filled as I travel back home. Those that journeyed from Ireland to the States had to mend that hole themselves, by starting families and raising their own children.

Eventually, that hole healed. Even so, I'm sure every now and then something reminded them of home. Perhaps it was cruising down an interstate and having a flashback to riding home on the N17. Maybe it was watching their children frolic in a field of daisies and remembering what it was like to dance in the evergreen fields of the Emerald Isle. Whatever the case, I'm sure that home still had a place in their heart.

Searching For Your Family History

By Terri O'Connell

As we begin our research into our family history, we begin with genealogy.

Definition of Genealogy: An account of the descent of a person, family, or group from an ancestor or from older forms

Researching your family history usually starts with researching your genealogy. Genealogy is the study of one's family origins going back generation by generation.

But the urge to know more about these people greatly increases. The major difference in the research of these two subjects is the dash. For instance:

John O'Connell. 1857 - 1931

See the dash? We begin with the dates, which is your genealogy. When you research your family history, you are researching the dash. Everything that happened between birth and death. These are where the family stories become important.

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history and finds it exciting, that's the dash we speak of. And, now the dates are easier to remember, that's the genealogy. We need to continue to engage the younger generations with stories, tie those stories to history and they will become inspired to learn more.

Join us at the Beginning Your Genealogical Quest workshop at the Heritage Center on Thursday, June 21 at 7pm., 4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago. The cost is \$20. Register at www.irish-american.org or calling 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

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By Catherine Gallagher

Can you believe it? It is June! My favorite month!

Besides it being the start of summer; bringing warm, sunny days into existence.. it is also my birthday month! Since this is the year I turn the big 30, I thought this would be the perfect time to tell you all about this ginger and how she got to this particular time, right here in the city. A very unconventional life story filled with many trials and errors.

When I was 8 or 9, I dreamt about being a lawyer. I wanted to make a living doing what I did best at that age - argue.

For Career Day, I dressed up in a business jacket and carried around a briefcase all day at school. I approached all of my classmates and teachers with a know-it-all authoritative attitude. (Obviously taken from all of the lawyers I studied on TV).

By the end of the day, I was exhausted. I am not sure what wore me out more; keeping up with the bull-headed lawyer persona I had taken on or dragging around a briefcase that weighed more than I did. Later that night, snuggled in bed replaying the events of the day, I decided being a lawyer was not really my cup of tea.

Looking back on it, I was that same little girl for all of my twenties. Not the wanting to be a lawyer part, but thinking I like or want to be something I clearly do not and

am not.

This played out for many other aspects of my life. That same little girl playing lawyer also thought she would be married with a few children by the age of 25. The closer I got to that age, I realized that was not going to happen.

During my adolescent years and into my mid twenties, I went through a few different phases (as I imagine almost everyone does). From wanting to be a nurse to dental hygienist to a makeup artist...I was quite all over the place. Although my goals, motivations, likes and dislikes changed many times over, I always kept the same foundation.

I have always known that I feel very fulfilled while helping others, I cherish time with my family dearly, and I love providing a little light in everyone's day to day life - even if that comes from smiling to a stranger on the street.

At 25, I took the leap and moved from the suburbs to the city. I have always felt an electric pull towards Chicago and at this particular time in my life, I decided, why resist that pull?

For the next three and a half years, just like everything else I did, I dove head first into city life. Making friends and exploring all that this wonderful city has to offer. I laughed, cried, worked hard, met

amazing people, met some not so amazing people, lost myself, and found myself. During that entire time, I was still that little girl figuring life and herself out.

I knew that in order to find out what I really desired in my life, I would need to take a break from my every day non-stop shenanigans to turn in. It was in this time that I moved into my own apartment, cut out the not so awesome people in my life, started practicing more acts of mindfulness (journaling, meditating, working out), doing things that only made me feel fulfilled, and turning down things that did not.

Then, one morning this past fall, while writing my morning gratitudes, it hit me like a brick wall. Finally at the age of 29 I knew



exactly the path I needed/wanted to take, and I knew it would be a challenging one. You could say as challenging as 9 year old Catherine carrying around a big heavy briefcase all day at school. It would take time, dedication, sweat, tears, and more schooling. I excited and ready for it all!

As health and wellness have

been a passion of mine for the past few years, along with helping and encouraging others, I decided to go back to school to become a Nutrition Consultant. I instantly knew that this would be the perfect career choice for me. Just like the electric pull I felt for Chicago, I feel the same pull towards learning about our bodies and what we put into it.

I knew that in order to have a successful nutrition consulting company, I would need get working on it right away. So, I did what I do best, and dove in head first.

I created an Instagram account where I share all of my learnings from school, along with recipes, tips, tricks, and my favorite places around Chicago. (You can check it out and follow me @ginginthecity)

I am also working on a website, which I will be launching shortly. This website, Ginger in the City, is actually what led me to writing for all you lovely readers of Irish American News.

Through social media, I am able to reach people from all over the world and shine a little light on them with daily encouragement, inspiration, motivation, and love.

So here I am, an almost 30 year old just now figuring it out. Carrying around a new heavy briefcase. And you know what? I am loving it!

Everyone is capable of living the life they want, no matter your age or where you are. It is never too late to do or be what makes you truly happy. It is okay to not have it all figured out yet. It is okay to go against the "norm", or the conven-

tional way of life. It is absolutely okay to explore, adventure, dive in, and taste test life!

I am grateful for all of the opportunities that have come, even if they did not work out. I believe in my soul that all that I am and all that I am becoming is because of those trial and errors.

At the end of the day, you have to listen to your heart to feed your soul. As I have said and will say again and again, in order to love and be the best for others, you have to love and be the best towards yourself.

Here is a recipe for my favorite ways to cook cabbage- roasted with lemon! (Which I adapted from a recipe found at fitnessmagazine.com). It is a quick, easy, and tasty recipe that makes a great addition to any meal!

INGREDIENTS:

1 large head of green cabbage
2 T olive oil
2-3 T fresh squeezed lemon juice (I like 3 tablespoons of lemon juice, but if you're not a huge lemon fan you might want less.)

Salt and fresh ground black pepper
lemon slices, for serving cabbage (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 450F/232C. Spray a roasting pan with non-stick spray or olive oil. Cut the head of cabbage into 8 same-size wedges, cutting through the core and stem end. Arrange wedges in a single layer on the roasting pan. Whisk together the olive oil and lemon juice. Brush both sides of each wedge with the mixture and season generously with salt and pepper. Turn cabbage wedges carefully, then brush the second side with the olive oil/lemon juice mixture and season with salt and pepper. Roast cabbage for about 15 minutes, flip each wedge over and bake for another 10-15 minutes, until the cabbage is nicely browned. Serve hot, with a slice of lemon!

Be sure to follow me on Instagram - @ginginthecity - for more healthy recipes, tips, tricks & my every day shenanigans! For comments, questions, or just for a little chat, feel free to email me at catherine@gingerinthecity.com.

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Clutter Buster

By Rita Emmett

Procrastinate No More!

Reward yourself for a job well done. This is positive reinforcement. ~ K. Jeffrey Miller

The greatest Management Principle in the world: What gets rewarded, gets done. ~ Michael LeBoeuf

The Power of Rewards

Frequently people ask me "How can I start to like jobs I'm putting off because I hate doing them?" Honestly, I don't know. BUT the thing that works for me and is

likely to work for you is to give yourself a reward at the end of that project ... a reward so meaningful and important that you'll do anything to get to it.

Small rewards for small jobs; bigger rewards for bigger jobs but always something you really love.

Many say "I don't need a reward. Other people might, but I don't" Ahhh ... but for most people, THAT is the secret to conquer clutter when swamped and to stop procrastinating when overwhelmed with too much to do.

Some find it easy to reward themselves at the end of a project and, as a result, they add enjoyment to their work by looking forward to the reward.

Others are stumped.

If you can't think of a reward that would motivate you, it might be because you have a work ethic that dictates: "I'm only worthwhile when I'm being productive and working hard."

Also, you might be so used to helping everyone else, that the assignment of coming up with a reward that will bring YOU great joy is simply beyond you. You can list what would bring happiness to your family, friends, co-workers, EVERYONE. But thinking about what would make YOU happy comes up blank.

One idea for a reward is something you love to do but never have time for. Maybe you love to read mysteries but have so much professional stuff to read, there's no time for a good book. Or maybe

you love getting with friends, or going to concerts, museums, movies or the zoo but life's so busy, you just don't have time for any of that.

A reward could mean you finish a miserable task so you can curl up with a good book (GUILT-FREE) or get together with friend you haven't seen in ages. When I first began clutter-busting, I set up lunch plans with a friend but ONLY if I achieved my goal, such as clear the clutter off my dining room table. So she would call and give me "clutter-busting pep-talks" every morning because she really wanted to go to lunch together.

As a variation on a reward system, many people "deprive" themselves of something they usually do until a job is complete, such as --- no wine or coffee or social media or game until you've spent one hour on whatever project you've been putting off.

Here are a few examples to help trigger ideas for a reward so meaningful to you, that you'll do

something-you-don't-like-doing in order to have it:

- * time for a hobby
- * shop (but don't buy something that just adds to your clutter)
- * wander outdoors in nature
- * extra sleep
- * time off without guilt
- * exercise, dance or sing
- * favorite sport or activity
- * a great book or a trashy magazine
- * bubble bath
- * dine out
- * do something absolutely useless just because you love doing it

Once you appreciate the Power of Rewards ... well ... the sky's the limit.

Happy Clutter Busting!

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

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

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Celtic Women '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, enthraling 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



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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



A Visit with Atticus Finch

Just last month at the Harvard Diggins Library in Harvard, Illinois, I presented a one man program called "A Visit with Atticus Finch," in what I hope will be an ongoing series of presentations in venues from libraries to theaters and schoolrooms to senior residences and community groups. I have had the honor of being cast as Atticus Finch and other characters in stage productions of "To Kill a Mockingbird," which closely paralleled the Pulitzer Prize novel of the same name with the approval of author Harper Lee, who died two years just after her sequel/prequel "Go Set a Watchman" was published. It depicted Atticus and his Lee alter-ego Scout, formally named Miss Jean Louise Finch, 20 years after the 1935 time period of the original novel.

Fifteen years ago this month, Academy Award-winning Irish American actor Gregory Peck passed away having maintained that his depiction of the small town Alabama lawyer was easily his favorite role. It was almost 20

years ago that I saw him end an in-person stage reminiscence at the Paramount Theatre in Aurora, Il. and heard his last words I would ever hear in person, "An Irish blessing, I'll leave you with this:



James McClure
as Atticus Finch

*May you have food and rainment
And a soft pillow for your head
And may you spend 40 years in
Heaven
before the Devil knows you're dead."*

The last we saw of Atticus Finch, when the 1962 Oscar winning performance of Gregory Peck's film followed the 1960 release of the novel, he was sitting

in the corner of injured son Jem's bedroom, the warm arms of his cardigan sweater wrapping and re-wrapping around the clinging figure of his daughter Scout, the three of them recovering from a painful experience of racism, hatred, and violence, and the often lonely cost of standing against them.

I have a feeling that many of us, both on the stage and in the audience, whether fans of the book or film or both, join Scout and her older self Jean Louise in waiting,

and wanting, to see Atticus again.

The story strikes a chord for me as I had a very Atticus-like father, a dead ringer in both looks and mannerisms to Peck and as I grew into an adult and journalist, I had the opportunity to see such lawyers as Finch in action at county courthouses in Virginia. And just as I still get that experience today as a print and broadcast reporter covering trials today in rural Wisconsin, I also have witnessed the conflicts of race and prejudice all too recently in the Midwest and throughout the nation.

Like Scout at the start of the play we wait for Atticus to return from the courthouse. Like Jean Louise at the end of the film we look back through the window, and through the decades, wishing we could go back to him, to speak to him and finish the lessons. Lessons of putting ourselves in others shoes, and realizing that even as we rail against what isn't right, we are not alone as others quietly do the uncomfortable business of

protecting Mockingbirds be they a Tom Robinson or a Boo Radley.

I suspect those of us who were graced with a great father miss him; and those of us who didn't, miss and yearn for such an experience.

Should you get the chance to schedule or witness my presentation "A Visit with Atticus Finch," it will give you a tangible opportunity in an up-close and live setting not to be missed.

The most tangible moment for me was when a young high school student approached after my presentation and explained why she was brushing away tears from her face as I walked in.

"Atticus is my hero and I'm going through a tough time," adding that I brought him to life and she was yearning to feel the presence of the comforting and compassionate man she loved in the novel and film. I later learned that she was apprehensive about a pending college placement exam and that the visit with Atticus as I depicted him brought her a sense of calm and peace that helped her do well with the exam so crucial to a teen's future.

For an actor, the consummate compliment and joy is to know you have entertained the audience. Properly done, your performance is all about them and helping them enjoy, as Gregory Peck once said, "a good story and good storytelling." Learning that I had touched the girl's life and made a difference means so much more. Before the standing room only event started I had little idea whether I would have 3 people in attendance or 300. Knowing what happened to just one of them outweighs numbers or praise.

It's been said that in some ways To Kill A Mockingbird is a love letter from novelist Harper Lee to her father. It's my hope that presenting "A Visit with Atticus Finch" comes close to depicting that emotion, and a lifetime of reaching out to Atticus.

It's a safe bet in my presentation and other mediums you'll feel him reaching back and holding you safe. -- Email Jim at IrishRoverJim@gmail.com

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



Exploring Irish Hospitality...

Irish friendliness is renowned around the world. This topic came to me because we had Irish visitors and they said America is known for its fast-paced lifestyle not friendliness as such. I wondered what exactly does fast paced mean? And is it such a good thing to desire speed over courtesy? For many a fast life style is trying to get more things done in a day and chase more money and success. But sadly, with this approach we may get more stress, anxiety and less sleep. We want to drive faster, charge our gadgets faster, cook faster, date faster (speed dating) fall asleep faster, etc....

Today's rushed lifestyle doesn't leave a lot of room for the concept of hospitality. Hospitality means spending time with people and their needs. Hospitality is the friendly reception and treatment of guests and strangers. (dictionary.com)

Anyone who has ever been to Ireland or in an Irish home in America is familiar with the world renowned saying, "Cead meile failte". It translates as, a hundred thousand welcomes. Hospitality is at the very core of what it means to be Irish. We

are very proud of this, reputation and continue to express it in ways such as: another round of drinks or by making strangers feel welcome in a new group. During the time of the Celtic tiger it was said some Irish were forgetting and neglecting the tradition of "Irish hospitality". I'm sure the more rural parts of Ireland continued this tradition and maintain it better than city dwellers.

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware." Hebrews. "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling" Peter 4:9. Some beautiful quotes from the Bible on how we should treat each other. So, where does this legendary hospitality come from? It's hard to say exactly but its probably been around for at least a millennium. It could be a reaction to a people used to having things taken from them by foreign powers and they want to make sure others have a bit of comfort.

In ancient Ireland hospitality was mandated by law. Welcoming a stranger was an enforced cultural norm with a detailed set of customary guidelines. Under Brehon law all households were

obliged to provide some measure of hospitality, especially to strangers. Hospitality wasn't just food and drink but spending quality time with guests and making them feel important and their presence was of great value.

I've heard it said that guests are God's blessings and it's good for our health to have company. It makes sense that having visitors to socialize with and connect with is good for our immune system and the community at large.

Here is an Irish poem on hospitality: I saw a stranger yestreen, I put food in the eating place, Drink in the drinking place, Music in the listening place, And in the sacred name of the Triune [God]He blessed myself and my house, My cattle and my dear ones. And the lark said in her song Often, often, often Goes the Christ in the stranger's guise, Often, often, often Goes the Christ in the stranger's guise. Let's try and slow down in our fast paced lives and show hospitality to each other as we will all reap the benefits..and who knows you might be entertaining or cooking for an angel.

Gaelic For the Month:

Hospitality-failteachais
Friendly-cairdiuil
Courtesy-cuirteis
Seanfhocail
Mol an páiste agus molann tú an mháthair.

Praise the child and you praise the mother

Questions/comments please email me: Molanive@yahoo.com



The Irish Childhood

I watched 'Angela's Ashes' on TV recently, which is the late Frank McCourt's novel relating to a childhood in Limerick. I found it incredibly bleak, and was it really possible for that amount of rain to fall in this particular area? I also notice in the bookshops these days that there are quite an amount of books which carry the theme of the Irish Childhood. It is as if we have a need to benchmark the modern Ireland in which we live against previous decades that were not as prosperous.

But we have to be careful here as there are many forms of the Irish Childhood and they should not be taken literally as a factual social history of their particular time. There is a device at work here called 'selective inclusion' which acts as a filter for the memory of the particular writer. Notwithstanding all the rain, poverty and squalor I find it hard to believe that Frank did not have some happy times also. While all of this was going on in Limerick, Alice Taylor was happily walking to school barefoot, saving the hay and having a delightful time in general. Of course, there is little reference in her books to that little episode

called the Second World War (or 'The Emergency' as it was called in Ireland) which was gripping the majority of the world, except for a little geographical portion in mid West Cork. Overall, we all have a tendency to remember the good summers and not the bad ones.

It is good to look back from time to time but also to tease out some parallels with the present day and use it as a learning process. But, we cannot wallow in the activities of the past and we also need to focus an amount of our energies on the journey ahead. The following is a famous quotation from George Bernard Shaw when in 1898 he was asked to take part in the centenary celebrations of the rising in 1798: 'It was proposed to me that I should help to uplift my downtrodden country by assembling with other Irishmen to romance about 1798. I do not take the slightest interest in 1798. Unless Irishmen apply themselves seriously to what the condition of Ireland is to be in 1998 they will get very little patriotism out of me. Yours Sincerely, GBS'

'Do not be awe struck by other people and try to copy them. Nobody can be you as efficiently as you can' - Norman Vincent Peale.



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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



St Patrick's Domain Passover Hues

Someone was watching
Those green eyes, unmistakable,
Staring at me,
Laughing from the back seat,
The joke on me, I supposed,
Uncertain,
My nervous disposition showing
Through the hole in my dark soul,
I was weary,
Tired of politely nodding
Stopping for a breath
Of fresh air,

Donegal, land of my fathers
The back end of nowhere
Sidled up against the north Atlantic
Listening to the roar of the surge
Pummeling the rock and sand
Driven by the wild, savage winds
I was home,

Looking at my sidekick Moses
I armed myself with the new identity,
And, together, we waited outside,
Not a cloud in the sky,
Except for the blue voice of God
Clear, still and silent
Cradling his yellow host
Like a lucky gold coin
To be flipped, just in case,

Patrick climbed out of the backseat
His form rare,
There was nothing lithe about his presence
Yet, his words slithered around my mind
Hissing, rattled about,
Bullying the emptiness
With that threatening stare,

Moses' stick shimmered in the light
Life incarnated in wood,
Crossing the worlds of what was and
what is,
And, what will be,
His leathery skin, aged by the sun,
Swarthy, foreign,
Spoke to me of life beyond these shores
Riddles that refused to yield answers,
Puzzles to intrigue, bemuse
Wore healthily on his olive skin,
The hazel eyes gave nothing away,

Was it the craving for desert spaces that
brought me here?
Forty years, and then some is bound
To change the fertile crescent of an Irish
mind;
Lush with dogma, steeped in tradition,
Preserved in a bog,

The two mighty men watched each other,
Each bearing their own
Peculiar Serpentine grin,
Each rooted to the earth
And beyond,
Fields of shamrocks sang to the gentle breeze
With no fear of burning bushes,
Safe,

Patrick's customary sigh, echoed
Through me,
So very Irish,
The niggun of the oppressed, starving
For a good tune,

'Have you forgotten pilgrim
The moss, wee burns,
Those hidden woods
Where you felt the heart of the
Dewy miracle of foliage?

I saw you caress mother earth
Watched as you rested your hand
On her mossy breast,
Saw the glow in your spirit,
Earthen, sod, muck
Tracing her dank kiss with
Your pale fingers,

Can you forget those flights of joy so easily?
Skirting the bogs,
Following those who went before
Station after station,
Ascending each new hill
Your blood pumping, chest hurting
Straining to be one with the One?

I saw you,
Naked as a child,
Watched as every thought inscribed itself
on your face
Knew when sodden earth's wistful cry
found you out
Called you her own,
Knew exactly when her pagan voice
Wormed its way into your ear,'

My eyes averted Patrick's stare
So familiar,
The hearty generous heart, passionate
Enough to cast out any sign of false pos-
turing,
He knew me too well,
Knew the cut of me
The skilled defensive charm, powerless to
his gaze,
My feet tapped out 'On Erin's Green Valley',

Somewhere in the blueness
I imagined a white whisper of a dove
Bearing the olive branch of exotic fare
After the deluge,
Warmer climes, that was what I wanted,
Something beyond the cold, damp, darkness
Of chapels dimly lit,

The child I was then, learned to nurse each
sacred moment
With wonderment and fear,
Life measured out in penances so great,
So hard,
Devotions, retreats, novenas, beaded
Into a heavenly abacus,
While we trembled in the wind, our con-
sciences
Baptized with the lashings of driving rain,

I could not look at Patrick,
Fearing he see my lack of conviction,
Fearing the judgment in those steely green
eyes,

'Times have changed,
The faith has a particularly Roman feel to it,
Not what I imagined, not at all,
Hope dried from the core
Faith hissed out in words,
The cave of the heart knows only one
Mad man, the priest,

Playing out the usual clerical tricks
Of tying us all in knots
Trapping mind sprites, as if they could,
Chaining them, robbing them of flight,
Stealing our hope with blind faith,
Stone and slab are not my God,
Open your lungs to the world my boy
Let your mind resist such notions of truth,'

He smiled when I sighed,

'The world is full of wonder
you cannot contain it in words
They don't mix well,
mucky as the bog,
The earth, she remembers it all
Takes all that we were and are,
And, in her womb carries us to where we
should be,'

I waited, knew it was coming
the weather, changing
His face, cloud heavy looked ready to
rain Christ down on me,

Nothing,

Moses stretched,
The stick followed upwards
Parting the air, with grandeur, epic
Maybe now,
His crosier alive with possibilities,

'You fellas should have your own show,
God, it's so damp here,
Hard on the old bones,
In my land, we have the heat of the sun,
Blistering,
It changes your perception, you know,
the haze
Dehydration,
Water evaporates, as the sweat gathers,
Running down your curve of your spine
The blood boils,

While the sands of the desert snake ahead
of you
As fiery clouds of
Heaven and earth blind and guide you,
Extremes, excesses,
Curdling the brains in your head
Until madness breeds enlightenment,
Touched, that's what they said about me,

Burning bushes, gushing rocks
Laws to straitjacket any free falling thought,
Such things are a mystery to me,
Slaves to men becoming slaves to rules?
Makes no sense,
Divine madness?
History, betrays us all,'

When the hazel and green met,
They shared a fleeting glance
As though measuring a common idea,
For a moment, I watched as they
Broke the stony bread of existence,
And, the strangers guised as angels
Left,

The clouds held their own,
While sweat trickled down my spine
Pores full of muck and sand,
Deserts lush with meaning
Barren of truth
Shared knowledge broken, consumed,
wasted away

With not a word, I watched them fade away,
Neither left nor right, but opposite,
Distant now,
Less distinct in the fading light.



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Cháirde

Our volunteers, staff and board of directors all thank you for supporting Irish Fest 2018. Your participation, enjoyment and enthusiasm show us that you appreciate what we do, and energize us as we move forward. We hope that you had a chance to meet our Festival Queen, Shana Pembroke, and runner up Caitlin O'Sullivan, and that you and your family had a great time.

The Gaelic Games season is well underway in Ireland, and the Chicago

season will begin this month. Gaelic football, hurling and camogie will be played on Sunday afternoons and selected weeknights. We hope you'll come out to enjoy competitive games and the social scene. We are also looking forward to our Wednesday rib nights on the patio featuring live music. The patio fills up fast, so it is best to call 708-687-9323 and make a reservation.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan

2018 CGP Calendar of Events 2018

JUNE

Jun 6 Monthly Musical Luncheon* Noon
Music by Joe Cullen

Ladies Auxiliary Next Meeting September 14th

* RR - Reservations Required 708.687.9323

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

Pub Trivia will resume Tuesday evenings in October

Monday Evening Set Dancing 7:30pm

Tuesday Evening Ceili Dancing 7:30pm

Lessons 7pm/Ceili 7:30pm

Sunday Evening CGP Radio Live WCEV 1450 AM 7:05-9:00pm



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- Every Thursday Traditional Music with Pat Finnegan & The Irish Musicians

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Fri	Jun 1	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Sat	Jun 2	Larry & Billy	8:30pm
Wed	Jun 6	Frank Rossi	6:00pm
RIB NIGHT on the Patio (weather permitting)			
Fri	Jun 8	Jerry Haughey	7:30pm
Sat	Jun 9	Mulligan Stew	8:30pm
Wed	Jun 13	Frank Rossi	6:00pm
RIB NIGHT on the Patio (weather permitting)			
Fri	Jun 15	Berni Glim	7:00pm
Sat	Jun 16	Jerry & Kara	8:00pm
Wed	Jun 20	Joe McShane	6:00pm
RIB NIGHT on the Patio (weather permitting)			
Fri	Jun 22	Joe Cullen	7:30pm
Sat	Jun 23	Grace & John	8:00pm
Wed	Jun 27	Jerry & Kara	7:00pm
RIB NIGHT on the Patio (weather permitting)			
Fri	Jun 29	Jimmy) & Rhonda	7:30pm
Sat	Jun 30	Fifty-One Lincoln	8:00pm

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**The Carraig Pub's
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The County Connection Corner

Clare Day Special Olympics

The County Clare Association will sponsor their 32nd Annual Day for Special People on Sunday, June 24th at Chicago Gaelic Park. The day will begin with a Mass at 10am dedicated to those that God made "Special" with an Irish Breakfast buffet to follow, featuring our much anticipated and appreciated Grand Raffle. All our "special guests" will be entered in this raffle, and if their name is called they will be able to pick a prize of their choice from a wide variety of wonderful prizes, ranging from TV's, electronics, sports equipment, games, large stuffed animals, etc. All of the above is free to our "Special Guests," they only need to register to participate in the day. To register call Maureen Bennett at 708-301-9773. Registration ends June 18th.

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



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 Cost \$80 per child,
 \$75.00 each for additional siblings
Includes Lunch & Snacks



Registration Deadline: Thursday August 2, 2018

Classes fill up fast - Don't Delay!

Gaelic Park's Irish Cultural Camp Registration Form

- Please use 1 form per child -

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Circle Size for Child's Shirt: **YOUTH** S M L XL OR **ADULT** S M L XL

Emergency Contact - Name _____ Phone Number _____

Any Allergies? _____

E-Mail Address _____

****Please Circle Below 4 Areas of Interest to Your Child****

Irish Art • Crafts • Dance • Drama • Kerry Set Dance • Language • Music • Sports

Mail registration form to: Gaelic Park - 6119 W 147th Street - Oak Forest, IL 60452 - Attn. Cultural Camp

Make Check Payable to **CHICAGO GAELIC PARK**



Mammy's Boy by Jimmy Keary directed by Gail

The Gaelic Park Players took our production of *Mammy's Boy* by Jimmy Keary 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. Gaelic Park Players took the stage on May 24th at the Irish Cultural Centre in Calgary and we are proud of how well they performed! Thank you to our cast and crew for making it such a success as well as our director Gail Lauryn!

Also thank you to all who performed at the 31st Anniversary of Irish Fest over the Memorial Day weekend in the Celtic Room. We had quite a lot of great performances by Shari Sarazin, Irish Harpist, Sophie and Fiachra, Irish Story Telling with Tim O'Sullivan and Family along with theatre group Wildflower performing their play *Vikings and Musicians Once Again*, along with our own Junior Gaelic Park Players performing *Tribute* written and directed by Phyllis Kwain Bierdz, assisted directed by William J. Gleason and accompanied by Phyllis Jane Weinberg.

We'd like to welcome all the new Junior Gaelic Park Players: Emmett Baron, Ella Correll, Ciara Coyle, Matthew Dever, Maggie Gleason, Declan Kenny, Margaret Klinger, Brigid Larkin, Mollie Maher, Maeve Moran, Nora Murray, Aoife McKirdie, Kevin McKirdie and Hanna Von Bruchhaeuser and program hosts Aisley Houlihan and Declan McKirdie. They did a fantastic job and we look forward to them participating with us in future endeavors.

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. Also visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/gaelicparkplayers or our web page gaelicparkplayers.org. We welcome all who wish to be involved in acting, directing or working backstage. Stay tuned to this page over the summer as we will be announcing the name of our fall 2018 production and celebrating our 25th year of producing Irish plays at Gaelic Park!



Chicago Gaelic Park

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Solace Walk and Gathering - May 19, 2018





Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



Choosing A Nursing Home Checklist

Happy Mother's Day to all of the Irish American News Mothers! Mother's Day is a chance to devote time to our mothers—which, for some of us, means visiting the nursing facility where Mom now lives. And if that time has not come for your family yet, you may already be contemplating the day when elderly parents may need to move into a facility with varying levels of support. Placing any loved one into a nursing home, is never an easy decision, but for many it will become necessary to consider. In this article, I am going to lay out some of the consider-

ations you should add to a checklist in choosing the best nursing home for you or your loved one:

Physical Location and Security Considerations

I am absolutely convinced that nursing home residents whose family are very involved in their residency are the ones who receive the best care. When choosing a nursing home for your loved one, proximity to you and other family members who will visit should be one of the highest priorities on your checklist. It is imperative that family members visit often and at unannounced times to ensure that your loved one is receiving proper care, treatment and attention so

being located in a place where that can be easily done in these busy lives we lead, is imperative.

A nursing home should feature locks on doors, alarms and surveillance equipment. A guard or a staff member should be placed in an area where they can pay attention to who is coming in and out. This is very important if you have a loved one suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Make sure the home has working smoke detectors, emergency exits and a sprinkler system. Ask to see the home's fire excavation plan. By law, residents' belongings must also be stored in a reasonably safe place. If your loved one does suffer from cognitive issues, make sure you are satisfied with how the home prevents those residents from wandering or eloping from the premises.

Treatment Considerations

When considering a nursing home for a loved one or indeed for yourself, always take a tour of the facility. Ask to see residents' rooms and try to interact with residents at the facility. Oftentimes, nursing homes have to assist residents with bathing, grooming and toileting. Poor hygiene of a resident is a sure indicator of neglect or abuse and you should observe the residents in the home to make sure they are clean, dry and well groomed.

Other than actual care and treatment, a nursing home should also provide additional social and recreational activities for its residents, for example light exercises, yoga, bingo and card games. Remaining socially active plays a very important role in an elderly person's physical and mental well-being. Ask what exercise and social programs the home offers to residents. Check out their outdoor facilities to ensure there are enjoyable places to sit and walk and enjoy the outdoors.

Your loved one should have reasonable access to a phone that they can use to hold conversations in private. Also inquire about whether the home makes it possible and convenient for a resident to use the Internet for research or entertainment and most importantly to communicate with family

and friends.

Staffing Considerations

Under federal and state law, a nursing home must have enough staff to meet the needs of its residents. One of the most significant factors in examining a nursing facility is to determine that there is adequate staff to care for all of the residents—the ratio of staff to the residents will impact how often your loved one is attended to, how long it takes for them to get attention when they call, and the frequency of various prescribed treatments. You can see the staff to resident ratio for each licensed nursing home by googling the IL Dept of Public Health website.

You should inquire whether there will be licensed nurses and staff members available to respond as quickly as possible if a medical emergency arises. The law requires a nursing home to have at least one registered nurse on site for a minimum of eight consecutive hours, seven days a week.

All licensed and certified long-term care nursing homes are required by law to check the criminal background of any of its staff. A nursing home is prohibited by law from hiring any person who has been convicted of certain offences so make sure that the nursing home assures you that they are doing and have done this for their staff.

Every licensed nursing home is required to keep the most recent five years' worth of annual surveys, complaint investigations, follow up survey's, notice of fines and plans of correction. The home should make these available to anyone that asks for them and additionally they are available on the Illinois Department of Public Health's website as detailed above. Medication errors can cause serious and potentially fatal harm to a nursing home resident. It is vital to ensure that you find out the home's policy for ordering, receiving and administering medications as they are prescribed. Also, inquire if your loved one will be able to remain under the care of their own primary care doctor or will they now come under the ambit of the doctors assigned to the nursing home. If they allow residents to

see their own doctors, ask how are those visits facilitated.

When you take a tour of the nursing home, or visit a friend already there, take some time to interact with the staff. Are they friendly and engaging? Are they polite? Do they seemed rushed and have little time to talk? Do any of the residents you talk to seem anxious or fearful of the staff members?

One of the best ways to filter out the good and bad nursing homes is to talk to people who have experience with that particular home. They are by far the best judges. I recently saw a person post a question about a nursing home on a neighborhood Facebook page and the post received very insightful and helpful responses, to items and things that you might not think to ask about. The more information you have before you commit to a particular nursing home, the better your experience will be and most of all the safer your loved one will be.

Facing the decision to place your loved one in the nursing home arena is so difficult on many levels. I previously posted about what are some tell-tale signs of nursing home abuse and neglect. If you see any of these signs or symptoms in your loved ones please do not hesitate to call me and my colleagues here at Dwyer & Coogan and can discuss in more detail whether we think the nursing home has been negligent in their care and treatment of your loved one. You are not alone in dealing with the challenges of finding the proper care environment for your loved one—and you should not be alone if you ever have to deal with more serious questions about any problems with that care.

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

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Rattlin' of the Joists 19th Annual Bloomsday Celebration: Illumination of the Incomprehensible

Join actors, singers and musicians and director, Josephine Craven, on an odyssey through James Joyce's masterpiece, Ulysses, on Saturday 16th June at 7PM at the Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC), 4626 N Knox Ave, Chicago.

On June 16, 1904, writer James Joyce met his future wife, Nora Barnacle and immortalized the date in his monumental epic, Ulysses.

Modern Joyce aficionados have denoted June 16 "Bloomsday"; a day set aside throughout the world to honor the great man and his controversial and thought-provoking works.

Ulysses is heralded as both the best novel in the English language and the hardest to read. How many have started

to read Ulysses only to give up? What do you do then? You can come to the IAHC on June 16th and allow Rattlin' of the Joists to provide a little illumination. We can promise great music, wonderful singing, exceptional humor, while opening a window of understanding to Joyce's great words.

Featuring Rattlin' of the Joists' regulars: Kevin Cassidy, Brigid Duffy, Brendan Gregg, Josephine Craven
Tenor: Mark Piekarz



Bloomsday Celebration actors, Frank Gleeson & Josephine Craven

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Fiddle: Tania Nezrick
Tickets are \$10 in advance, or \$15 at door.
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773-282-7035, ext. 10

From Ireland to Chicagoland

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



Caroleann Gallagher
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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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A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



Last month, Catholic Charities was honored to have Cardinal Cupich bless our newest service location, the Father Augustus Tolton Peace Center and the beautiful Peace Garden in the community of Austin. Catholic Charities was thrilled to be offered this space, which was a generous gift from Austin Bank of Chicago (ABC Bank) and enables us to bring a host of new programs and the promise of

Catholic Charities has been serving Austin for decades, with more than 30,000 Austin residents served annually. But as violence has increased over the past several years, we have redoubled our efforts to address deep-seated needs in the community. With our new location at the Tolton Center, Catholic Charities is able to have an even greater impact on the community. Several specialized counseling programs address violence-related trauma including the Anti-Violence Bereavement Program which offers counseling and support groups for those who have lost a loved one to violence or are experiencing the loss of a loved one who is incarcerated; Violence Prevention Counseling works with youth and young adults who are at heightened risk for violent behavior; and Peace Circles is a restorative justice program that helps participants build trust and learn conflict resolution and nonviolent communication skills. We also have specialized programming for victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse, child abuse,

hope to an area challenged by violence, poverty, homelessness, and unemployment.

and domestic violence; and counseling to address depression, anxiety and other mental health or relational struggles.

Also at the Tolton Center is a drop-in center for seniors, and a clothing room that specializes in career and professional clothing and provides guidance on resume writing and job interviewing. We have partnered with Maryville so they can use the space to provide parenting classes and a variety of behavioral health, therapeutic and recreational services. In addition, Catholic Charities offers short-term case management; help with housing, food, and child care; and linkage to any available resources that might be needed. In essence, the Tolton Center is a "one-stop-shop" in the neighborhood so that we can provide help in any way we can.

Another important way Catholic Charities serves Austin is through the Peace Corner Youth Center. Originated by the Comboni Fathers, Catholic Charities welcomed the Peace Corner into its family of programs in 2016. The Peace Corner provides youths with experiences that can be truly life-changing; athletic programs and activities give youth an alternative to street play where they are vulnerable to crime and gang activity; one-on-one tutoring helps them achieve success in

school; mentoring gives them positive relationships with caring adults; paid work experiences teach the importance of education; civic engagement activities demonstrate the value of getting involved to solve community problems; and field trips to Chicago's attractions like the lakefront or museums expose them to the beautiful parts of our city that most have never seen. Amazing things can happen when our youth see possibilities, are exposed to new opportunities, and are taught positive coping strategies.

Catholic Charities is fortunate to have many strong partnerships which deepen our roots in the community including those with Austin Bank of Chicago, Maryville, Jesuit Academy, Christ the King High School, and St. Martin de Porres Parish. We also work with other local businesses, community groups, hospitals, law enforcement, schools, and churches who are deeply committed to the success of Austin and work hard to see it thrive.

Catholic Charities is truly blessed to be a part of the Austin community and to work with Austin residents who daily demonstrate their profound resilience and fortitude in battling violence and poverty. We pray that the brilliant light of Christ will enlighten this community with lasting peace and hope for the future.

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Oak Woods Cemetery

During the Civil War the Union Army had a P.O.W. camp in Chicago, "Camp Douglas." There were as many as 14,000 Confederate soldiers in the prison camp.

Close by there was a cemetery, Oak Woods Cemetery, established in 1853. When the war ended the graves of the Confederate soldiers who had been buried at Camp Douglas, were disinterred and moved to Oak Woods Cemetery along with some who were buried at the Old City Cemetery in Lincoln Park. There was another cemetery that was too close to the lake that was also moved to Oak Woods Cemetery. The Sons of Confederate Veterans had a monument placed at the grave site of their ancestors on May 30, 1895. The dedication was attended by President Grover Cleveland and a crowd of 100,000 onlookers.

Now, 153 years after the Civil War, an indelible part of American history, we are confronted by the "Smash White Supremacy Group" in Chicago. The statement they made was this, "We are here to try to shed light on the side of history 'we' want to remember." They want the monument known as the Confederate Mound removed from the cemetery.

What pray tell does that have anything to do with the monument erected by the Sons of Confederate Veterans? What qualifies this group to be revisionist historians? Our history is well documented, as unfortunate or unpleasant as

it may be, you can't change it. What side of history do you want to remember? You were not the only ethnic group to suffer. Most notably the Jewish community in the holocaust of World War II, The Irish Famine - when England let the Irish starve - a not so subtle genocide. The list is long! Life is what you make of it.

There are many Confederate soldiers buried in Illinois. In the National Cemetery at Mound City, IL twenty-seven Confederate soldiers are buried. In the North Alton Confederate Cemetery, 1,354 Confederate soldiers who died in Alton Prison are buried. There is a 58 foot tall granite obelisk dedicated to the Confederate dead. At the Rock Island Confederate Cemetery approximately 1,950 Confederate prisoners are buried there. The Rock Island Prison Camp was known as the "Andersonville of the North."

Let's not defile the graves of the dead, let them rest in peace. You need to cast off the chains of slavery that you have wrapped yourself in.

Priest Abuse

The news from Pennsylvania keeps flowing like the Johnstown Flood. The despicable Father David Poulson, a Roman Catholic priest who up until two months ago was in active ministry in the Diocese of Erie has been charged with multiple child sex abuse crimes.

Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro announced felony

charges against the Rev. David Poulson, 64, of Oil City, saying he sexually assaulted two boys over many years.

Poulson groomed and abused the boys, "manipulating the tools of the priesthood - making one victim confess the abuse during the sacrament of confession," according to the information released by the attorney general's office.

One of the victims was eight when Poulson began abusing him, and the second victim was 15 when the abuse started, the AG's office said. The Diocese of Erie knew since at least May 2010 of the abuse, Shapiro said. Bishop Lawrence Persico, head of the Erie Diocese, in April released the names of 34 priests facing credible allegations of sexual abuse, as well as 17 laypeople.

These men should all be in prison, in solitary confinement to prevent the other prisoners from killing them so they can spend the rest of their natural lives paying for their sins.

What must the parishioners who received the Sacraments from these priests be thinking? Baptism, Communion, Confession, Matrimony, and the final insult, the Last Rites and funeral Mass. Those parishioners have probably left the Church.

We must first consider the promise of celibacy which is just that, just a promise, not a vow. Examine the history of celibacy and you will get a couple of shocks, one of

which is the abortions and infanticide that took place in convents and monasteries to cover up the activities of uncelibate clerics as reported at the Council Aix-la-Chapelle in the 9th century. St. Ulirch, a holy Bishop, argued from scripture and common sense that the only way to purify the church from the worst excesses of celibacy was to permit priests to marry.

Just as I was taking a break from writing this article I decided to call my cousin, Patrick, in County Kerry, who I told about this segment. Patrick said to me the priest who officiated at his wedding, Fr. John Brosnan, plead guilty to 13 counts of indecent assault on four women and one male between 1977 and 1985. Fr. Brosnan was sentenced to four years in Arbor Hill Prison, Dublin.

To top it off, Patrick was confirmed by Bishop, Eamon Casey, who fathered a son, Peter, with Annie Murphy. When Bishop Casey passed away there were eleven Bishops, and 61 Priests at the con-celebrated funeral Mass in the Galway Cathedral of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and St. Nicholas.

Friar Abuse

Two former Franciscan friars from Altoona have been sentenced to 5 years probation and \$1,000 fines on charges that they shielded a member of their order who sexually abused more than 100 children. Robert D'Aversa,

and Anthony Criscitelli pleaded no contest. A third and former friar, Giles Schinelli could not be charged due to the statute of limitations. The shielded friar, Brother Stephen Baker committed suicide. The sentence should have been more severe. They sure got off easy.

Australia

Australian Arch Bishop Philip Williams of Adelaide, was found guilty of concealing child sexual abuse by a phedophile priest, James Fletcher, in the 1970's. Bishop Williams faces two years in prison. The sentence, once again, should be much, much longer.

James Connolly Award

James Coyne was honored by the Irish American Labor Council on May 21, 2018. James Connolly, a leader of the Easter Rising, was one of the men executed following the Irish Rising in 1916. He was mortally wounded and had to be tied to a chair and put before the firing squad at Kilmainham gaol (jail). If you go to Dublin, the jail is a must stop.

Judge John C. Griffin

On May 2, 2018 John C. Griffin (pictured below with family) was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court. John is past President of Chicago Gaelic Park, and is currently President of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago. John also serves on the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. John is a man of great integrity and will serve the State of Illinois well.



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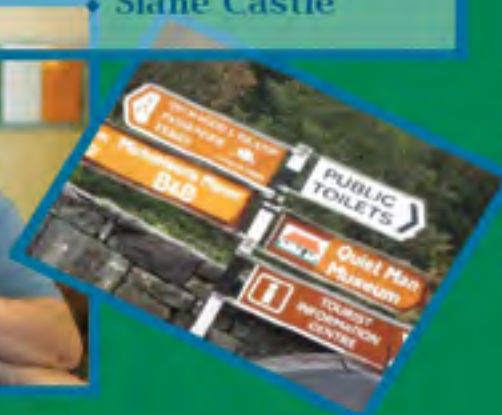


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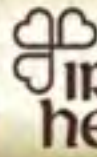


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- ◆ Slane Castle



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Gaelic Storm

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American music, dance and family fun. The fest is held on the IAHC grounds and is our biggest fundraiser.

2018 Headliners

Gaelic Storm, We Banjo 3, JigJam, Byrne and Kelly, Liz Carroll and Dáithí Sproule, Tupelo and Rory Makem



Also Appearing

Avondale Ramblers, Baal Tinne, Basket House, The Boils, Coyote Riot, The Chancey Brothers, The Dirty Wellies, The Dooley Brothers, Far Too Close, Aislinn Gagliardi, In Spite of Ourselves, Irish Heritage Singers, Jimmy Keane, Jim Sullivan and Friends, Kennedy's Kitchen, Larkin and Moran Brothers, Misericordia Heartbreakers and Heartzingers, Mulligan Stew, St. Stephen's Green, the Sean Cleland Band and John Williams and Friends

Dance and Music Schools

Academy of Irish Music, Foy School of Traditional Irish Dance, Irish Music School of Chicago, McNulty School of Irish Dance, Mullane Godley Irish Dance Academy, O'Hare School of Irish Dance, Shepherd School of Irish Music, Trinity Irish Dance Ensemble, Trinity Academy of Irish Dance and Weber Irish Dance

Pipe Bands

Bagpipes and Drums of the Emerald Society, CPD and Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band

Attractions

In addition to stellar music and dance lineup, the weekend is packed with festival favorites: food

and drink, cultural programs and exhibits, children's activities and dozens of vendors and artisans selling Irish gifts. Activities include contests for adults and children, cultural exhibits and programs in the Art Gallery, Library and Museum.

Cultural Programs

Our second floor Arts Wing features an Irish language primer, genealogy workshops, music, theatre and storytelling performances, and artisan demonstrations. Drop by the Tea Room on Saturday and Sunday for a proper cup

of tea, baked treats, sandwiches and live music in our air-conditioned Shamrock American Room.

New for 2018

Redhead Days Chicago comes to Irish Fest all weekend with activities for gingers of all ages.

Fest Hours

7/6: 6pm-Midnight
7/7: Noon-Midnight
7/8: Noon-11pm

Parking

Fest parking is free and a shuttle runs all weekend between the building entrance and a remote lot: location TBA.



JigJam

Tickets

\$10 in advance if purchased through July 5 and \$15 thereafter.



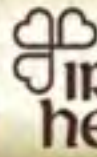
We Banjo 3

Children 12 and under are free. Sunday Mass and BreakFEST is at 10:30am and tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under.

To purchase tickets, visit www.irishfestchicago.com, call 773-282-7035 or buy at the door.



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UPCOMING CONCERTS AND PROGRAMS



Tea with Sojourner Truth

Join us for another in our Saturday Morning Tea Series. Actress Pamela Welcome portrays abolitionist and women's rights activist Sojourner Truth 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 dinner only**



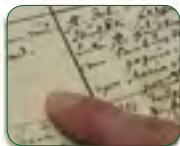
PIOBAIRÍ

PIOBAIRÍ, a presentation hosted by Patrick and Karen Cannady with Patrick's students and musical colleagues returns in June for live traditional Irish music. **Saturday, June 9, 6pm**



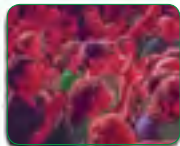
Rattlin' of the Joists Bloomsday Celebration: Illumination of the Incomprehensible

Join actors, singers and musicians on an odyssey through James Joyce's masterpiece, *Ulysses*, at the annual Bloomsday celebration. *Ulysses* is heralded as both the greatest novel in the English language, and the hardest to read. This program provides illumination through readings, music and humor, while opening a window of understanding to Joyce's great words. **Saturday, June 16, 7pm, \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door**



Beginning Your Genealogical Quest

Learn to trace your family tree in a workshop designed for beginners. Students learn research methods and how to track and document results. **Thursday, June 21, 7pm-9pm, \$20**



Irish American Heritage Festival

Get your Irish on at the 33rd annual celebration filled with music, dance and family fun on 6 stages. **July 6, 7 and 8, \$10-15, Children 12 and under free**



Summer Watercolor Workshop

In this 3 day workshop, students 16 years and older learn watercolor painting techniques, with a focus on creating a solid painting, valuing relationships, color interpretation and mastering art materials. **July 10-12, 9:30am-1:30pm, \$130 for IAHC members and \$140 for non-members**

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President's Message

There is a popular saying that "time flies when you're having fun." I have had a tremendous amount of fun during the last three years serving as your president at the Irish American Heritage Center. I have met so many wonderful people and I am proud to call all of them my friends. My main goal was to bring back the crowds to enjoy the enchantment of this place and people who were away from this place for years. I wanted to have people feeling excited when entering this building and leave with a smile and good time filled with wonderful memories.



roads, built the bridges and dug the well so that our members can drink from it and our younger people can enjoy the cultures of Ireland for generations to come.

We have brought back crowds of children learning to dance and play music.

We have brought back instructors and the wonderfully talented musicians of Irish music. We are in the process of turning our Auditorium into the state of the art theatre for singers, dancers and actors alike. We will continue to thrive at increasing our membership and I encourage the younger generation to join this institution and get involved.

On Friday, June 15, join us for Election Night to elect four new board members. All current members are welcome to vote and purchase your outgoing president a pint. I will continue to act as president during Irish Fest only to have back stage access during the performances. I am happy to announce that the Center has promised that I can keep my office space in the Fifth Province. I will be in the cubicle in the corner. I came into this position with the motto, "I am here to serve, and not to be served." I hope I didn't disappoint and I have met your expectations. Thank you all for making it look easy and having fun along the way.

Eugene M. Cooney, President

June 2018

6/1	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	Room 309	8pm
6/2	Tea with Sojourner Truth	Fifth Province	11am
6/6	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 306	10am
6/9	Piobairi	Fifth Province	6pm
6/10	St. Patrick Fathers 50th Anniversary Dance	Erin Roon	4pm
6/15	IAHC Board Election Night	Room 306	7pm
6/16	Shamrock American Club Post-Golf Open Dance	Sham Am Room	6pm
	Rattlin' of the Joists Bloomsday Celebration	Room 109	7pm
6/19	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7pm
6/20	Tara Club Monthly Musical Gathering	Room 306	11am
6/21	Beginning Your Genealogical Quest	Library	7pm
6/24	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
	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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the fifth province

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- 6/2 Party Music
- 6/8 Party Music
- 6/9 In Spite of Ourselves
- 6/15 Seamus O'Kane
- 6/16 Glass Half Empty
- 6/22 Jeff Ward
- 6/23 Fast Eddie
- 6/29 Dave Dunne
- 6/30 The Joyce Boys



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

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Contributors: Meg Buchanan, Theresa Choske, Gene Cooney, Laura Coyle, Catherine Kelly, Sheila Murphy, Nancy Moore, Terri O'Connell, Mike Shevlin

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Irish Weddings Come in all Shapes and Sizes

By Cathy Curry Carlson

We have seven daughters. This is the story of five weddings: five very beautiful, but very different weddings.

Kara and Matt

Kara and Matt met in college in Wisconsin. They decided on a traditional wedding with all the trimmings. "We didn't have a theme, Kara says, "it was just very romantic & whimsical. Our colors were yellow and cream. I had 8 bridesmaids who all wore canary yellow dresses and Matt had 6 groomsmen who wore black tuxedos with yellow vests."

The rehearsal dinner was at Portillo's with all the family from out of town invited as well as the large wedding party. The ceremony took place at the Village Church of Gurnee, with Matt's uncle presiding. After the ceremony, the guests and wedding party traveled the 5 miles to the Country Squire in Grayslake. Hors d'oeuvres and a staffed bar greeted guests and 200 sat down for the plated dinner.

"From the time we got engaged to the time we got married was 9 months," Kara remembers. "And it was the perfect amount of time!

I loved sitting at my moms house printing out each invitation individually, then hand addressing all 250 invites! We made my bridesmaid's flowers together. I shopped for my wedding dress with my dad and one of my sisters and I loved that each of my bridesmaids could pick any dress from David's

Bridal as long as it was floor length and canary yellow. I loved the way the church was set up the day of the wedding and getting my hair and makeup done with my sisters."

Kara and Matt opted for all the traditions: wedding cake, garter and bouquet throws, first dance and all the special people dances, and celebrating the attendance of 8 grandparents!

Ryanne and Lucas

Ryanne and Lucas also met in college in Colorado. Ryanne describes it best;

"When my husband and I got

engaged and started making plans for our wedding, there was really only one thing we wanted to make sure it was: fun. In that spirit, I started scoping out venues in and around the city for our wedding that would be intimate enough to accommodate our desire for a small guest list, but large enough to really party in. I found a few spaces that I liked, but nothing that I loved, and certainly nothing that felt like us. Then we found an outdoorsy little getaway in



Oregon, Illinois called White Pines Inn. It had cabins and a lodge and a gorgeous room for our ceremony and reception. There were plenty of accommodations for our out of

Continued to next page



Ryanne and Lucas wanted a relaxed theme for their wedding.

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Continued from previous page
town guests, and even campsites for our budget-conscious ones.

We rented a couple of the cabins for the week of the wedding, and camped with our out-of-state friends and family the few days leading up to the ceremony, celebrating with parties and bonfires.

The venue provided everything for the ceremony and reception, and had a list of choices for things that we could pick from but didn't have to stress over planning. We had a buffet meal of truly delicious food, handed out cupcakes in lieu of cake, and did our "cut the cake" moment on a small cheesecake, which is my husband's favorite. We had four bridesmaids and four

groomsmen, all in semi-casual attire (the bridesmaids' dresses were from Victoria's Secret and could be worn multiple ways; my husband and the groomsmen were in khakis with button-down shirts from Banana Republic). I had a simple strapless dress with a little ruching detail that I'd snagged on sale, flip flops, and no veil. My uncle officiated, two of my cousins and two of my good friends provided the music during the ceremony, and we had an ipod with a pre-selected playlist for our reception.

We had no seating arrangements, and instead encouraged our 80 or so guests to move around and mingle as the night went on. Bottles of wine were provided and kegs were rolled out, and we ate and danced and partied until my husband and I received a sparkler-lined send-off at the end.

After we left for our honeymoon in Ireland the following day, many of our guests stayed and continued the party through the weekend.

Aside from dealing with mosquitos for parts of the day, I don't think we could have asked for a more perfect event. Now, almost 10 years later, I still have friends and family tell me that ours was the most fun they've ever had at a wedding. I'd say our mission was accomplished!"

Rachel and Ken

These two met on a singles cruise ship,



Kara and Matt chose a more traditional tone for their wedding.

so when they were planning their wedding, they chose the all inclusive Dreams resort in Punta Cana. The resort's event planner was instrumental in working with the couple who had to make all the major decisions from New Jersey. Rachel and her bridesmaids carried their dresses on the plane to insure they arrived at the same time. Most guests used vacation time and the celebration continued both before and after the actual ceremony

The Bride and groom had a couples massage and pedicure the morning of the wedding and highly recommend it. The day was sunny and the ceremony was at 4pm on the Beach with 30 friends and family gathered, the evening sun sparkled off the Caribbean. The reception was held on a special terrace with tropical flowers and linen covered tables. Each guest had a glass coaster with their photo in it for place cards.

Top: Rachel's "Trash the Dress" session. Below: Rachel & Ken tie the knot.

After the Caribbean buffet, the bride and groom cut the cake and everyone danced under the stars. A surprise performance of fire dancers made a perfect ending to the



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festivities.

A few days later, Rachel and Ken had a "trash the dress"



photo shoot. It was epic! Rachel's advice is: "When planning a destination. Wedding, interview many travel agents. Choose one that listens to your needs. Without my travel agent, I would have been lost and super stressed. Use the wedding plan-

ner that is on site. It may cost a little more, but the stress is eliminated. And don't question who will come. You will be amazed at who will come share your day no matter where you choose to get married."

Crystal and Ashley

Crystal and Ashley met in 2010 while working together in Albuquerque, NM. Ashley is an Alabama native and was attending graduate school at the University of New Mexico when she met Crystal, who is from Albuquerque. After dating for five years, Ashley proposed on Christmas Eve of 2015. The engagement lasted a year and a half, during which time they lived in Louisiana. "We started planning the wedding right away and knew immediately that Albuquerque was where it had to be," says Crystal. In a rare display of true kismet, a faculty position became available at UNM for Ashley and the couple moved back to Albuquerque in the fall of 2016.

While most of the details were planned by the brides themselves, they were guided through the



Crystal and Ashley pose with their wedding party on the front porch of a Sandia Mountain Adobe home in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

process by Crystal's uncle, Jack Carlson, who also served as the day-of coordinator. He arrived a full week prior to the wedding and saw to all of the final details that would make for a perfect wedding day. "With over nineteen states represented by our wedding guests, we really looked at the wedding weekend as an opportunity to bring all of our favorite people to the Land of Enchantment," explains Ashley. "Most of our guests came in groups and enjoyed the many beautiful sights and attractions that New Mexico has to offer. My sister rented a large home in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains, which is where we held the rehearsal and joint bachelorette party. The best part of the whole weekend was finally bringing all of our friends together.

Continued to next page

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Jeremy's father Bill, performing the Celtic Tradition of handfasting

Continued from previous page

We have had the pleasure of living in various parts of the country and, while they all know us extremely well, many of our friends had never met. Luckily, we already knew they would get along!"

Ashley and her attendants spent the morning of the wedding at the mountain rental home while Crystal, her sister, and bridesmaids did hair and makeup in her bridal suite.

Crystal and Ashley had their "First Look" at the picturesque adobe

rental house—a time where the two could enjoy their first look at each other before the actual ceremony.

The ceremony was held on the terrace of the UNM Championship Golf Course with music provided by a saxophone quartet comprised of Ashley's friends and colleagues. Each of the brides was escorted down the aisle by their parents under cerulean skies.

The reception was held in an adjoining ballroom, which featured a panoramic view of the western

sunset against Albuquerque's Volcanic Field. Pipe and drape lined the walls behind the head table. The family-style guest tables glowed with candles as a plated dinner was served. Entertainment included a musical performance by two of Ashley's closest friends, an original rap by Crystal's two maids of honor, a song performed and recorded by Ashley for her first dance with Crystal, and the best rendition of the Copa Cabana the guests had ever seen.

Melody and Jeremy

Melody and Jeremy met at Colorado State University in Japanese class. Fort Collins, Colorado is where they decided to have their wedding.

"We had a small wedding just as we always dreamed it would be," explains Melody. "We got married at Danforth Chapel - a tiny little chapel on CSU campus that held up to 60 people. There's no bathroom or dressing room, just an altar with seven pews. Our wedding cut away at every traditional wedding restraint we could think of, no bridesmaids, no groomsmen, and although my family may say that our colors were lilac and cream, we technically didn't have any. Our theme and decor focused



Jeremy and Melody in Fort Collins.

on a love of books. But what we really aimed for was low-key and DIY. We wanted our family to be as involved as possible. His father married us, my mother was the photographer and did our

decorations, his mother made the bride a gorgeous cape, his aunt and uncle customized the champagne toast flutes, his brothers were the afternoon's DJs, and my sisters did hair, make-up, and made the cake."

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The reception was held at Club Tico, a large banquet hall with lots of natural light and hardwood floors. We brought many of the decorations, candles, alcohol and linens from Illinois, setting up everything the morning of the ceremony. The food was above and beyond delicious. Pulled pork and cedar planked salmon, roasted winter vegetables and an assortment of other gourmet side dishes made up the extensive buffet. The couple used a playlist off a laptop for dance music and everyone danced up to the last dance and beyond.

"All said and done, our wedding took maybe eight months to plan," said the bride. "Some of the best times were spent food tasting and making the decorations. We made strands of paper hearts, lanterns wrapped with paper and twine, and my mother made a beautiful bouquet from the pages of our favorite books. Everything was more beautiful that we'd hoped. Any hiccup only added to our

memories. We've learned weddings are simple - people are hard."

Jeremy and Melody had an adventure registry - anyone could donate to their fund instead of the normal wedding gifts. The couple spent two weeks in Japan for their honeymoon!

Five weddings, presented five different ways. I have to say each one truly fit the personalities of the couple. The one piece of

advice I have would be to keep your sense of humor through the process. I had to remind myself that I was there to make someone else's dream come true. A sense of humor serves you well when dealing with many varied personalities!#



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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

The Abortion Referendum

There are two faces to every argument whether political, religious or secular. As Ireland, gears up to vote on a referendum, to pave the way for abortion to be accessible to Irish women, two powerful opposing groups will determine the outcome later this month. Against the change is the Catholic Church, pitted by an army of feisty and influential feminist Irish women, joined by a band of elder women whose bodies have been controlled by the hierarchy, who negated the value of marital recreational sex. Yesteryear, Irish families were large, and stories abound about priests in the confessional advising harried and exhausted mothers not to worry about additional pregnancies. Their message, God will provide. God will only send as many children as families could handle. Sex was exclusively reserved for procreation.

A positive vote will change the Eighth Amendment under the Irish Constitution. It provides an unborn fetus a right to life equal to that of its mother, and bans abortion in practically all circumstances, including rape, incest and even if the pregnancy threatens the life of the mother.

St. Patrick Fathers Celebrates 50th Anniversary in Chicago

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In celebration of the St. Patrick Fathers, their transformative missionary work and their service to the Irish and Irish American community over the past 50 years, friends, supporters and the community at large are invited to our Anniversary Celebration June 10th, 2018 from 4 to 8pm in the Erin Room at the Irish American Heritage Center.

The St. Patrick Fathers are an International Missionary Society with over 85 years of hands-on experience in twelve countries; in Africa, Brazil and the

Caribbean. Inspired and motivated by Jesus Christ's invitation to make God's love known to all peoples, we work to build up the faith communities where we minister.

The referendum will determine whether to repeal a 35-year old constitutional abortion ban, and if passed presents a major and historic change in providing access to abortion. It follows another historic change in Irish legislation, the passage of same sex marriage which flies in the face of the Catholic Church.

Irish women who sought abortions, had little choice but to travel to England, an expensive undertaking, available only to those who could afford it. How many pregnant girls have died at the hands of makeshift abortionists, committed suicide or infanticide? The controversy of the Kerry Babies come to mind. Irish history is riddled with documented abuse of so-called wayward young pregnant girls disgraced, ushered by families into hiding to Catholic facilities, their babies often taken from them, given up for adoption as far away as America. Who can forget the global publicity engendered by the discovery of remains of babies stuffed in a cistern in Tuam in the west of Ireland? That discovery was on the grounds of a Catholic institution.

Talk to young women today about the grip the church had on women's reproduction systems and they are flabbergasted. Why did women put up with it? Some didn't and were certain hell was their destination.

Enough has been written about the abuse in large families, no money, a drunken father returning home, often having spent a week's wage in the pub. Children scattered for safety, would he beat their mother or take her into a bedroom and close the door? Rape was so often the norm. Best option was domestic violence. Rape too often guaranteed another child.

Eileen McEntegart, a resident of County Louth in the affluent seaside resort of Blackrock, believes the vote will pass, although she adds tentatively "the No people are pushing very hard." She has also been heard exclaiming that only women should be allowed to vote!

Her spouse Eugene, a retired dentist, echoes his wife's belief that the yes voters will win. However, he predicted at press time that opponents are gaining ground. "On the other hand" he said, the young and city people will vote yes, and so will the thousands who travel to England yearly for abortions."

Laura Majella Rahill a 20-year old student at Manooth University admits the vote is difficult. "There's a lot of spite toward the Catholic Church in Ireland right now," and she cites the hypocrisy of the church, and thinks this instigates a strong yes vote. "A

woman should have a say over her own body, and be trusted to make decisions for herself, adding there is no doubt that the Irish system of health care is failing us," referring to the recent controversy over inaccurate cervical cancer screening tests in involving over two hundred women, the findings not shared with the affected patients. In early May the Irish Prime Minister

Leo Varadkar issued an apology during a media EU conference in Brussels.

Rahill noted that companies are already showing interest in Ireland ready to pounce on a new market, if the referendum passes. "This is tragic, it's not a market, its a matter of healthcare," she emphasized.

The referendum has political support and legislation has already been prepared to allow unre-

stricted access to abortion up to 12-weeks of pregnancy. More time will be calculated for rape, incest or fatal abnormality. This legislation, already voted by a parliamentary committee will be placed for a vote of acceptance before the entire parliament.

"All we can hope for is that proper support will be put in place for those who experience abortion in Ireland and abroad," Ms. Rahill concluded.



Laura Rahill

St. Patrick's Missionary Society first came to the U.S. in 1948 for the purpose of mission awareness and promotion of

our missionary work, we also have a long tradition of service to the wider Irish community here in Chicago.



Fr. Mick and friends

our missionary work. Our first house was located in Camden, New Jersey. We have since relocated to Chicago where we have been since 1968. While our main focus continues to be the promotion of

and empowerment of the local communities. In remote regions, such as South Sudan, Kenya, Zambia and Malawi, they involve the building of agricultural cooperatives at the village level. This helps

to provide cohesion and security for the people and offsets the migration of young families to the bigger cities. These projects are also focused on helping people to flourish in parish communities that are often culturally, linguistically and tribally diverse. This is organized through programs on literacy, conflict resolution and social justice advocacy.

"It is a collaborative mission in which the Chicago community and our supporters play vital role" said Fr. Mick Madigan, who is director of the St. Patrick Father's Chicago office and is chaplain and board president of the Irish Community Service. "This event celebrates and gives thanks for that generous support, which enables us to continue to minister to the spiritual and material needs of the people with whom we live".

The event is free and is being held to celebrate and thank the St. Patrick Father's friends and supporters here in Chicago. Any funds raised from donations will go towards our missionary work.

For further information contact St. Patrick Fathers Chicago at: 773.887.4741

Piping It In

Jack Baker



Festival Season Starts Again

Another festival season and the lineup of talent this year is really impressive. One group that I always enjoyed listening to at festivals is Changeling, the duo of Karl and Deb Colon. Deb plays amazing fiddle and Karl accompanies with stunning guitar work and his butter smooth voice. Now they've added a third member, Bobby Douglas, a percussionist who knows how to add just what's needed and no more, and changed the band name to Wild Rumpus, www.wildrumpusmusic.com

Now you know that I believe if something ain't broke, don't fix it but this isn't a fix, it's an expansion of lovely complex music into even more lovely and complex music. They have released an EP of their dance music, "Riding the Wave" that has 5 instrumental tracks that I envision dance teachers across the states using for choreography and dancers using for a good time beating the floorboards into submission. I would love to see what Nancy Stolle, director of the Thistle and Heather Highland Dancers and author of some of the best dance routine I have ever seen, could do with this lovely little EP. The first track is worth the price of admission. Three tunes make up the first track, "10,000 Bees", "Little Red Car" and "Gone Bad Liverwurst", simply a genius joining of tunes and performed in such a way that it will always be a favorite of mine. Wild Rumpus, a change from Changeling and a trinity to be reckoned with. They will get you dancing and they have a full album in the works that should be with before the end of summer, something I am looking forward to hearing.

I had the chance to wander over to Old Town School of Music to see a group that has been cause of a bunch of talk in the Irish music scene. Alt, www.thealtmusic.com, is one of those super groups that pop up periodically when several musical lights decide to get together and show what music should sound like. John Doyle, whose guitar and vocals are simply magical, Nuala Kennedy, possessing simply brilliant vocals and whistle and flute powers that can cloud men's minds and last, but certainly not least, Eamon O'Leary, again superb vocals and Bouzouki played elegantly and powerfully in a way that's seldom seen. The night I saw them Nuala was off having a baby, God's blessings to her, and Cathy Jordan was sitting in for her, no shabby replacement at all. They were simply wonderful! You'll have to be content to listen to the magic of Alt on their CD, "The Alt". This recording has been out since 2014. it's Crisp, complex and the type of recording that grabs you and makes you listen. John and Eamon know just what to do with guitar and bouzouki, Nuala on flute fills the air with beauty and they all sing like angels. One of the best recordings I've ever had the pleasure to listen to, reminds me of the joy I first felt listening to Bothy Band and Silly Wizard. Yeah, that good! The name of the group should be mentioned in these days when "alt" has been given new and not necessarily pleasant meaning. The Alt is the name of a glen on the slopes of Knocknarea in County Sligo. John Doyle's family lives near there, and it's where the band first rehearsed.



One of the most beautiful acts touring on the Celtic music circuit has to be the three Gothard Sisters, www.gothardsisters.com. Their new cd, "Midnight Sun" has to be the best they've done yet and it is all original work. Solana, Willow and Greta have been singing together since they were babies and they blend their voices so well that it's hard to tell where one stops and the next starts. Add that to their skill on fiddle, guitar and mandolin and you've got one lovely performance. They have added their grace and beauty to Celtic festivals all over the US and their new CD is a lovely audio example of their art. See you at the festivals, store@rampantlion.com Slainté



Another festival season and the lineup of talent this year is really impressive. One group that I always enjoyed listening to at festivals is Changeling, the duo of Karl and Deb Colon. Deb plays amazing fiddle and Karl accompanies with stunning guitar work and his butter smooth voice. Now they've added a third member, Bobby Douglas, a percussionist who knows how to add just what's needed and no more, and changed the band name to Wild Rumpus, www.wildrumpusmusic.com

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Emmet Gallagher – Gallantree Studios

Artist and lawyer, Emmet Gallagher, was born in Chicago and grew up in the southwest suburbs with his three sisters. His father, Hugh Gallagher, was from Arranmore Island, off the coast of Donegal, Ireland, and his mother, Imelda, was from Sligo. Hugh and Imelda came to the United States in the late 1950s and met in Chicago at a dance, like many Irish couples did back in the day. They married in St Basil Visitation Catholic Church on the south side of Chicago and settled in Palos Hills.

After elementary school, Emmet's family returned to Ireland to live in Galway, Ireland, where he attended boarding school at St. Mary's College, Galway, for secondary school (high school). Upon graduation, he returned to Chicago and attended Marist High School for his senior year. Emmet returned to Ireland and attended University College Galway (UCG) earning a Bachelors of Arts (B.A.) in Legal Science, Sociology and Politics, and a LL.B. (Irish Bachelors of Laws). Afterwards, he studied for a Masters of Laws

(LL.M.) at the University of Notre Dame, London Law Center. He then decided to return to Chicago where he attended Loyola University Law School, achieving a J.D., passed the Illinois bar exam and commenced work as an attorney.

Emmet's father was a native Gaelic speaker and played traditional Irish music on the violin. "I recall my father relating how traditional Irish musicians would gather in the basement of Old St. Pat's in Chicago for a session where tunes were played and traded. He mentioned that he had met famous, local traditional musician, Liz Carroll, at a few of these sessions when she was beginning her musical career," Emmet reminisced. "I spoke to Liz about

him at the iBAM! event at the Irish American Heritage Center one year and she publicly thanked my father for playing his 'Donegal style'."

The Gallagher family traditions included Sunday Mass, the family Rosary, nightly family dinner, the Sunday roast for dinner, St Patrick's Day celebrations, Irish songs, trips and visits to Ireland. His mother liked watching Irish-themed movies like John Ford's, "The Quiet Man" and Fred Astaire in "Finnian's Rainbow."

Emmet has always enjoyed art and, as a boy, was quite interested in drawing. "I would stare at old black and white drawings and photos, fascinated by their mystique. I was intrigued by how an artist's shading could convey so much depth and texture with just one color. I was very interested in drawing cars and planes and mechanical items, mostly drawing from

photographs. I also remember my mother would draw dinosaurs for me. She had artistic talent and took up painting when she retired from her teaching career."

Gallagher never had formal training in art apart from high school art classes. His creative endeavors started several years ago when visiting some creative and artistically talented friends. The host asked



all the guests to draw a tree then sign and date it in the visitors' notebook, "Tree Book". He told them "everyone knows what a tree is, and everybody likes trees". The idea of the "Tree Book" stayed with Emmet and he created his own visitors' "Tree Book" with simple rules: draw a tree (in ink) and do not look at others' drawings until finished to allow original creative work. Soon, Emmet realized that he was drawing trees in the "Tree Book" much more than his guests.

Inevitably, Emmet began to wonder about the size of a tree drawing. The "Tree Book" was 4" x 4". He began drawing larger trees on paper and then moved to canvas which could be displayed on walls. Pleased with the results and with the fact that people began commenting on his work, asking him to create pieces for them, he studied artistic techniques and



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how he could achieve his desired design and effect. He imagined a very smooth finish, essentially, he looked for the feel of paper on canvas because the medium was black ink and required a smooth surface to do fine, detailed work on canvas. He learned about preparing the canvas to achieve a flat, smooth finish. Pen and ink gave him the level of detail he desired, and he experimented with paper, canvas, art board (canvas stretched on a flat surface suitable for framing) and gesso board. The largest piece he has completed to date is 20" x 24".

"I love the contrast of black on white. It is a very clean look and can be quite beautiful and haunting. It is mysterious. I have nothing against working with color, but it is challenging working solely with positive space and negative space. These are the only tools I have. I find it very satisfying and the whole process is organic for me". Over time, various applications of ink will have very subtle differences that the human eye can pick up. This adds time to completing a piece, but that's acceptable to Emmet who finds it necessary to study a piece before proceeding to the next phase, he usually has several pieces in various stages of completion. "I have a general concept of the drawing when I begin the work and sketch the shape I have envisioned and then let it develop organically. I may change the piece if I set it aside and return to it later. I am not afraid to make mistakes because it is not the type of work that lends itself to irreparable mistakes. Apart from the dreaded smeared ink, just about anything is cor-

rectable. I have a piece I am very fond of ("Fortress") on which I spilled some ink remover. I thought the piece was ruined, however I managed to salvage it by taping off an area, cleaning it and redoing it. It turned out to be one of my favorites".

"Sometimes I begin a piece and I am dissatisfied with how it is shaping up. I just keep going though, because it can often turn out pleasing in the end as if it takes on a character of its own. My niece told me that she wanted me to teach her 'how to draw trees with scribbles,' I took that to mean I create order out of seeming chaos. One of my favorite memories is sitting with my father, drawing a tree and watching the World Cup. That piece turned out to be one of my favorites ("Lioness"). Doing

artwork frees one's mind to think all kinds of things which are not the focus of daily life. I recommend it to anyone."

Artistically, Emmet exhibited his work in an art show (October 2015) with the



encouragement and support of Ann Ayres of Ayres Steinmetz, Ltd., Fine Art Consultants. Ms. Ayres had seen his work and was instrumental in encouraging Emmet to develop his art and display it publicly. He has had many works commissioned and clients have even rented artworks



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for a special occasion or a few months at a time. One of his pieces is displayed in The Green Lady, a craft beer tavern on Lincoln Ave.

In other creative endeavors, Gallagher participated in a 48-hour film festival project, making a short movie, with many other collaborators. Emmet plays guitar and loves to meet up with musician friends to unwind and play music. He has friends who have a music studio on West Hubbard and likes to head over there on occasion for a session. Emmet also does voice-overs and did the voice-over for advertising agency, Leo Burnett, for their entry in an inter-advertising industry competition. The project, called "Recipeace" (a portmanteau of Recipe and Peace) was awarded "The White Pencil Award". (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNQfNZK2DQA>)

Emmet works as an attorney, sole practitioner. He has practiced in several areas, including class actions, personal injury,



Emmet Gallagher

medical malpractice, workers' compensation, traffic related matters and DUIs. He also serves as an arbitrator and has taught a class at Loyola Law School for seven consecutive semesters.

Emmet would like to see people change how they view their fellow human beings and how they relate to one another. He hopes for a diminishing of the selfishness in people and an increase in spiritual consciousness and self-awareness.

You can see more of Emmet's work at GallantreeStudios.com, or email him at GallantreeStudios@gmail.com.

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On the Upbeat

By Maryann
McTeague Keifer

Those who know me well, are aware I am not a sleeper and have found new musical interests many a night searching through youtube. So it was with High Time as I came across their just released video The Village of Cloch Bhui. Nothing draws me quite so quickly as well played low whistles and rich harmonies. This has both in spades!

High Time is the young energetic and highly talented trio featuring brothers Conall and Seamus O'Flatharta and Cieran Bolger. All three are from the scenic, fierce wild Connemara area town of Ardmore. Growing up on a mountainside overlooking the bay across the pasture from each other, these three have been playing, singing and dancing the tradition since they were toddlers. In 2017, they decided it was 'high time' to form their own band, thus the name.

Cieran on guitar, Conall on flute and whistles, Seamus on harp and bodhran, and all on vocals bring us a fresh and somewhat unusual combination of instruments to present Traditional Irish music in their own special way.

Their arrangements are light, happy, and vibrant. You find your toes involuntarily tapping and body moving with the music. Conall's flute and whistles are lively and dynamic; Seamus' harp is dominant and often leads rather than fills in. Cieran is a master guitarist and hold all together with his play.

Their vocals are mind blowing. All were raised in the sean-nos tradition, and well incorporate this into their songs. Ciaran's rich baritone and the exquisite harmonies the three have put such an effort into, truly pull you in, taking you on a journey whether it be on the sea with one of their shanties or over the hills of Connemara.

You can actually "feel" their voices; they have a substance to them that is tactile.

How can that be even possible.....?!? All have been members of other bands and shows and bring those experiences to their music. Add in Seamus' peppery sean-nos dancing, and you have a tasty platter being



presented for sure!

High Time released their debut album SUNDA the end of March. A combination of tunes, artfully and fascinatingly arranged, and songs such as the sea shanty "South Australia," the soulful tale of Lord Randall in "An Tiarna Randal" and their own tasty version of "Beeswing," it is a golden example of the many gifts these lads possess. I have been playing it for several weeks on IRELAND TONIGHT, and listeners are asking who these talented musicians are, wanting more of their music.

I am praying we get them on a tour here in The States soon. Germany and Austria have already found them, and like GOITSE, they will become so desired and busy there, we will be hard put to book them. Treat yourself to their album, view their video of "The Village of Cloch Bhui" and you can at least pretend you are at a concert. If you make it to Clifden this summer, look for them at Lowery's on Market Street.

The instrumental talent is superior. Each is a multi All Ireland winner, and I'll brag for Seamus, who at 18 years old, has been a 20 time take the trophy home winner!

Dylan Foley has presented us with another exquisite album to marvel at his talented mastery of the fiddle. He has taken a very sad event, the passing of his grandmother Maggie Smyth at 94 years old this past February, and turned into precious and joyous tribute.

Deliriously Happy is a collection of tunes, both traditional and more recently composed, that showcase the love of music Maggie instilled in Dylan. I love being amazed at Dylan's playing, because I cannot figure out how he trained those impressively huge hands of his to so artfully manipulate the strings of one of such a small instrument. He dwarfs the fiddle, but at the same time, showcases the best of its sound. On this album, Dylan is playing his grandmother's fiddle—how special!

I usually have a few favorites right away upon listening to a new album, but this one



has made it tough. The entire album lifts your spirits, makes you feel his care and joy in celebrating Maggie Smyth's gift of music to her grandson. He opens with a toast in the set "Glass of Beer/Bag of Spuds/Lady Anne Montgomery." I love "Tempest/Love at the Endings," a joyful set of reels, and also, the beautifully tender "Amelia's Waltz." I can see, in my mind, Dylan taking his grandma and twirling her around the kitchen.

Dylan has a great discography of albums of his own, with others, and his band The Yanks, but this album is special. Don't pass on it. You should have it as your own to close your eyes and remember your grandmother, or to dance that waltz with your Granny, still here, and create a memory! Thank you, Dylan, for sharing this with us!

Join me every Monday evening from 8PM - 10PM Central for the best of Irish Music on IRELAND TONIGHT on wdcbl.org, 90.9FM or 90.7FM in the west loop, or Tune In Radio. Sharon Smith Iberle has set up a chat room, for the craic, on Facebook at irelandtonight_slainte.

Have a great beginning of the summer!
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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Things Are Moving

It was always clear that Brexit would cause major shifts in Irish politics on both sides of the border. Those shifts are now becoming starkly visible as Britain prepares (although that is too strong a word) for the next round of Brexit negotiations in June.

The DUP-Tory government is finally emerging from a phase of phony assumptions that they can at once exit the EU and its customs union and yet avoid a trade barrier running down the Irish Sea, separating Northern Ireland and Britain. This acknowledgement, happening now in May 2018, makes the Tory-DUP government look dreadfully amateurish.

The deputy leader of the DUP, Nigel Dodds, described this outcome as 'the worst of all worlds', and he is right. Brexiters are now seeing that they have thrown their dice and won nothing; worse, this comes with a stinging realisation that at the gaming table one can also lose very badly.

That the DUP was a piston in the engine of the Brexit vote in June 2016 is surely one of the great ironies of recent Irish and British politics. Embodying as it does hardline unionism, the DUP did more to jeopardise the unionist constitutional position than anything Irish nationalism could have mustered—the IRA, with its futile campaign of terror spanning three decades, could only have dreamt of putting the union under such strain. Now that hardline unionism is finally seeing the risk it has taken through its endorsement of Brexit, it is expeditiously removing its head from the lion's mouth.

Meanwhile, the Irish government has mounted a version of the Marshall Plan: Ian Marshall, that is. Ian Marshall, a Unionist from Northern Ireland, has been recruited into the Seanad

(Irish Senate) as Leo Varadkar's appointee. Marshall had this to say about his agenda: 'It is critical that we ensure trade is as seamless and frictionless as it has been for the past 20 years...I can remember the pre-1998 phase when we had border checks with stops at the Border. I am very concerned we will be back to an element of that'. Despite his stance against a return to the past, Marshall also maintains that he would vote against 'the backstop' (essentially an Irish government veto on a hard border). Even so, if it came to it, Marshall's vote would not halt proceedings.

More importantly, Marshall gave a telltale sign that Unionism is being real about Brexit when he said, 'I have seen no evidence that a solution, technological or otherwise, exists' [to the conundrum of avoiding a hard border]. An evidence-based approach to leaving the EU would have negated the Unionist drift towards Brexit in the first place.

Varadkar had an additional agenda in appointing Marshall and that agenda is best revealed through the enthusiasm expressed by Sinn Féin over Marshall's appointment. Marshall's presence in the Seanad cleverly establishes ecumenical ground between Fine Gael and Sinn Féin that helps to neutralise other tensions that traditionally have made them binary opposites in Irish politics. This could pave the way for increased cooperation, even a coalition, to form the next government. Fine Gael under Varadkar has not explicitly ruled out a coalition with Sinn Féin, whereas Fianna Fáil under Micheál Martin has done so emphatically. Sinn Féin has a lot of work to do to change its image in the eyes of the electorate to enable this glide from the opposition benches across to government.

For example, it is no coincidence that, just as Marshall was being appointed, Sinn Féin leader, Mary Lou McDonald, went to Derry and seemed to rejoice in the alternative designation for the city, Londonderry. This might be an occasion for slight cheer at Sinn Féin's new-found open-mindedness. Yet it still takes a fine ear to hear Sinn Féin's leadership condemn punishment beatings, protection rackets and personation at election time that prevail in lovely Derry; and for Sinn Féin to call for rounding up the perpetrators. If Sinn Féin completely disassociates itself with the criminality it is partially responsible for perpetuating in Northern Ireland and embraces the rule of law, its critics will have a harder time arguing against Sinn Féin's equivalence with other political parties.

Given that a fresh approach to Unionism is now represented in Dublin, will the new leadership and representatives in Sinn Féin now advocate a policy of taking their seats in London and giving voice to Nationalist concerns? Orfhlaith Begley, elected this May in a West Tyrone by-election on the Sinn Féin ticket, does not think so: 'I can't see there being any change in that [absenteeism]. There was no appetite for that on the doors...People in West Tyrone realise that the British government will always turn their backs against people in the North'. Is there really no appetite for representation in Westminster among Nationalists? While Sinn Féin was always going to hold West Tyrone at its ease, it nevertheless lost three points to the SDLP compared to the last election, and absenteeism was surely a contributory factor in that slip.

Northern politics are unsettled because the character of Brexit remains so unknown. The bid on the part of the British people to exit the EU is greatly hindered by the failure of Brexiters to embrace what they claim to want. This was spectacularly evidenced on the morning after the vote in June 2016 when the proponents of the motion looked ashen-faced and made

pathetic resignation speeches—in wartime they might have been executed for treason. Victory never tasted so bitter. Political leaders who advocated Brexit did so on the basis of a farrago of deceit which evidently they did not themselves believe. A sincere campaign would have explained the cost (in all senses of the word) of Brexit, and it would have asked the British electorate if they really wanted to pay it. The answer would have been 'Remain' because the requisite radicalism to live with the consequences of leaving was lacking. Slow learners in the British political elite are starting to see this. And it is a bit late now.

They Do Come Back

He looks good.
I saw him over Lake Geneva up in the sky.
He's about thirty-two years old now flowing by and he has hair!
He's not bald anymore and he's got fishing buddies too!
- Two guys from Lake Geneva, one guy from Canada float up above the lake with him in that sky of blue.
He's do'in o.k.
and he looks good! You should see him now you should!
He travels at the speed of light and sound and he can really get around!
- And he can go through the keyhole now as he always said.
No one can do that if they're dead.
He's light weight, slim and trim and he looks good and young again!
- the same now as way back then.
A young man he is.
They do come back.
It's just that you don't recognize him.

By Diane Klima

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Pain, Confusion, Betrayal... and the HSE

"Hi Leo. Today is the eighth of May. It's my sons' confirmation, Seamus and Mario.

"I'm just back getting changed, ready for the party. But, while I'm putting on a brave face for my children, I'm terrified what my results are going to be tomorrow. And the fact that two of my children are making their confirmation today... I'm extremely disappointed in how you're handling this whole affair.

"As Taoiseach you are responsible for everyone in this country, to make sure they are safe at night time. And I wasn't safe at night time.

"Women have died. "Women will die. "...You need to go. Because if you're not prepared to turn around and say two words to the people involved here -- i.e. 'You're fired' -- then you're not capable, or trustworthy to actually run this country.

"You have one week to start digging out who's responsible for this scandal. And you need to tell people they need to come forward if they have the information.

"Because if you do not take control of this situation I guarantee you I will help -- single handedly if I need to -- to upturn your Government. If I need to go to the UN and ask them to get involved to find out who is responsible for this, I will.

"I don't care if you send me a cheque for five million Euros; I will not let this rest. The last thing I need to interfere with my children is this unacceptable behaviour coming from the Government.

"The Government are employed by the general public, and they can be fired by the general public."

The pain; the confusion; the sense of betrayal; the anger. All of these feelings are there -- raw and red -- in that statement from Emma Mhic Mhathúna, who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. A cancer that was hidden from her because she wasn't deemed

important enough to know about it. What was important to the HSE was the cover up.

A few weeks ago an Irish heroine by the name of Vicky Phelan opened up something that the Health Service Executive (HSE) would have prepared to keep hidden. And it then became apparent that this noxious body had decided to hide the erroneous results of cervical smear tests.

Vicky Phelan was asked to sign a confidentiality agreement with the U.S. laboratories that got those smear tests completely wrong. She refused. And she refused.

Think about what Vicky Phelan and Emma Mhic Mhathúna are going through at the same time that they have to fight the State. Most of us, having been diagnosed with terminal cancer, would find this not a hard fight but an impossible one. Yet these two extraordinary women have done nothing less than opened the floodgates just when their energies are at the lowest. When they should have had the space to be doing something else. Not this. Not fighting against an indifferent Government.

On so many levels, what is happening in Ireland is just plain

wrong. You don't -- not if you are a normal human being -- decide to keep from women the fact that they are dying. You just don't do that. You don't play at being God. It's not your decision, not your call to make.

Regular readers know my feelings on the HSE. When one of their many scandals comes along then it is the same old pattern: Deny what you've been caught at; then deflect; then drag everything out -- without any consideration to those who are suffering -- until those affected die; then apply Damage Limitation. I'm sorry to be so harsh but that's the way they think. And they've proven that time and again.

Remember the Hepatitis C scandal of the 90s? Yet being the soft touch we are, we forget. Well, some of us do; some of us don't. Some of us just grow more and more bitter because things never seem to change here.

I've seen it myself through the children's cancer charity 'Hand in Hand' that I occasionally do some work with. They have been blocked and lied to every step of the way. And if these creeps are willing to add hurt to what kids who have been diagnosed with cancer are going through, then it's of no surprise to me at all that they pull the same stunts with women who are dying.

And yet Leo Varadkar, himself a Minister for Health from July of 2014 to May of 2016 swears blind

he didn't know about the truly appalling memos that are now coming to light. Surrounded with consultants, swamped with advisors and with a taxpayer-funded spin machine; but he didn't know. It's the same old crocodile tears. I'm glad that Vicky Phelan for one is not buying his bull:

"... I don't feel that his comments were sincere..... I think that it was a little bit too late for me because this has been raging on now for over two weeks and I've just said that the Taoiseach has been very much absent from the debate for the last while.

"He was all over the news when the storm happened and here is a scandal on a scale that is massive and he hasn't been to the fore as he was during the storm."

But that's Varadkar. A few months ago I borrowed a line from Donna Tart's book 'The Secret History' and applied it to him: "as shallow and brittle as a mirror". I've never seen anything in his behaviour to change my mind on that. The guy is a Narcissist of the highest order. Give him a chance to show off his novelty socks or have photo-ops with this Bestie Friend Forever in Canada and he's as happy as a pig in...whatever pigs are happy in. Something like this, on the other hand?

He and Minister for Health Simon Harris were happy out to be supporting the incredibly arrogant HSE Director General Tony

O'Brien...until they weren't. And only then did O'Brien resign.

And seriously, what the hell was that about anyway? I mean, think about it: you and I, we're employed in a job that we show ourselves to be incompetent at, we get sacked.

Not here. Here we have O'Brien being forced to resign whilst screaming and kicking every step of the way, and even then only because the heat has become too much for Lovely Leo and out-of-his-depth Harris.

We would have been sacked. O'Brien sails off into the sunset with an enormous pension for not being good at his job.

And this will apply to others also. That's the way that Ireland works. And it's wrong. And it smells to high Heaven.

Not that I have much time for suddenly 'outraged' TDs, but when O'Brien decided to make it all about him by attacking the way he was questioned, even I was amazed:

"When I appear in public -- say at a Committee -- I conduct myself against a simple standard: would I be happy for my children or my mother to see how I behave?"

Are you kidding me, O'Brien? How happy would you be if the HSE of which you were the head had taken it upon itself to withhold from your mother that she was dying after telling her that she was fine?

Continued to next page

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An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



In Search Of Solutions

Much of what occupies the time of those elected to public office is the business of trying to find solutions to different and persistent issues. One such issue that has been a permanent thorn in the side of American Presidents for more than fifty years is of course, how can we find a solution to the North Korean problem.

Mr. Trump has just announced a date and place for the highly anticipated summit with Kim Jung Un. Mr. Trump is to be congratulated for trying to find a solution to the long sought after de-nuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Much of the credit for this historic summit has to go to Moon Jae-in the President of South Korea. The

South Korean President has shown real leadership in reaching out to Kim Jung Un and paving the way for his meeting with Mr. Trump.

All people of good will the world over wish for a positive outcome to the summit set to take place in Indonesia. Major questions remain over the likelihood of the summit producing a major breakthrough. Many independent commentators have reservations about how serious the North Koreans are in sincerely giving up their nuclear weapons. The fact that their major testing site was, according to independent reports damaged beyond repair in the last year means that in agreeing to shut down this facility is of little importance.

Another major concern that

springs to mind is this. Knowing the fact that Mr. Trump has no experience in negotiating at such a sensitive, high-level on diplomatic issues has to be a concern. Mr. Trump's business approach, which is very confrontational, together with his impatience in meetings, needs to be seriously curtailed if this summit is to bear fruit.

This is a historic opportunity to make progress on a major foreign relations issue that has persisted since the Korean War. Therefore, let us be prayerful and wish all those involved in the summit our very best wishes for a successful outcome.

A Brave And Startling Truth

We, this people, on a small and lonely planet Traveling through casual space Past aloof stars, across the way of indifferent suns To a destination where all signs tell us It is possible and imperative that we learn A brave and startling truth

And when we come to it To the day of peacemaking When we release our fingers From fists of hostility And allow the pure air to cool our palms

When we come to it When the curtain falls on the minstrel show of hate And faces sooted with scorn and scrubbed clean When battlefields and coliseum No longer rake our unique and particular sons and daughters Up with the bruised and bloody grass To lie in identical plots in foreign soil

When the rapacious storming of the churches The screaming racket in the temples have ceased When the pennants are waving gaily When the banners of the world tremble Stoutly in the good, clean breeze

When we come to it When we let the rifles fall from our shoulders And children dress their dolls in flags of truce When land mines of death have been removed And the aged can walk into evenings of peace When religious ritual is not perfumed By the incense of burning flesh And childhood dreams are not kicked awake By nightmares of abuse

When we come to it Then we will confess that not the Pyramids With their stones set in mysterious perfection Nor the Gardens of Babylon Hanging as eternal beau-

ty In our collective memory Not the Grand Canyon Kindled into delicious color By Western sunsets Nor the Danube, flowing its blue soul into Europe Not the sacred peak of Mount Fuji Stretching to the Rising Sun Neither Father Amazon nor Mother Mississippi who, without favor, Nurture all creatures in the depths and on the shores These are not the only wonders of the world

When we come to it We, this people, on this minuscule and kithless globe Who reach daily for the bomb, the blade and the dagger Yet who petition in the dark for tokens of peace We, this people on this mote of matter In whose mouths abide cankerous words Which challenge our very existence Yet out of those same mouths Come songs of such exquisite sweetness That the heart falters in its labor And the body is quieted into awe

We, this people, on this small and drifting planet Whose hands can strike with such abandon That in a twinkling, life is sapped from the living Yet those same hands can touch with such healing, irresistible tenderness That the haughty neck is happy to bow And the proud back is glad to bend Out of such chaos, of such contradiction We learn that we are neither devils nor divines

When we come to it We, this people, on this wayward, floating body Created on this earth, of this earth Have the power to fashion for this earth A climate where every man and every woman Can live freely without sanctimonious piety Without crippling fear.

When we come to it We must confess that we are the possible We are the miraculous, the true wonder of this world That is when, and only when We come to it.

MAYA ANGELO

Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact Michael@straussrealty.com

Continued from last page

You have some nerve, O'Brien; you have some bloody cheek.

Addendum: At the time of writing, of the 209 women affected by this scandal, 18 have now died.

You can contact me on chasbrady7@eircom.net

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by Vicki Quade

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Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



I would like to add a few things about St. Bridget Ireland's beloved saint. There is a St. Bridget's school in Loves Park, IL and there is a St. Bridget's school in Manhattan NY. Also, a St. Bridget's church in a village called Coon not far from Muckalee my parish in Kilkenny.

Now onto Co. Antrim. Adjoined to the north east or Lough Neagh the county covers an area of 3,046 square kilometers. (1,176 sq. miles) and has a population of about 620,000 people. It is apart of the province of Ulster. The renowned Glens of Antrim offer an isolated rugged landscape.

There is a well-known song about the Glens of Antrim. I fondly remember singing that song at my daughter's wedding among others. Antrim is home to the Giant's Causeway which is a unique landscape and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Bushmills Whiskey, and Portrush is a popular seaside resort and night life area. The majority of Belfast the capital city is in Antrim with the remaining in Co. Down. Statistics tell us that both counties Antrim and Down has had more non-Catholics in their back ground than any other county. A large portion of Antrim is hilly especially in the East where the highest elevations are attained. The range runs north and south following this direction the highest points are Knocklayd (1,690 ft) Slieveanorra (1,670). Consequently, some of the finest coastal scenery in the world is found here. The most remarkable cliffs are those formed of perpendicular basaltic columns exiting for many miles and most strikingly displayed in fair head and the celebrated Giant's Causeway.

There are several resort towns including Port Rush with well-known Golf links Portballintrae and Ballycastle on the East Cushen Dun Cushendall and Waterfoot on Redbay. But speaking of

Ballycastle there is a song, the old fair at Ballycastle. Speaking of Cushendall it is in the words of the song the Green Glens of Antrim. Soon I hope to return to my own Cushendall, it is the one place for me that outshines them all. It's my favorite song. The castle at Carrick Fergus dating from the Norman invasion of Ireland is one of the best preserved medieval structures. Dating from the Norman invasion of Ireland is one of the best preserved medieval structure's in Ireland.

Linen manufacturing was previously an important industry in the county. At the time Ireland produced a large amount of flax, cotton spinning by Jennies was first introduced to Belfast by industrialists Robert Joy and Thomas McCabe in 1777 and 23 years later it was established that more than 27,000 were employed in the industry. Within 10 miles of Belfast women were employed in the working of patterns of muslin.

Belfast has had a long history of ship building. And the famous and well known luxurious ship the Titanic was built in Belfast. Then moved to Southampton then to be blessed by a bishop in the cove of Cork. Unfortunately, we all know what happened next, the captain got greedy. He wanted the Titanic to make the headlines on the NY times, to set a record for the fastest trip across the Atlantic from Cork to New York. But that story ended in a tragedy where over 1,500 people lost their lives on that sad April day in 1914.

Lough Neagh which is the largest lake in Ireland and it has the distinction of touching 5 of the 6 counties in the north. The lake supplies 40% of the people with water in the north of Ireland. This lake is a popular destination for fishing and boating. The upper river Ban flows into the lake while the lower river Ban flows out of lough Neagh. Antrim is also home

to the worlds famous Bushmills whiskey distillery as it says on the bottle it has been in operation since 1608, it is one of the oldest in the world.

Antrim is one of the most scenic counties in Ireland starting with Portrush which is on the northern coast, a favorite seaside resort. Portrush is also home to one of the most famous golf links in the world. Royal Portrush has the distinction of being the only course outside of England to host the Open Championship which it did in 1947 and it has been chosen to host the open again in 2019.

There is a famous rope bridge near the village of Ballintoy another tourist attraction. It is a suspended bridge and the locals believe the first bridge to the island was built by salmon fishermen over 300 years ago and is still open. Dunluce castle (iconic castle) is close to the famous Causeway. A quick reminder of what Giant's causeway is about. It's from Irish mythology, that there was an Irish giant named Finn McCool and he was challenged to a fight by the Scotch giant named Benandonner, but the Scotch giant was fooled by Finn's strength, so he ran back in fright to Scotland destroying the walkway (causeway) between Ireland and Scotland so that Finn wouldn't be able to chase him down.

A word of thanks and recognition to two gentlemen from Antrim, friends of mine that I spoke to about this article, Declan Dougherty and Barry McNaughton. A few songs about Antrim include: Green Glens of Antrim, Black Velvet Band, Carrickfergus and My lagan softly flowing. Some notable people from Antrim include: Bobby Sands, C.S. Lewis (writer) Henry Joy McCracken (Irish republican) Chaim Herzog (former president of Israel). I would like to wish all the people of Antrim and the rest of Ireland the very best of abundance and a happy start to their Summer! I will leave you with this thought, "yesterday is gone, today is the present, and tomorrow may never come"!

For questions or comments please call me at (708) 425-7021

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



along with my sidekick Declan. Nathan will also be performing in Branson, Missouri in November, you can check out his concert dates here - <http://www.nathancartermusic.com/dates>.

Margo and I send our best wishes to Keelan Arbuckle, on the upcoming release of his new single. Keelan comes from Burnfoot, Donegal. We wrote the song originally for Big Tom. R.I.P. As a thank you from Tom to his many fans for their support over the years and it was titled 'Thank God I Heard Gentle Mother'. Tom really took a shine to Keelan and was happy to pass his wisdom on to him about the in's and out's of the music business. Tom really took him under his wing. I included it in my April write-up. Keelan heard the guide vocal I'd done for the song and said he really liked it. So we changed the words for him to sing as a tribute to his idol, Big Tom McBride.

Its new title is 'When Big Tom McBride Sang Gentle Mother'. I'm sure Tom would be very proud to know that you recorded it Keelan. We wish you lots of good luck with it. I'm sure you'll do Tom proud.

We go through life meeting different people, that we've never met before. Not related in any family way, just strangers here and there that sometimes become friends. And if we're lucky we meet someone that has that really special way with them. Someone that you know is a really good natured person and a

blessing to be around. I met someone like that a few years ago and I found a wonderful friend when I met a lady called Mary Grasso, here in Chicago. Mary was that rare kind of person that would take an interest in you and make you feel like you were very special. That was her way. She would make you feel so happy to be alive. Although she never complained, she had suffered greatly for quite a while and ended up in the hospital. I went to visit her a couple of weeks back and asked her if she wanted anything bringing in. She said "no just you and your guitar" and she laughed and said, "I'm just playing with you, but I would love to hear a song". So I went to visit with my wife Margaret and brought my guitar along. She just leaned back on her bed, closed her eyes and smiled that grateful smile of her's. She

told us people could actually bring a dog to the hospital for a visit and she'd loved to see our dog Faith. We planned to go to visit on Thursday and bring Faith along with us but Mary passed away on Tuesday. It may seem like this is not a big story here but really it is a really big story about a big-hearted human being, who left many blessings behind her. Mary thank you for all the friendship you showed me, I'm going to really miss not seeing you from the stage and all the wonderful conversations we shared. I just needed to mention one of natures kindest people, who was known and loved by everyone she met. Rest In Peace Mary...

This months song, I wrote after reading a similar story. It's a food for thought song titled 'The Lesson'.

As always, until next time, be good to one another. Joe.

'The Lesson'

Written by Joe McShane

Verse 1

A young man took his father out to lunch one sunny day
His dad was getting old now, his mind would often stray

They both sat there together in that little downtown cafe
Happy sitting there in each other's company

Verse 2

His Father's feeble hands dropped some dinner on his suit
A little on his shirt and some fell on his shoes

Some folks looked on disgusted, some of them amused
Some whispered unkind words, some people can be cruel

Verse 3

You could see a deep affection in that young man's eyes
Sitting in that diner booth his Father

by his side

Then he took him to the washroom and sat him in a chair
Brushed his clothes, washed his face and combed his Father's hair

Verse 4

Just as they were leaving, an old man standing by
Said, "friend I'm pretty sure you left something behind"

The young man thought a moment and said, "Sir, I don't think so"
The old man said, "yes son, you left a lesson folks should know"

Verse 5

"You showed your heart to all of us, the way you love your Dad
Thank you for the lesson son some folks never have
I believe that love and kindness is a heavenly possession
God Bless you son and thanks again for teaching us the lesson"

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Do You Tell Your Friends How Much You Care For Them?

On April 17 of this year a terrible incident occurred on a Southwest flight from New York to Dallas. It was horrifying to learn about how one of the plane's engines exploded which then spewed steel shrapnel at the side of the plane, shattering one of the windows. A female passenger was nearly sucked out of the window until two other passengers grabbed her and held on to her until the plane diverted and landed in Philadelphia. Sadly she died of her injuries. It was an awful tragedy.

Somehow when we were kids, it seemed that it was just old people who died. As we have become adults though, we have to come to understand that death is not necessarily related to age. I, myself, have become

more sensitive to that reality over the years. I find myself thinking of all types of things that I might have said to a family member, a loved one or colleague, but I no longer have the opportunity to do so.

As I have indicated, in various columns over the years, I am convinced that many of us never consider that today might be our last day in good health. I can address that personally; I awaken one Sunday morning and did not feel good, so I took a hot bath and sat in an easy chair, but then passed out. Fortunately, my wife witnessed what had happened, so she piled me into our car and rushed me to a clinic a short distance away. The doctor told me that my condition was quite serious; I needed immediate surgery or I might die before morning. I tried to explain to the doctor that this simply made no sense; I had spent 45 minutes doing jumping jacks the night before and only stopped because I felt that was enough for one day. I couldn't possibly be in such dire straits.

In an instant, I had moved from the status of a "healthy" guy to a person in a life threatening situation. My wife and I had time to express our feelings for each other, but I did not have a chance to talk to my four children and tell them how much I loved them. My life was on a precipice and I was not going to be able to tell people how much they meant to me. I immediately felt foolish; because beyond

my wife and children, there were so many other people that I would have liked to say good-bye to and thank them for their friendship and support over the years. But that, it seemed, was no longer an option.

I am trying to make the point that we should let family, colleagues and pals know how important they are and have been in our lives. Many of us are guilty of putting off telling friends how we feel about the help, support and care that they have shown us over the years. Men might even view this act as being "unmanly".

About 15 years ago, I wrote a letter to each one of my five siblings telling them how much they had contributed to my life. I found writing those letters very challenging. I had to get beyond generic thoughts and give specifics. Interestingly enough, I only received one acknowledgement to my five letters, but I've never regretted writing or sending them.

There are casual opportunities to be cordial and pleasant to people like wait staff, Uber drivers, sales people, etc. but most of us don't even say "Thank You" to these people. That's one level of this whole process, but I would prefer to focus on those people who have been mentors, supporters, or buddies of ours over the years. They answered our calls when we most needed it. These are the people who shoveled our driveway when we were incapacitated. Walked our dog and feed her when we were too sick to get out of bed. They watched our kids when we needed some time alone. They stood by when others walked away. They stepped in and took the pressure off you and your family somehow in your time of need.

Who are these people in your life? Make a list of them. Prepare some notes on what you would like to say to them. Most of us are uncomfortable saying deeply personal things to almost anyone. For all the alleged

openness of our society, many people choke when it comes to telling someone that they are really important to us. We consider these individuals to be "true" friends, not just casual acquaintances. These are people whom you will keep in touch with for many years, maybe even a lifetime. You may find that the first such declaration to one of these important people in your life might be somewhat uncomfortable. But it is likely that after telling a few people how important they are to you and your family, it will get easier. Life is full of surprises; you may find it a very rewarding process because the likelihood is that they will tell you that they feel the same way about you and/or your family. Try it; what's the worst thing that could happen?

Sincere words can mean a lot to any of us. Don't we all welcome the recognition of others at times? Your kind words will almost certainly resonate with the individual for a long time. Haven't you had that happen to you? Some comments or compliments stick with you forever. Does any such comment surface as you read this?

I have a friend who told me that his "big" brother (he was probably around 60 years old at the time) said to his wife that "the 'kid' was a great guy and a credit to [their] family". The older brother said this while all three sat having lunch. My friend, the "kid" brother, told me that his older brother had NEVER said things like that to his face before. Carpe Diem.

For Your Consideration: You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right. *Rosa Parks*. Civil rights champion.

James F. Fitzgerald is president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., a Naperville, IL-based Senior Executive Coaching and Career Transition firm. # 630-420-0362 Jamesffitz37@hotmail.com jamesffitzgerald.com

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- * To promote Irish culture in America and to preserve Irish-American Heritage
- * To promote education, friendship, understanding and cooperation among members, and the community in general.
- * To promote and cooperate in the general welfare work of the community.

WILL COUNTY CELTIC FEST

IASCW members invite all to the annual Will County Celtic Fest to be held Saturday, August 25, 2018; Noon - 9 p.m. A great line up of live music high-lights the event. Families and friends of all ages will enjoy the fabulous St. Joes Park setting with a fun kids' area; great vendors; food & beverages. Grab some friends and join us for the day!

VOLUNTEERS are NEEDED! To help, please contact IASCW President Tim Brophy at tmb777@aol.com. For more information on the event, please go to <http://www.willcountycelticfest.com/>

IASCW 2018 ILE SCHOLARS OFF TO IRELAND

Safe travels and Bon Voyage to graduating senior Annie Moritz, Joliet Catholic Academy; and sophomore Ethyn Tibble, Joliet Central, who will each receive \$3,000 toward their Irish Life Experience exchange student tuition. The two shall represent the IASCW on the 3 week program June 28-July 22 in Ireland.

Annie and Ethyn join a roster of 47 former IASCW ILE scholars. Beginning in 1983, the IASCW has awarded at least one scholarship for study in Ireland. For more information see www.IrishLifeExperience.com.

CONGRATULATIONS TO IASCW FOUNDING FATHERS SCHOLARS

The IASCW awards college tuition scholarships in honor of our Founding Fathers. These people of service inspire us still today. Community and charitable service to others is a significant measure of the awards granted.

The 2018 student scholars include:
\$1,000 each to: De'Johnna Wright, Lockport HS; Patrick Dilger, Lockport HS; Esme Vernooij, Plfd North HS.

\$500 each to: Brennan Flaherty, Lincoln-Way East; Dominic Wistocki, Lockport; Gavin Withaeger, Plainfield East; Hannah Borgra, Joliet West; Cristian Castillo, Bolingbrook; Raymie Hockman, Plainfield North; Ryan Zobel, Joliet Catholic Academy; Nicole Nunez, Bolingbrook; and Thomas Daughtry, Plainfield North.

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Irish Fellowship Club Update

By John Griffin Scholarship Donations

Irish Fellowship Club Donates Over \$200,000 to Local Catholic High Schools

At a recent board meeting, the Irish Fellowship Club continued and increased its annual commitment to Catholic education in the Chicagoland area. Thirty-seven high schools are each receiving \$6,000 this year.

"The board increased the annual grant in recognition of the increased cost and sacrifice

by families that want their children to have a Catholic education," said foundation President Jack Hartman. Over the years, the club has donated over two million dollars.

The Irish Fellowship Club, along with the Chicago Bar Association and the Illinois Commission on Professionalism, recently sponsored luncheon for the Chief Justice of Ireland, Hon. Mr. Justice Frank Clarke. Justice Clarke was appointed the 12th Chief Justice of Ireland in 2017 by the President

of Ireland, his Excellency Mr. Michael D. Higgins. Justice Clarke discussed similarities and differences between the Irish and American legal systems. He also gave his impressions regarding the impact of Brexit on Ireland.

Finally, the Irish Fellowship Club is gearing up for a busy summer. The annual golf outing will take place at Beverly Country Club on July 16, 2018. The club is planning a cross-generational event at the Gaelic Athletic Association Games at Gaelic Park in early August.



Judge Thomas Mulroy, Justice John Griffin, Honorable Mr. Justice; Frank Clarke, Justice Maureen Connors, Judge Tom Allen, Kathy Taylor, Austin Kelly and Martin Healy.



Photos by Bill Richert



Honorable Mr. Justice; Frank Clarke, Judge Tom Allen.

Join the Irish Fellowship Club! **New Member Application**

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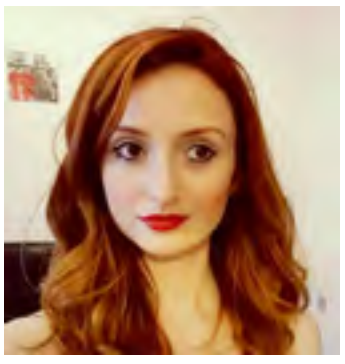
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A Message from ICS



ICS would like to say farewell and thanks to our dedicated interns, Tamara Callaghan and Bridget Murphy. We are so grateful for their service and wish them the best in their future endeavors!

ICS is pleased to welcome Amy Hibbitts, a second year social studies student at Trinity College Dublin. Amy will be assisting our social work team in providing exceptional service to the Chicago community.



Memory Support Program

Irish Community Services is starting a pilot program for older people who have been diagnosed with a mild memory impairment. The program offers a supportive social environment, light physical and mental exercise, and therapeutic programming inspired by Irish culture and heritage. The program will run for six weeks at the Irish American and will have a maximum of 10 participants.

If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of the group please call our office on 773-282-8445 and speak with Paul Dowling.



This program is generously supported by



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

LEGAL CLINIC

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SOCIAL EVENTS

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Wednesday, June 6th
10am-12pm @ IAHC



Four Winds Casino Trip
Wednesday, June 13th



Monthly Musical Gathering
Wednesday, June 20th
11am @ IAHC



Emerald Club
Wednesday, June 27th
10a-12p @ Gaelic Park



Irish Cultural Hour
Friday, June 22nd
10a-12p
@ Mount Greenwood Library



Mental Illness - Causes & Signs

Talking about mental illness can be overwhelming. It seems that there is a lot to know and it can be almost be impossible to know where to start. We get it! What we aim to do is to give the Irish community information and tools that will allow us to talk more often and more meaningfully about mental illness. This starts by having a better understanding of the basics of mental illness.

Two of the most important things to remember are; Mental Illness is common 1 out of 5 adults in the U.S. suffers from mental illness in a given year. Mental health is treatable. It's totally possible for those with mental illness to recover and lead productive, healthy lives.

Causes of Mental Illness

- Biological causes such as genetic predispositions, chemical imbalances in the brain, damage to the central nervous system from a severe head injury.
 - Environmental events and stressors like exposure to violence and trauma, stress related to chronic poverty, discrimination, or other serious hardships, and the loss of important people through death, divorce, or broken relationships.
- Mental Illness is caused by

Mental Illness are experienced in different way by different people but there are often distinguishable characteristics or symptoms that are associated with mental illness. These include

- Persistent sad, anxious, or empty mood
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, or helplessness
- Loss of interest or pleasure in ordinary activities
- Decreased energy or a feeling of fatigue
- Difficulty concentrating, easily, trouble with memory and attention
- Intrusive thoughts and memories, obsessive behaviors
- Change in sleeping or eating patterns
- Substance use
- Thoughts of death or suicide; self-injury or suicide attempts
- Racing thoughts, pressured speech
- Suspiciousness, paranoia, hyper vigilance
- Emotional flatness or lack of expression, apathy, feeling numb
- Difficulty planning or carrying out activities of daily life

- Disorganized speech and thinking, inability to express emotions
- Restlessness, irritability, or anger
- Social withdrawal, isolation
- Trouble understanding or relating to others
- Pounding or racing heart, shortness of Breath
- Increased risk-taking behavior, impulsivity
- Excessively cheerful, high, euphoric mood
- Difficulty perceiving reality
- Frequent and extreme mood changes

Recognizing Mental Illness

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- July: **Sports This Summer**
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- September: **iBAM! Preview**
- October: **iBAM! Continues**
- November: **Christmas Issue**
- December: **Plan Your Ireland Trip**



TOMMY GARDINER FAMILY BENEFIT

Tommy Gardiner, 56, was killed in a tragic car accident on January 15, 2018 after encountering black ice on his way to his son's basketball game. Tommy, a 30 year member of Iron Workers Local 1 and a proud US Navy Veteran, was the sole provider for his family. A fundraising benefit is being held to assist his wife and their four children.

SUNDAY AUGUST 12	2:00PM- 7:00PM	PLUMBERS LOCAL 130 UNION HALL 1340 W WASHINGTON BLVD., CHICAGO	BAR, FOOD, LIVE MUSIC, AUCTION, RAFFLES
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