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A photograph of a man with a beard and a tan cowboy hat playing an acoustic guitar on stage. He is smiling and looking upwards. The background is a blurred stage with purple and blue lighting.

A circular logo for Milwaukee Irish Fest featuring a leprechaun's face with a green hat and orange beard.

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Proceeds to benefit the **Red Dwyer Scholarship Fund**
and the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee



A TRIBUTE TO: RED DWYER

9/15/1931 - 5/19/2017



Gerald "Red" Dwyer, a retired Plumbers Local 130 member and old friend to the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and Board of Directors, passed away on May 19, 2017. Red will be quoted and toasted, and kept in the annals of the Parade for his contributions that spans over 62 years. Red was the owner of Dwyer Plumbing, located in Chicago's north side. As the proud patriarch of a five-generation plumbing family, Red's legacy will

continue through his children - Mark, Kerry Ann, Cindy, Gerald, Gregory and Colleen, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A spirited, witty and fun-loving Irish gentleman from the West side of Chicago, Red Dwyer's presence impacted the organization and success of many, many social functions in and around Chicago. He is forever defined by his deep affiliations with his Alma Mater St.

Patrick's High School, Plumbers Local 130's Parade Board of Directors, the Irish Fellowship Club as well as one of the initiators of Old St. Patrick Church's famous Block Party. His endeavors raised millions of dollars for worthy causes, or as he would say "barrels and barrels of money for the Church." Red became a well-read, detailed historian about Chicago, its Catholic Churches, and its people. As a good friend, Jim Sweany, said in Red's Eulogy, "The beauty of Red's stories was in the humor, which came from his heart, and Red was the facilitator."

Red Dwyer was a loyal and faithful family man who has left a "footprint" in Plumbers Local 130's St. Patrick's Day Parade. As he often said, "That's that. End of story!"



From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



The Beautiful Game: The Twenty First World Cup

The Twenty First Soccer World Cup finished in Russia on 15 July, with France, the best and most consistent side, winning an enthralling final 4-2 over the tournament's surprise package Croatia, which joined the select band of countries, now thirteen, to have reached a World Cup Final.

The Coming-of-Age tournament has been described by some as the greatest ever. This for a combination of factors – the humbling and elimination of most of the pre-tournament favourites, the emergence of several surprise teams, including from outside the traditional strongholds, the general absence of thuggery on the field (though there were exceptions), the perceived levelling up of standards between the participants (with, again, a couple of exceptions), some fine matches, few goalless draws and, certainly not least, the excellent organisation, hospitality and atmosphere throughout.

The greatest ever? The players are certainly faster and fitter, and coaching methods have evolved, yet there was no outstanding team, like Brazil in 1970, no outstanding player, like Maradona in 1986, and no matches to compare with, to name but two, the 1970 Brazil-England classic, and the 1986 quarter final France against Brazil. And, more recently, nothing to compare with the 2014 demolitions of the holders Spain, 5-1 by the Netherlands, or of hosts and favourites Brazil, beaten 7-1 by Germany in the semi-final. As in 2014 four matches were decided by penalty shootouts. There were fewer goals than in 2014 and considerably more penalties, though not necessarily because of more foul play but rather because of a technical innovation.

For the first time VAR (Video Assisted Referee) technology was

employed to assist referees address controversial incidents in the penalty area. The technology is still in its teething stage, will no doubt be refined, and has been criticised by some soccer purists for interrupting the flow of play. Nevertheless, on balance its application has been positive and has helped referees to reach correct decisions. Judgement calls will remain, but there is now recourse to a record of what happened. In the final itself a crucial penalty was awarded that otherwise might have been missed. VAR has also undoubtedly contributed to a significant reduction in holding and pushing in the penalty area at set pieces. Once referees could review what happened the number of unsightly melees declined. Soccer will never be quite the same again though there is surely a case for stopping the clock during the VAR procedure.

There were several sublime moments and goals: the pass by Banega and Messi's opening goal against Nigeria in a must-win game, the marvellous move involving Suarez and Cavani who scored for Uruguay in the elimination of Portugal, probably the goals of the tournament, as well as the last minute combination move by Belgium to snatch the comeback winner against Japan. There were goalkeeper "howlers," one by the Argentine keeper, which paved the way for a Croatian victory in the Group, another from Uruguay which sealed France's win in the Quarter Finals, and one by Lloris for France in the Final, but at a time when it scarcely mattered. These were balanced by some fine goalkeeping performances, by Lloris, Courtois of Belgium, and England's Pickford, whose save against Colombia was surely the outstanding save of the finals (and is up there with Banks' wonder save from Pele in 1970).

The tournament was notable

also for the high proportion of goals from set pieces – 42% - showing that coaching and practice pays. England proved particularly proficient here with nine of their thirteen goals coming from set pieces. Unfancied beforehand, and therefore unburdened by the suffocating shroud of the demanding UK media, England exceeded expectations, advancing to the last four for the first time since 1990, and laying the penalty shootout bogey in the Round of Sixteen against Colombia. The luck of the draw may have helped but that should not diminish England's young team's achievement, which promises well for the future. In the semi-final England succumbed in extra time to another surprise team, Croatia, despite leading after five minutes.

Croatia, given an outside chance by some, did not disappoint. Superbly marshalled by Modric, probably Player of the Tournament, assisted by Rakitic and Perisic, and with the Juventus striker Mandzukic up front, Croatia easily topped their group, brushing aside Argentina 3-0 in the process before winning two successive penalty shootouts, against Denmark and hosts Russia, another team which performed beyond expectations. In the semi-final against England Croatia displayed their trademark mixture of skill, grit, and solid battling, coming from behind to win out worthily after extra time.

It was not a tournament for favourites, players or teams. The world's acknowledged three top players, Messi, Ronaldo and Neymar all underperformed, their hopes disappearing as their teams faltered in the knock out stages. The Argentine defence and midfield proved woeful throughout and not even Messi could rescue them in one of the matches of the tournament against France. Portugal fared no better, with nothing to offer apart from Ronaldo and exited to Uruguay. Brazil, the bookies' favourites, blew hot and cold, losing to Belgium in the quarterfinals, with Neymar never reaching his best.

Of the other favourites, Germany, the holders, had a disas-

trous competition, crashing out in the Group stage after defeats by Mexico and South Korea, the third holders in a row to fail to progress past the opening round. The 2010 winners, Spain, went out on penalties to Russia in the Round of Sixteen after an inept display against a well marshalled defence. For Uruguay, with a fine defence and two world class attackers, it was a case of what might have been, as they succumbed to France without one of their stars. Belgium, on paper with one of the strongest squads, for once did not disappoint, impressing until the semi-finals, where they were eliminated by France in a tactical and boring contest.

France, the last favourite standing, proved deserved victors, winning six of their seven matches (the exception a meaningless nil all draw with Denmark), keeping four clean sheets and always appearing to have something in reserve. They were only behind briefly once and seemed always in control except for a short period during the final after which the result was never in doubt. Varane, Kante, Matuidi and Pogba were impressive, while the teenage Mbappe was one of the tournament stars.

Teams from elsewhere are catching up. Japan were particularly impressive, running Belgium close, while Mexico, Colombia, Senegal and South Korea also shone. A special word also for Iran, well drilled, well coached, but doomed in a tough group. Watch Iran. There are now no easy matches as better coaching methods spread. The game is now becoming truly universal with results we could see next time around. In 2022 the Finals will be held, bizarrely, in Qatar, a statelet with money but little soccer tradition; and in the northern hemisphere's winter! As we say in Ireland: "Let's hope they get the weather they're expecting."

Finally, my Team of the Tournament: Pickford; Varane, Godin, Trippier; Kante, Modric, de Bruyne Perisic, Pogba; Mbappe, Mandzukic; with subs Umtiti, Vida, Maguire, Hazard and Rebic. Ten from the Final line up. Some Team! Some Tournament!



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Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea
Tom Boyle



Owencarrow

There are amazing stories of family history in the Irish community. I heard some of them when I was doing oral histories at the IAHC.

Recently my good friend Danny Boyle of the Shannon Rovers revealed the fact that his grand-

old. He had been in the hospital for 3 weeks following an injury to his hands while working at the Lighthouse on Arranmore Island. Phil and Sarah and young Phillie missed the 3pm train. They waited for the 5:15pm train from Derry. The stop before was Kilmacrennan. At 7:30 pm. it was said to be clear



mother and grandfather were killed in a train wreck in Donegal, The Owencarrow Viaduct Disaster of January 30th, 1925.

Owencarrow Viaduct Disaster occurred on the night of 30 January 1925 at around 8pm at the Owencarrow Viaduct, County Donegal. Winds off up to 120 mph derailed carriages of the train off the viaduct causing it to partially collapse. The roof of a carriage was ripped off throwing four people to their deaths. The four killed on the Lough Swilly Railway were: Philip Boyle and his wife Sarah from Arranmore Island, Una Mulligan from Falcarragh and Neil Duggan from Meenbunowen, Creeslough.

Five people were seriously injured. The remains of the viaduct can today be seen from the road (N55) which carries on from the Barnes Gap on the road to Creeslough.

Philip Boyle and his wife Sarah, were on a shopping trip in Dublin buying goods for their store on Arranmore Island. On their way home from Dublin, they stopped at Letterkenny Hospital to pick up their son, Phillie Boyle, 18 years

and very bright outside. The train continued on ahead toward the Viaduct. The winds now were very strong and blowing hard. There was a two foot clearance on each side of the train. The Viaduct was 600 feet long and 50 feet above the Owencarrow River. The train proceeded to cross with caution. Phillie's mom, Sarah, had a strange premonition something was going to happen and she kept asking "are we near that bridge yet/"

The train was now rocking. Phillie sat between his mom and dad. He remembered hat his mom had a terrifying look on her face. All Phillie remembered was falling out of the top of the train. The roof had opened up like a sardine can. Phillie knew his father was dead. There was a large boulder across his chest. Sarah had severe head injuries. Phillie remembered walking away from the scene and found himself walking into the river. He turned back. He did not have a scratch, but his clothes were torn off his back.

Phillie said he stayed with his mother and drove with her to the hospital where she died at 2am.

Phillie did not know for 2 days that both parents had died. Dan Bonner, a boatsman, arrived at Arranmore Island and the children of Phil and Sarah thought it was their parents returning. Instead, Dan Bonner had the news of the train accident and that Phil and Sarah were both dead and that young Phillie was in the hospital.

The two oldest sons, Neil and Paddy were in America. Mickey, the oldest son at home was in charge of his younger siblings.

Neil returned home shortly afterwards and Paddy stayed in America and never returned home

to Arranmore. Mickey came to America the following Fall. On August 12, 2018 the Boyle families from Chicago, Arranmore, and Donegal will gather near the accident site and dedicate a memorial.

Pflager's Folly

"Shut it down" was the war cry!

The march on the Dan Ryan Expressway was supposed to draw attention to the gun violence on the South and West sides of Chicago. This made no sense, as the problem is reported in the evening news almost nightly.

It was to encourage economic development on the Southside. Would you invest money in an area that has regular gun battles, dope dealers, and drive by shootings?

Sadly enough, the overwhelming majority of people who live there are hard working people.

The "code of silence" needs to end. Picket the gun shops in Gary Indiana for a start.

Paddle Wheeler

My grand Nephew, Sam Shaffer, has a great Summer job working on the pride of the Susquehanna Paddle Wheel Riverboat.

Known as the "Pride" she is one of six remaining authentic paddle wheel river boats in the U.S. She was launched in 1988.

The boat is powered by a caterpillar diesel engine. Beside house-keeping duties, the deck hands also man the lines during casting off, and returning to the dock.

Supreme Court

The liberal left is frantic over the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh for Supreme Court Justice. Their greatest fear is that Roe versus Wade would be struck down. Nobody I know feels that would come to pass. In a statement by Senator Tammy Duckworth she says, "whomever replaces Justice Kennedy will play a critical role in the lives of all women and every single American. Moving forward, I will thoroughly review Judge Kavanaugh's rulings, evaluate his qualifications and look for him to make it clear to the American public that he would be independent, not simply a rubber stamp for Donald Trump's whims, if he hopes to earn my support."

Facism Chicago

"Refuse Facism Chicago" picketed Vice President Mike Pence in Rosemont recently. The demonstrations fell flat.

The lunatic fringe is thriving on chaos and civil disorder. Formed by a group of Leftists, including the Revolutionary Communist Party.

Fascism is a one party dictatorship against Democracy, working for a Totalitarian one party state.

Karl Marx lives, Joseph Stalin lives, Nikita Kruschev lives, Adolph Hitler lives.

The USA still has a two party system and a Congress elected by the people.

Playwright

My niece, Diane Shaffer, an accomplished playwright who wrote, "Sacrilege," a play that was staged at the Belasco Theater on Broadway, opening Nov 2, 1995.

Diane has been commissioned to write a stage play based on Warren Adler's best selling novel, Random Harvest.

CFD Funeral

Chicago Firefighter and member of the Dive Team, Juan Bucio, died in the line of duty while searching for a body of a man who

had fallen into the Chicago River.

At his funeral Mass, Fr. Gary Graf, Pastor of St. Procopius Church and a very charismatic priest, delivered a wonderful eulogy for Juan. At one point in the Mass he brought Juan's two sons to the altar and put his stole around their shoulders and told them that the hundreds of firefighters in the room and outside of the church would always be there for them.

Firefighter's Prayer

*When I'm called to duty God
wherever flames may rage
give me strength to save a life
whatever be its age
Help me to embrace a little child
before it is too late
or save an older person from
the horror of that fate
Enable me to be alert
to hear the weakest shout
and quickly and efficiently
to put the fire out
I want to fill my calling and
to give the best in me
to guard my neighbor and
protect his property
And if according to your will
I have to lose my life
bless with your protecting hand
my children and my wife*

Catholic Dioceses

The six Catholic Dioceses in Pennsylvania, the focus of the grand jury investigation of potential child abuse by priests have received a copy of the findings.

However, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has barred the release of the statewide grand jury report into clergy sex abuse. The report eventually will be released. "All Grand Jury matters are sealed including the rationale," court spokeswoman Kimberly Bathgate said.

There area sundry legal battles over the release of the findings, gag orders on some victims and it's all very complex.

"We see this constantly in these cases. The church says the right thing, but does the opposite. It's a heartless approach. The sexual abuse of children is just heartless. the church should be transparent and allow the victims to heal." *Mitchell Garabedian, attorney specializing in abuse cases.*



On the Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

John P. Scanlon



On The Law

This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. Each month we will focus on various aspects of the law relating to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products, and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us.

Healy Scanlon Law Firm is comprised of eight trial attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 W. Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). www.HealyScanlon.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

The Invisible Hazard: Age and Tire Degradation

Whether it's a short trip to the beach or a road trip cross country, the summer naturally brings families out of the house and onto the road. When you

and your loved ones hit the road this summer, there is a little known hazard you should keep in mind: tire aging. Many think the number of miles on a tire and degradation of a tire's tread are the only indicators that a tire may be unsafe for use. However, this is a common misconception. In reality, the safety of a tire

in certain circumstances, can be dependent on its age. In the 1920s, experts began studying the effects of thermo-oxidative aging on tires. Thermo-oxidative aging is the reduction of a tire's material properties resulting from a chemical reaction within the rubber components due to oxidation. Essentially, this chemical reaction, brought on solely by age, hardens the rubber of the tire. Hardened rubber diminishes the tire's grip on the road, reduces handling quality, and creates a greater risk for catastrophic failure. This process can lead to tires which may have relatively few miles and perfect treads but are nonetheless prone to blowouts. For these reasons, experts have referred to tire oxidation as the "invisible hazard."

Industry Knowledge

While scientists have known about the effects of oxidation on tires since the 1920s, some automobile and tire manufacturing companies in the US have not shared their knowledge of this hazard with the public. Almost

no major US companies acknowledged this hazard until the mid-1990's. At that time, select companies, like Volkswagen and Toyota, added warnings to their owner's manuals, indicating that tires older than six years old should be used with caution and only in an emergency.

Other manufacturers, like GM, Ford, and Chrysler, warned consumers later. Both Ford and Chrysler warned consumers in 2006 to replace their tires after six years, regardless of tread condition. GM added such warnings in 2013.

Effectiveness of Warnings

Notably, these warnings have consisted of quietly adding tire replacement recommendations to the owner's manuals of newly purchased cars. Most manufacturers made no effort to warn owners of older model vehicles about the invisible hazard of tire oxidation.

Tire manufacturers, like Bridgestone/Firestone, Michelin, and Continental-General, did not publicly recognize the dangers of tire aging, waiting until around 2006 to issue similarly limited warnings. Neither tire nor automotive manufacturers warned past vehicle purchasers, used vehicle purchasers, or secondary tire vendors.

The Effect of Litigation

The increasing awareness surrounding the dangers of tire aging has been driven primarily by litigation. Thus far there have been no substantive regulations requiring tire aging warnings or setting a tire age performance standard.

Many manufacturers refused to recognize the danger of tire aging until around 2006. This is no coincidence. In January 2006, a jury awarded \$29 million to the victims of a rollover crash of a 1992 Ford Explorer. The vehicle was running on an older spare which blew out due to age, causing severe injuries. This case served as an industry wake-up call. Thereafter, many automotive and tire manufacturers began to quietly recognize and warn against the dangers of tire

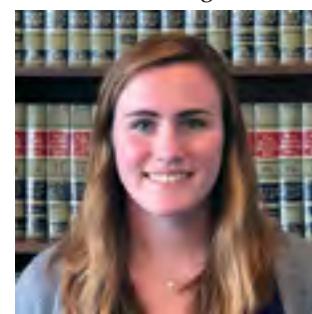
oxidation.

Healy Scanlon currently represents the victims of a similar type of crash. In our case, a Chicago family took a long road trip in a 2006 vehicle which, when purchased, had not included a warning regarding tire aging. The manufacturer later issued a tire aging warning for new vehicles, but failed to warn past customers like our clients. The businesses which serviced the vehicle also failed to warn our clients of the dangers of tire oxidation. Ultimately, during the road trip, one of the original 2006 tires blew out due to age, causing the car to swerve, flip, and land in a ditch, killing one family member and seriously injuring another.

We hope, through our action on behalf of the victims of this tragedy, to encourage automotive and tire manufacturers to act in a responsible manner to help prevent such tragedies in the future. We also hope to raise awareness surrounding the invisible hazard of tire oxidation. While there have been significant strides in vehicle safety measures, cases like this show that many vehicles with dangerous defects remain on the roads. If you or a loved one has been injured while in an automobile or while using other consumer products, you should seek legal advice.

We hope you and your family have a safe and happy summer.

By: *Martin Healy, Jr.
Emilie A. McGuire*



Emilie A. McGuire a law clerk at Healy Scanlon is a second year law student at Loyola University School of Law. She has been accepted as a writer for the Loyola Law School Journal and is in the top 10% of the class.

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Seaweed Foraging, Cooking School, and Artisanal Food Movement in West Cork

By Phillippa Cannon

West Cork, in southwest of Ireland, is at once very Irish and very cosmopolitan, attracting creative people from all over the world. While renowned for its spectacular rugged coast line, it is less well known in the United States as the center of Ireland's growing artisanal food movement and the ideal place to explore the island's culture through food. It boasts artisanal salmon smokers, sausage makers and the country's best cheese producers and an eclectic Saturday farmers' market in Skibbereen.

While there on a recent visit, a friend

hint of saltiness from the water in which it grew. McKenna said she adds it to pasta dishes and salads.

The class provided a unique way to learn about Irish food, culture and history while exploring nature. Seaweeds — or sea vegetables - are among the oldest and most nutritious foods on the planet. They have been long-used by the Irish for food, fertilizer and medicine. During times of famine, it was a reliable source of vitamins and minerals. The two varieties eaten most often are dillisk, also known as dulse — used to flavor chowders, bread, butter and cheese — and carrageen. One popular use of carrageen is

from the harbors of Cape Clear near Skibbereen was one of the delicacies of the Fianna, Ireland's mythical warriors led by Finn MacCool.

After a couple of hours exploring on the beach, it was back to the Good Things kitchen to transform sea beets — a shoreline green — into a topping for

tional (ages 10 to 70) Chicago family for a private cooking class. Her approach to cooking is simple, fresh and uncomplicated with an emphasis on healthy eating. As she says in her cookbook "Eat Good Things Every Day" (available on Amazon), she wants students to see how easy it is to cook and eat well.



Sally McKenna (ctr) with students, taught the foraging class on Durras beach.

introduced me to Carmel Somers, chef, Irish Times' food columnist and owner of the Good Things Cookery School in Skibbereen. Somers invited me to join an outdoor wild food foraging class held at a pristine beach near Durras. Our guide was another leading light of the Irish food scene, Sally McKenna, publisher with her husband John of the Bridgestone McKenna Guides and author of "Extreme Greens: understanding seaweed."

McKenna led our group on a fascinating expedition to identify and taste edible flowers, plants and seaweeds including the noodle-like sea spaghetti, freshly harvested from a tidal pool. It was surprisingly mild and nutty with a

to thicken a milk-based dessert similar to panna cotta. According to legend, dulse



Dillisk also known as pulse.



Carmel Somers, owner of Good Things Cookery School and Irish Times' food columnist.

local Gubbeen cheese pizza and a filling for phyllo pastry pie.

Somers recommends traveling to West Cork to learn to cook both because of its incomparable beauty and the high quality of local ingredients. She fell in love with and relocated to the area 16 years ago after attending her sister's wedding. When she first opened Good Things Cafe in the seaside village of Durras, there were no restaurants in the area serving locally-sourced food. "People thought I was very weird," she recalled. The restaurant eventually moved to a bright corner in the much larger market town of Skibbereen. Last year, she sold the restaurant to focus on teaching and writing.

Good Things Cookery School classes take place upstairs from the cheerful Good Things Cafe. The school offers small (limited to six students) week and weekend long courses. Somers also teaches private classes tailored to students' interests. In June, she was looking forward to welcoming a multigenera-

There is more information about the Good Things Cookery School on its website www.thegoodthingscafe.com. To register for classes, email Somers at school@thegoodthingscafe.com.



A handful of channel wrack seaweed.

More information about John and Sally McKenna's guides to regional Irish food and drink is available at www.guides.ie.

The seaweed foraging class with Sally McKenna is featured in a Netflix series -- "Somebody Feed Phil" with Phil Rosenthal, the producer of "Everyone Loves Raymond." It's Season 2, Episode 2.

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



this short poem. I'd like to share it with you to help keep his memory alive.

As always be good to one another. **Joe**
I'm Going To Miss

That Smile'

Poem by Joe McShane

I'm going to miss that smile you shared so many times

I feel so blessed to have known one so brave as you

I know you spent many days that were long and deeply pained

It never stopped your loving smile from shining through

Rest easy my dear friend now your pain is at an end

I believe its true we all meet again some-day

In our hearts you left a song and in our thoughts you will live on

I like to think you're smiling down from heavens stairway

But for now here on this earth we gather here in church

We listen so closely to the tender words of your loving son

A eulogy poured from his heart, to help your loving soul depart

And made us all realize why you were loved by everyone
Rest In Peace John Dillon

'Hometown Lovin' (Small Town Company)

Written by Joe and Declan McShane

V1

I used to think the edge of town was way out of my sight
Now I wonder what my buddies are doing tonight
Been gone away too long and my mind keeps driftin' home
Gotta swallow my pride and pick up the telephone

V2

You know concrete and bricks were never worth a lick
Compared to the hedgerows and trees out in the sticks
Where neighbors always greet you with a smile upon their face
I finally smelled the coffee this big city ain't my place

Chorus

I know just what they'll say to me, hey! are you home to stay
Boy it seems a lifetime since you went away
I know that big ole city, won't be missin' me
I need some hometown lovin' and some small town company

V3

They'll shake my hand and ask me how is all your kin
Great to see you home, how you keepin' how've you been
I left the city far behind I need this old hometown
It's great to see you back again, hope you stick around

Chorus

I knew just what they'd say to me, hey! are you home to stay
Boy it seems a lifetime since you went away
I know that big ole city, won't be missin' me
I need some hometown lovin' and some small town company

Hello Everybody!

We are still over here in Ireland until August 8. We're having great craic. The weather is just unbelievable. It's so nice to meet up with friends and family and just unwind. Ah! the simple things in life are the best. Surrounded by mountains and lakes and music what more could one ask for?

My son Declan is starting to become a celebrity here. I hope he keeps me on as a roadie!

It's doing my heart good to watch his musical talent blossom. This months song was written by him and I and it's called 'Hometown Lovin' (Small Town Company)

I woke up the other day and I was thinking about our dear friend John Dillon R.I.P. He was such a gentleman. The day after his funeral I wrote

LAY YOUR LOVED ONES TO REST ON
THE EARTH OF IRELAND
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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.

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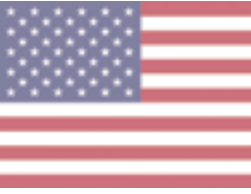
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Generation Next

By Conor O'Connor

The Ride to Remember

Every year my dad, my sister, and I all head up to Wisconsin to ride in the "Best Dam Bike Tour," an MS Ride that takes place in Waukesha over the first weekend in August. Riders are required to raise at least \$300 dollars to participate in the ride, which can be anywhere from 100 miles to 200 miles long, depending on the preferences and ability of the rider. All the money that's raised goes toward the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, a nonprofit that uses the money raised to fund research into finding a cure for Multiple Sclerosis.

The Ride has become something of a tradition for my family. We go up every year and ride with my great aunt Lenore, whose friend Nancy has been living with MS for the past few decades. The journey itself is grueling; last year, we rode 75 miles both days of the Ride, totaling to 150 miles on a bike over the course of two days. Needless to say, my butt is always a bit sore after the Ride, but it's always well worth the pain.

Despite its intensity, participating in the Ride has always been an extremely fulfilling experience. After the first day of riding, the organizers hold a banquet celebrating that year's advances in MS research, and celebrating those who raised the most money for the ride. Last year, the biggest fundraiser was an honest, hard-working guy who had been diagnosed with MS a few years earlier. Despite the obvious phys-

ical limitations that come along with an MS diagnosis, this guy not only raised the most funds of anyone participating that year, but he rode right alongside everyone else. As if that alone weren't incredible enough, every year there are consistently dozens of people with MS that ride even faster than other, more able-bodied riders. Some are even too weak to use their legs to pedal, so they buy or build custom bikes with special hand pedals. After each ride my legs hurt like the devil, so it's hard for me to even fathom what it must be like for riders that can't use their legs. Being surrounded by such amazing people every year truly makes me appreciate the strength of the human spirit and the inherent dignity and resolve present in every person. It also helps me understand how privileged I am to be living the kind of life that I am.

Additionally, Wisconsin's landscape is always stunning to behold. While I often get bored of seeing endless open fields during road trips in the Midwest, it's a different story when I'm biking through them, as the landscape interacts much more with a bike rider than it does with a car. Going up hills is a challenge, but atop them one can see for miles in every direction. One hill in particular jumps to mind when I think about the Ride's route, a hill known simply as "The Wall" by riders.

"The Wall" is around 200 feet tall and its incline is almost ver-

tical. As the group approaches it, many bikers simply sigh and hop off their bikes, preferring to walk up the hill rather than attempt to pedal up it. Many more make it halfway up "The Wall" before their legs give out and they too walk the rest of the way up. Only the strongest, most determined riders can scale "The Wall," and I'm proud to say that I'm one of those riders, although my quadriceps are always screaming in pain by the time I make it to the top. The view from "The Wall" is indescribable, but I will say that the feeling that comes with the adrenaline rush of reaching the top combined with being able to see the beautiful Wisconsin landscape is one-of-a kind.

This year's Ride is fast approaching. I still need to get some training miles in between now and then, but it's shaping up to be "The Best Two Days on a Bike!" for the third year running. If anyone would like to donate to this amazing cause or participate in a future Illinois or Wisconsin ride, please consider visiting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's website. All donations are tax deductible. By the time this article is published, we'll probably have finished the ride, but anyone can still donate to our webpages even after the ride is finished. The profiles of my family and I will be on my Facebook page and on the Bike MS Wisconsin Chapter website. Wish us luck!

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Brunch is by far the best meal of any weekend. What pairs best with any brunch you ask? Bottomless mimosas. There is nothing this girl loves more than a tasty brunch with a non-stop flow of champagne topped with sweet OJ.

Over the past five years of living in this marvelous city, I have spent many a Sunday morning (with the occasional Saturday) filling my belly with mouth watering food while sipping on countless downed bubbles. I like to call myself an expert in the field of bottomless brunches and today, I would like to share a few of my favorite spots.

My dear friends, whether your morning drink of choice is a bloody mary or mimosa -- or maybe you are just interested in finding an endless brunch buffet -- this little list is all the motivation you will need to get up and out earlier on the weekend.

"Mimosa, please. Hold the OJ."
- Amy Schumer, Train Wreck

1.) O'Donovan's

2100 W Irving Park Rd, Chicago, IL 60618

\$14.95- All You Can eat or \$25- All You Can Mimosa.

In the mood for a more casual, laid back atmosphere? Head on over to O'Donovan's. This is one of my favorite brunch buffet spots in the city. Not only is the price just right, but the newly (and quite) beautiful rehabbed covered patio is reason enough to check it out. The buffet at O'Donovan's is what anyone still recovering from the night before dreams of: An endless supply of greasy bacon, sausage, pigs in a blanket and grits. Macaroni bites, a waffle station, an omelet chef and let's not forget the chocolate fountain.

Servers are very attentive with

refills and there is even a house magician! Yes, you read that correctly...a magician.

2.) Earl's Kitchen

1538 N Clybourn Ave a108, Chicago, IL 60610

\$25 Bottomless Mimosa during Saturday & Sunday Brunch Happy Hour

I love Earl's Kitchen so much that I chose to have my 30th

\$30 brunch + \$20 unlimited mimosa package. Every Saturday and Sunday- 11am to 4pm

Looking for a more upscale sports bar experience? Highline is for you! Located in River North, its sleek bar, high top tables, and a game room in the back makes this the perfect spot to hang out with a few friends. It is on the pricier side, given its

aturday and Sunday 10am-3pm

Craving Italian? Head to Zia's Lago Vista for a truly unique boozy brunch experience. Though this Lakeview spot does serve up a few traditional breakfast items like omelets and French Toast, the true star of their menu is the breakfast pizza. With unlimited mimosas or Bloody Marys to boot, a weekend brunch at Zia's is sure to be a hit!

There is no shortage of great brunch spots here in Chicago. If I had a ten page spread, I could list them all. However, space in this particular column is limited and I do not want to get on my editor's bad side.

Here is a list of a few other places that offer a stellar brunch with a side of bottomless.

ORSO'S 1401 N Wells St, Chicago, IL 60610

TROQUET 111 W Huron St, Chicago, IL 6065

EL MARIACHI 3906 N Broadway St, Chicago, IL 60613

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PATSY'S PLACE 2825 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL 60657

25 DEGREES CHICAGO 736 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60654

I am on the hunt to find the best Irish restaurants that offer a great bottomless brunch deal, so send me your favorites at catherine@gingerinthecity.com and we'll let our readers know!

Be sure to follow me on Instagram - @ginginthecity - for 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



Here is a picture of the lovely omelet and breakfast pizza at Orso's outdoor patio. You can't go wrong with a big brunch at any of these fine places.

birthday extravaganza brunch here! This place is every Instagrammer's dream with it's fresh, open, and airy concept. They have a large outdoor patio with cute, cozy patio furniture and fire pits. The brunch menu is on the smaller side, but the food is delicious! I highly recommend their avocado toast! Two poached eggs are layered on top of a generous helping of avocado and served up on thick, crunchy sourdough.

3.) Highline

169 W Kinzie St, Chicago, IL 60654

location, but the food and environment are definitely worth the price. Highline's buffet is of top quality. With an omelet chef, a carving station, mini waffle bar, a fresh seafood table, a donut wall, and a table full of every five year olds dreams :: candy.

Given the location, I highly suggest using the OpenTable app to make a reservation ahead of time!

4.) Zia Lago

3819 N Ashland Ave, Chicago, IL 60613

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Clutter Buster

By Rita Emmett

Procrastinate No More!

Even if you are not launching a child off to college, you might find that many of these ideas will help in YOUR everyday life.

Here are great tips from a conversation I had with a Student Housing Administrator named Brenda. (That's right ... I took notes.)

Students bring way too much to college these days. In the "Olden Days", everything the student

packed fit into the parents' station wagon. Now students bring laptops, tablets, game consoles and clothes for all seasons as if EVERY THING from home has to be brought along and crammed into a dorm room.

Racks in the bottom of a closet for shoes usually take up way too much space. Find a large

Rubbermaid bin and put all shoes in there and store at the

bottom of the closet.

Besides cutting back they need to organize:

First, find a way to store or file all of the school-specific paperwork, including student handbook, class schedule, financial information, & course catalog.

Second, organize books and notebooks for each class.

Students often bring more furniture than will fit comfortably in their room. A small file cabinet, book shelf, or storage bin should do the trick if the organization process is started right when a student arrives on campus.

They often go overboard buying desk accessories. If there is NO room on the desk for studying and doing homework, then homework will not happen very often.

Also, students should find a

way to store and keep-together their kitchen and bathroom supplies in their room. They need a bin to carry their items to the shower as well as kitchen items to cook

small meals for themselves if they don't feel like eating in the dining hall.

Another big help would be a simple, inexpensive, hang-up plastic shoe holder. Sure, you can use it for shoes, but it also works to stash cosmetics, socks, gloves, school supplies -- anything you need to have handy to grab and go.

Plus instead of dragging luggage to move, they could use duffel bags that you can fold up and put away. The trick is to use storage containers that can be repurposed or put into another

container.

It is very easy to turn a small college room into a nice, comfortable, uncluttered "home away from home" with a bit of thought, planning and cutting back on bringing too much.

Here's hoping some of Brenda's ideas will help not only College students setting up their dorm room, but also one or two of these ideas might be helpful to you, too.

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

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Dead Reckoning

By: Rex Owens,
Three Towers Press

Rex Owens is an exciting and imaginative storyteller. And because of his skill at writing dialogue, the reader is quickly drawn into the character's inner and outer self. Owens is fascinated by the motives people have "to make life-changing decisions."

Dead Reckoning is the third, and final book in the series about fictional Ian Murphy. Murphy is a nationally known writer in Ireland and he was secretly a member of the IRA for 30 years. Using his writing skill, he wrote the handbook for their operations. It was called The Green Book.

Later in life, Murphy says, "I tried to atone for the deaths I caused during the Troubles...What was the power of words to insight hatred, violence, and death?"

He says working on the Good Friday Agreement provided an opportunity to share Ireland's future on a path of peace. It's too early to gauge if it has changed lives for the better."

That statement is prescient because as I'm writing this review, there has not been a shared executive in Northern Ireland since January, 2017.

The term, shared-executive, means government power would be shared equally by nationalists and unionists. It is the foundation of the Good Friday Agreement. Why is there no shared executive?

The British Prime Minister stays in power only because of the 10 votes of the unionist DUP party. That party is run by Arlene Foster, an ardent and inflexible unionist. She can get anything she wants from the British Government. Does she want to end the Good Friday Agreement?

To rid himself of his feelings of guilt, Murphy decides not to write a book about his life, but to write a play instead. He says that it will be a "memory" play. "I needed

to tell my story of the Provisional Irish Republican Army and how I changed direction in my life and participated in the Peace Accord."

He struggles also with occurrences of depression. He hopes



that the play will expunge some of those feelings as well. His outline of the play: "The story will begin with a friend's wake and end with the referendum on the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. I will show how I made the transformation from an IRA operative to one of the architects of the peace agreement and my battle with depression and alcoholism."

The name of the play would be Dead Reckoning. "Dead Reckoning was an old nautical term... used to describe how to calculate the current position by knowing where they had been."

Putting a play on stage requires a lot of hard work and preparation. Work with the director, the stage manager, the actors, and many others. Much advice and help came from the Theatre Department of University College Cork. Ian Murphy's play was finally ready to be produced. This was his reaction: "This evening I watched my past unfold in front of me, and I understood how I came to this point in my life and where I needed to go. The play was my dead reckoning and my compass home."

They play was a truly cleansing and purging experience. The term used in ancient Greece was catharsis. Greeks felt that if a play was powerful enough, it could cleanse the soul.

Some of the things he learned about theatre are shown by these quotes.

Advice given by a revered playwright about when you see the play rehearsal: "It's where the actor meets the words with voice and emotion. It's magic."

Murphy observes: "I had learned that in theatre, a great deal can be expressed...by what isn't said, and sometimes even more..."

Whatever Happened to Molly Bloom?

By: Jessica Stirling
Severn House

Leopold Bloom is being led out of the house where his wife was killed. The police are taking him to the station for questioning. A feeding-frenzy of reporters ruthlessly and heartlessly hurl questions at him. "Did she beg for mercy?" "Did you use an axe or hammer?"

A detective, escorting Bloom, says: "How the devil did they get here so quickly?" Another detective says: "They smell blood." The book is set in the Dublin of 1905 and is meticulously researched for historical accuracy. The standard is a hallmark of all the Jessica Stirling books.

Lack of objectivity is nothing new. Some reporters today just write stories based, not on facts, but on their imagination. These lurid stories are then printed by newspapers and put on TV.

The names of the characters were made famous by James Joyce, in his novel Ulysses. But with other names, this suspenseful and powerful mystery would be just as compelling. It truly deepens our understanding of life.

Molly was beaten to death, with a teapot. This might have happened during the twenty minutes when her husband, Leopold, had gone to the store. Witnesses support his story. It seems like an open and shut case that he did it before he went out.

However, the police detective, James Kinsella, begins to have

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doubts. The ornamental teapot was part of a set kept in a basement kitchen.

Kinsella goes to the cabinet where the set is kept. "He lifted out the jug and bowl, placed them on... the dresser...and studied them thoroughly. The shattered teapot was part of the set, who had taken it from the cupboard and why had he taken it upstairs? If the perpetrator...had been consumed by a monstrous fit of rage, why would he trot all the way downstairs and select a teapot...to serve as a murder weapon?"

There follows much methodical police work: Witnesses are questioned, and reports are made.

Jessica Stirling is the pen name developed by Hugh Rae (1935-2014) and Margaret Coughlan.

Since the book was published in 2015, I assume she is the author. But I could find no information about her. I searched in several books and several websites.

Murder for Two — A New Musical Comedy

Reviewed by: Frank West

What a spectacular theatre event! There are fantastic performances by the two actors: Noel Carey and Jason Grimm. I had never seen performances like theirs.

Their physical energy, range of motion, facial expressions, and voice projection were incredible.

Director Scott Weinstein says about them: "the actors take on 13 roles...and they also remain on stage for the entire show... Whether you are a fan of comedy, mystery, or anything in between, this production will have you begging for more!"

It was an evening of music, murder, and mayhem. A fourth M-word could be added: mystery.

A summary from the press release: "A small-town policeman who dreams of making it to detective. Shots ring out at the surprise birthday party of...novelist Arthur Whitney." He's killed, but "the nearest detective is an hour away. Marcus, the small-town policeman, jumps at the chance to prove his sleuthing skills "with his partner Lou. There are plenty of suspects; Dahlia Whitney, Arthur's wife, Barrette Lewis, prima ballerina, and psychologist Dr. Griff. They all



During the investigation, Detective Kinsella visits a tenement in Dublin and describes a typical "apartment" there: "One room, cramped but clean: two beds...a table, two wooden chairs, a stool, and an armchair of sorts...The window was covered by a torn blind the color of tobacco leaf. Under it was a wash-stand with a

have motives. But who is the killer? Officer Marcus plans to find out.

Noel Carey, as Marcus, plays the small-town detective. The other outstanding actor plays ALL of the suspects! Near the end of the play, one of the suspects says to Marcus, "You have turned this tragedy into a farce."

Murder for Two is definitely a farce. There are no political overtones or pessimistic comments. Just laughter and fun. This amazing musical will be produced by the Marriot Theatre now through August 26. The theatre is located

basin and jug and a small pile of dishes. A kettle steamed over the coals of the fire..."

Dreadful tenement conditions existed only a few blocks from the Castle. The Castle was the center for Britain's control of Ireland. The grandees in the Castle don't care about finding the truth, and they don't care if Bloom hangs for a murder he didn't commit.

They send an official to speak privately with the detective. "Now, tell me, Inspector is Bloom a Jew?" The detective answers: "Jewish by blood, but a convert to Protestantism."

The emissary from the Castle says: "Tread carefully, Kinsella, please. I doubt if the Castle will appreciate criticism from the Anglo-Jewish press, who will be following the case closely." Whatever Happened to Molly Bloom tells us a lot about human nature, human hopes and human self-esteem.



at 10 Marriot Drive, Lincolnshire. Production Information: Wednesdays at 1:00 and 7:30, Thursdays at 7:30, Fridays at 8:00, Saturdays at 3:00 and 8:00, and Sundays at 1:00 and 5:00. Ticket price range: \$50-60. Marriot Theatre Box Office: 847-634-0200 or marriotttheatre.com



(l to r): Noel Carey, and Jason Grimm.



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Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



Top 10 Tips For Dealing With Insurance Companies (Part One)

In 2015, there were 313,316 crashes involving motor vehicles in Illinois. People suffer severe injuries and death in car accidents every day in Illinois and across the country. Some crashes are more serious than others. Over the years of my practice I have found that injured victims in some less-severe crashes try to navigate the waters of insurance claims by representing themselves. In my opinion, this is not a wise course. Trying to deal directly with an insurance company adjuster is one of the most complicated and precarious parts of a vehicle injury claim. It is not a fair match: the insurance professional has training and the resources of a multi-million or multi-billion dollar company behind them...and they do this every single day for a living while most people never even think about the insurance process. In this month's article, I thought it would be helpful to the IAN readers to outline some of the most im-

portant things you should be aware of if you find yourself dealing with the insurance company adjuster

after a car accident:

1. Insurance adjusters are trained negotiators and never your friend!

The gravity of your personal injury claim will impact how friendly the adjuster will be to you. If they think the claim will end up costing the Insurance Company a lot of money, the adjuster will most likely try to establish rapport with you and will seem helpful and fair. However, this is nothing more than an attempt to manipulate you into a false sense of security. The smaller your claim appears to be to them, the more likely they are to be rude and abrupt. However they treat you, they are not and never will be your friend.

In claims with severe and catastrophic injuries, adjusters pretend to be helpful because they are attempting to discourage you from hiring an experienced car wreck attorney to handle your case. Some adjusters have been known to say such things as "we accept responsibility", or "you don't

really need to hire an attorney, they'll just take part of your money." There is a reason why the insurance company discourages you from getting representation and its not to benefit you!

Frequently, it is only after the adjuster actually discusses monetary compensation that the personal injury victim understands that they need an attorney. Unfortunately, that usually happens many months after the accident and the damage may have already been done to the case as evidence and witnesses disappear. The best advice I can give in that regard is if you have sustained injuries in a car accident, hire an experienced personal injury attorney as soon as possible.

2. Anything you say can – and will be – used against you!

Insurance adjusters will ALWAYS want to take recorded statements from a personal injury victim as soon as possible after a car crash. My best advice is to NEVER do this. Insurance adjusters have been trained in how to take statements from personal injury victims. Do not let them put words in your mouth. A question such as "when did you first see the other vehicle" is a loaded question, because it assumes that you did see the other vehicle prior to impact when in fact you may not have.

Occasionally, an aggressive adjuster may push you to agree to facts that you don't know are accurate. You might get annoyed, and say, 'I guess so,' to get the guy to leave you alone. That "I guess so" is now recorded forever and will be very difficult to get past in the future.

Another area of conversation that will inevitably come up is the extent of your injuries. Do not feel obligated to explain your injuries—especially since you may be taking pain medication during the period that they're trying to speak with you.

3. Watch out for negative comments by the insurance adjuster

If you engage in conversations with an adjuster and as they begin to develop a rapport with you, they will often seek to imply that your case is worth little, or that your injuries are minimal and really no big deal. They also may try to imply that there will be problems with the medical damages you intend to present or imply that you are somewhat partly to blame for the accident. Subtle negative statements about a claim can be used by the insurance adjuster to reduce your expectations of the true value of your case. All of this is designed to manipulate you into believing your case is worth little and convince you that a few thousand dollars is a very generous offer. Do not fall for this! Talk with an experienced attorney, proficient in these types of cases who can truly value the worth of your claim based on the real issues in the case, not the issues the insurance adjuster wishes you to believe are there.

4. Do not volunteer information to the adjuster - but tell your attorney everything

I repeat: DO NOT TALK TO INSURANCE ADJUSTERS. Even causal talk with any insurance adjuster will be used against you in some way because they are trained to do that. The most innocent of comments can open up issues that can come back to bite you if you are not careful.

If on the other hand, you hire an attorney to handle your case, tell them everything, even those things you may feel embarrassed about or are not the most proud of. Do not make the mistake of thinking, that keeping something from your lawyer will help you. Today, especially in the era of the internet and social media, insurance companies have an increased ability to find out so much information about a claimant and if your lawyer doesn't already know everything they need to about you, it can be detrimental the outcome of your case.

Part 2 in September Edition

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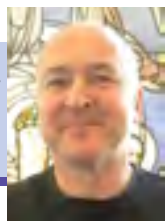
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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



Epiphany Or Just Human Goodness?

What history has taught us is that we continue to fall into the same hole over and over again. In the Old Testament, the people were not content to be guided by God alone and sought a king to lead them. When Samuel appointed Saul as king, the people got what they wanted and lived to rue the day. Not content to believe or trust their own judgment, they gave over control to an egotist. Saul, like every good fascist, was more in love with his own personality than the will of the people. He was enamoured by his own belief that he was above the law.

Under dictatorship, the people must reckon with the consequences of their misguided faith and are imprisoned by their fears. The traits of a dictator are easily recognized. They believe implicitly in themselves and judge everything through their own limited perspective. Human rights are compromised without fear of reproach. They use their resources to promote fear, bigotry and intolerance. A leader who fears his people deflects this underlying insecurity by concentrating on creating nightmare scenarios. Dictators lack any true empathy and are convincingly competent in masking their insincerity by appearing to be unrealistically patriotic.

Inevitably, the mask of goodness will be ripped off the pretender when the people refuse to believe the lies. We see this pattern time after time repeated throughout every great nation. Saul is deposed and is replaced by David; a man after God's own heart. And, while David offers great hope, he too is flawed, capable of adultery and corruption. For as long as we move away from making leaders accountable, we will continue to diminish ourselves and our species. We can never be great unless we put away the childishness of hate mongering and discrimina-

tion. What makes a country great is its ability to be move beyond fear towards a more inclusive understanding of community.

One thing I learned growing up in the Troubles is how easy it is to reduce people to stereotypes. The more you fear for your safety, the more likely you demonize those who cause you to be afraid. For Catholics, Protestants, were the cause of all our social and political ills. A Protestant was not to be trusted or befriended. They were nothing more than the enemy and the bogeyman to be feared. We narrowed down the point of reference to becoming us and them.

For many years I thought myself unbiased, and liberal when it came to Protestants but it was all a lie. During the height of the conflict, I



boarded a train in Belfast bound for Derry. It was the 12th of July, and, for some reason, I had forgotten all about the marching season. This apparent lapse of memory was about to cause me much anguish. As soon as I took my seat, the train started to fill up with Orangemen. I suppose, you would have to be a Northern Irish Catholic to understand the intensity of fear I experienced at being outnumbered by the perceived enemy.

Trying not to make myself conspicuous, I huddled into the seat by the window. I could hear the drunk rantings of a crowd of young men as they flagrantly 'paraded' their loathing of all things Catholic. I was a dead man. I could not wake up from my worst nightmare. Caught on the wrong side and hiding like a small animal in fear of its predator, I sank into the chair.

As the rising anxiety deepened, an older Orangeman sat down

across from me. My eyes locked onto the window. My unblinking stare refused to move away from the passing countryside. I could feel eyes watching me. Behind him, the raucous young men became more and more belligerent. They were sporting for a fight and the odds were stacked against me.

Once the older man spoke the silence broken in a thousand pieces. I tried to keep my responses to a minimum. When it became obvious to him that the noise of the men was affecting me, he signaled to a seat further down in the carriage. Reluctantly, I gave up my seat and followed him. It would only be a matter of time before he found out who I was and feed me to the wolves. I walked to the empty seat with fearful resignation, believing myself damned.

'Where are you going to?'

The big question. If I said Derry, he would know I was a Catholic. If I said Londonderry, I would betray my own heritage, since only Protestants referred to the city as Londonderry. If only I had the wit of my fellow townsmen who when stopped at the border by the army, and asked where they were going said, Derry. Refusing to accept their answer, the soldier came back after 20 minutes and asked them again where they were going. They re-stated their answer, and, again, he left them waiting. This happened one more time, until they changed their tact.

'Where are you going to?'

'Strabane', they answered.

I had neither the wit, nor the commonsense to fob off my inquisitor. I said Derry and awaited punishment. He knew, of course, what I meant. I could see him weighing up the situation and then it all changed. He made every effort to calm my fears. His manner became easy and reassuring. He worked to diffuse the severity of the situation with a common courtesy that I had not expected. For the rest of the trip, we chatted, understanding that what was happening was not normal for the times. When we reached Derry, he shook my hand and we went our separate ways but changed by an encounter that took us outside the bounds of cultural tribalism.

I am still indebted to that man for his civility. In choosing not to act out of fear, he provided a space for understanding and respect. Though different to me, politically and religiously, we shared a common humanity. As a fellow human being he transcended his own cultural imitations and helped me to do the same. I was no longer the bogeyman to be feared and he

was no longer the bigot.

People who engendered fear of others through mindless propaganda do so because they want us to be afraid. It never serves the insecure leader to have such racial/religious fears exposed as lies created to overcompensate for weakness. We are not changed by fear but meaningful encounters that challenge our prejudices.



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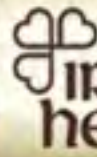
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President's Message

The Board of Directors held elections a few weeks ago and it is my honor to have been elected to serve as the new President of the Board. It is a privilege and responsibility that means so much to our family as my father, Mike, was the first President of the IAHC so many years ago. He and my mother Kay were mainstays at the Center, along with so many of the founding members of the Center that are still so active here to this day. That so many continue to give their time and passion so many years later is a true blessing to our Center.



some of the biggest names on the Irish festival circuit today. There was live theatre in our Library, a stunning photography exhibit from Barry Butler in our Art Gallery, an outdoor ceili under the stars, a visit from the Irish Wolfhounds, an outdoor Mass on a beautiful Sunday morning, and so much more. There was truly something for everyone during the festival's three days.

Thank you to our hundreds of dedicated volunteers and fantastic staff for putting on another successful Irish Fest! Mark your calendars now for next year's festival on July 12-14, 2019!

In August, we will again host the Francis O'Neill Irish Arts Week. Under the guidance of Sean Cleland, the camp and workshops provide fun and educational immersion in Irish culture including traditional Irish music, singing, dancing, language and arts for all ages from an amazingly accomplished faculty of teachers.

Stay tuned for September when we welcome world-renowned traditional Irish band Altan on 9/13 for a FREE concert as part of Chicago's World Music Festival, and The High Kings on 9/22 for a SOLD OUT show in our Auditorium. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or at www.irish-american.org to keep up with all of the activities and programs here. See you at the Center!

Mike Shevlin, President

Many thanks to our friend, Gene Cooney, for his four years of service; three of them as President. Geno left us in good hands and with Mary Avery as our new Vice President, Tom Shea as our new Treasurer and Tim Taylor returning as Secretary. We are all excited to expand our cultural mission and strive for continued fiscal responsibility to provide for and to preserve our Center for future generations to come.

Thanks to all who came out to celebrate with us at the Irish American Heritage Festival last month! It was a weekend of glorious weather and an opportunity for all to get immersed in what the Center is all about.

This year's fest had a little bit of everything from a great representation of Chicago's finest in traditional Irish music to

August 2018

8/6-10	Francis O'Neill Irish Arts Day Camp	Various	9am-3pm
8/25	Eileen Gannon and Eimear Arkins Salon Concert	Room 109	7:30pm
8/26	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
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
	Celtic Design Class	Art Gallery	Noon

Library Closed During August. Call for Appointment.

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- 8/4 Party Music
- 8/10 Baal Tinne
- 8/11 Party Music
- 8/17 Kieran Byrne
- 8/18 Dooley Brothers
- 8/24 Locke and Loaded
- 8/25 The Boils
- 8/31 LJ Slavin



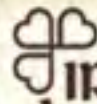
Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions: August 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30; 7pm



The 33rd annual Irish American Heritage Festival was a huge success, thanks to our patrons, performers, committee, volunteers, vendors and community. Save the date for Irish Fest 2019 on July 12, 13 and 14!

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, **Editor**
Contributors: Meg Buchanan, Theresa Choske, Gene Cooney, Laura Coyle, Colleen Gallagher, Catherine Kelly, Dominick Maino, Stacy McReynolds, Nancy Moore, Sheila Murphy, Mike Shevlin

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Eimear Arkins and Eileen Gannon Salon Concert

Eileen Gannon and Eimear Arkins have been lighting up the St. Louis music scene for the past several years. Together they perform a beautiful blend of haunting harp melodies, sean-nós songs and toe-tapping dance tunes.

Saturday, August 25, 7:30pm • \$20 IAHC members and \$23 for general admission



Altan in Concert

The World Music Festival Chicago and IAHC present Altan for a free all-ages concert. The group's heartwarming, dynamic live performances and exquisitely produced, award-winning recordings range from the most touching old Irish songs to hard-hitting reels and jigs. Altan explores the musical connection between the traditional music of Ireland and roots and bluegrass music from the US.

Thursday, September 13 • 7pm, free



Anam Cara Storytelling

Enjoy a performance of storytelling with readings by the writers from the IAHC Memoir and Creative Writing Workshops. Saturday, September 15 • 6:30-9pm, \$5



Memoir and Creative Writing Classes

We all have a story to tell and these workshops provide the opportunity to put yours to paper. Students perform in-class writing exercises, readings and discussions.

Tuesdays 9/18-10/23 • 4-6pm or Thursdays 9/20-10/25 • 7pm-9pm, \$60



Tea with Harriet Tubman

Cynthia Maddox portrays abolitionist Harriet Tubman, who freed slaves through the Underground Railway, in another in our Saturday Morning Tea Series.

Saturday, September 22, 11am • \$25 for adults, children 12 and under \$8



The Irish: Evolution and Endurance Class

In this three class series taught by instructor Anne McDonagh, learn the intricacies and complexities of Irish history. Tuesdays: 9/25, 10/3 and 10/9 • 7pm-8:30pm, \$5 per class



Fall Watercolor Class

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From Ireland to Chicagoland

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



Caroleann Gallagher
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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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Modern Times

I took a seat in an upstairs restaurant overlooking Patrick Street in Cork City recently, and watched the thoroughfare below me get busier and busier as the daily commercial life of the city began to kick in. This morning, in particular, was terribly wet and the pace of life on the street outside was more agitated than usual. As I looked across, I reflected on how Patrick Street must have looked on a similar wet morning over one hundred years ago with the busy tram lines and the horse drawn delivery wagons intersecting each other.

We do not live in too bad an age at all, and we just need to tune into modern technology a little more and turn it to our advantage. There was a time when people's mental and physical spirits were ground down by the excesses of manual labour and aged before their time. Our bodies tend to last longer these days as we replace the manual effort

with more mental input, aided by diverse iterations of modern technology.

The past few decades have given us higher degrees of apparent prosperity, but there is always a downside and a price to pay for this greater affluence. People are certainly under more pressure these days, and especially young married couples. In order to feed the always hungry and demanding lifestyles, a greater amount of responsibility has had to be taken on in the workplace, which means that people are putting in less of an appearance at home with their spouse and children. Unless this is checked and kept in perspective it will tend to have a detrimental effect on the overall balancing act between life and work. Step back now and then to see where you are spending your time and reset the switches accordingly.

As I looked around the restaurant, there were an amount of people tucking in to the 'Full Irish'. We have not adjusted our eating habits very much to compensate for abrupt lifestyle changes over the past decades. We still eat like farmers, except we do not have an opportunity to burn off the calories out in the fields. We tend to drive everywhere, sit in offices, and as a consequence, put on weight to the delight of the Gym Club owners! It is important as we progress onwards that we find that symbiotic relation-

ship between work and life in order to achieve personal contentment and balance. Higher degrees of prosperity are of little value to us unless they can be enjoyed with family and friends.

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



Who was Veronica Guerin? She was a crime reporter who was killed by drug dealers. She was born in Dublin (1958-1996) Before she was a reporter/journalist she worked as personal assistant to the Taoiseach, Charles Haughey and later for the TD politician, Sean Haughey. She became a reporter in 1990 for the Sunday Business Post & Sunday Tribune. In 1994 she began writing about crime in the Sunday Independent. In 1996 she was fatally shot while stopped at a traffic light.

Many journalists around the world face some level of danger everyday because of their job. Their passion is to highlight the facts of what's going on in society. In 2002, Daniel Pearl, a

Wall Street Journal reporter, was kidnapped and later killed in Pakistan. My deepest sympathy goes to his parents Ruth & Judea. After his death his parents founded a Daniel Pearl foundation, it's mission is to promote cross-cultural understanding. (one of my favorite things in life) In 2016, 115 journalists were killed for doing their jobs, the monster is killing the messenger. In Some countries journalists are not even allowed in, for example N. Korea and Eritrea or they could face Jail time or the death penalty. Countries reported to having the most casualties of reporters include Iraq, Syria and Mexico. Guerin was a brave journalist often talking face to face with people she was reporting on. She had a

close relationship to the people she was writing about, she used street names or pseudonyms for criminal figures to avoid slander laws. Some have said that her journalism contributed nothing to the drug dealer's downfall, however, I disagree I think exposing the truth always hurts someone. The shooting caused national outrage in Ireland. And investigation of her death led to several arrests and convictions. At the time of her murder a man (I'd rather not mention any names of people charged or involved, I'm writing this story to highlight an amazing lady, Veronica Guerin, whom I think did a great deal of good) was seeking a high court order against Guerin to prevent her from publishing her book about his involvement with organized crime. Guerin was

murdered about 2 days before she was due to speak at a conference in England. The topic of her segment was called, "Dying to tell the story". Her funeral was attended by the Taoiseach John Bruton. Within a week of her murder the Irish government enacted the Proceeds of Crime Act '96 and the Criminal Assets Bureau Act '96 so that assets purchased with money obtained through crime could be seized by the government. Her murder led to over 150 other arrests, convictions and confiscations of drugs and arms. There is a memorial statue dedicated to Guerin in Dublin castle gardens. In 1995 Guerin received the international press freedom award from the committee to protect journalist in 1995. In 2007 they set up a Veronica Guerin Memorial Scholarship

in Dublin University offering an endowment to meet the cost for a student who wishes to become a journalist. So, Veronica Guerin was a hero of the truth and a reporter who paid the ultimate price for exposing people that were corrupting Irish society.

Gaelic for the month:
Truth-Firinne
Crime-coireacht
Murder-dunmharu
Write-scriobh
Read-leigh

Irish saying: those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard but always near. Still loved still missed very dear. Death leaves a heartache no one can heal love leaves a memory no one can steal.

If you have any questions/comments, please email me: Molanive@yahoo.com

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A Fond Farewell!

I have worked on and off at the Irish American Heritage Center for over ten years. Throughout those years I've seen my share of presidents. Some have proved to be hard working team players and some have been out to make a name only for themselves. I can tell you Gene Cooney is not part of the latter for sure. Gene is an honest genuine personable charismatic person. He always takes the time to say hello whether it be to the janitors or members of the board. He shows respect to everyone. I think Gene did a great job making the Heritage Center great again like it was years ago, and am so privileged to have had the chance to work with him. Thank you Gene Cooney for all that you have done.

-Maura Heneghan

Eugene Cooney has been the saving light for the Center since he became president. He came in as president when we desperately needed a friendly face. He will be missed. His card tricks and comedic talents will also be missed. He never failed to thank all the the people involved with the center's events and especially the bar staff. It has been an absolute joy to work with him.

-Barb Malone

When people hear the name Gene Cooney, immediately they think about a very dedicated person who has brought meaning and life back to the Irish American Heritage Center. He attributes his accomplishments to his hardworking staff and devoted volunteers who give up their time endlessly, but it is also because of his amazing leadership. Gene is, and always has been, the person people rely on both personally and professionally. He's the friend that you need in your life. Let's honor his accomplishments and share in his love for the Irish American Heritage Center by becoming members and volunteering our time, so that our generation, and those to come, can enjoy our traditions.

-Kelly Martinez

I have loved being the "First Daughter" at the heritage center for the last 3 years. Being the

president allowed my dad to be in his element- always surrounded by people while doing magic and telling his corny jokes. Thursday's at IAHC are the best thanks to my dad and the radio show. I know a lot of people are going to be sad to see him go, but he's not going anywhere, I know he will continue to be a staple there. **-Caitlyn Cooney**

Thank You Gene Cooney!

As the outgoing President of the Board at the Irish American Heritage Center we wanted to

card tricks, performing his one-man show on Mark Twain, or singing with gusto.

Geno made the job of commander in chief at the center seem easy. He has a wonderful sense of humor, a perpetual positive outlook and brought a tireless dedication to his role at the Center. Thanks Geno, enjoy your year off because we all expect you back on the Board asap.

-Josephine Craven and Frank Gleason

Thanks Geno Cooney! Work-

never failed to help in anyway he could including pulling a few pints when needed. This kind and thoughtful man has been truly a treasure to have as our center's president. Thank you so much. You will be missed.

-Sheila Murphy

For you Geno, "Maricon".

-Ruben Romero

The past few years with Gene Cooney at the helm have been strange and wonderful... but mostly strange. Not many people can say they've worked for and

utmost pleasure to create the Thursday night sessions with his support and to co-host "The Craic with Cooney and Keane" on WSBC 1240am! Miss him? How could I? His presence has been beautifully engraved on the heart of our Irish home, the IAHC. **-Kathleen Keane**

What a great president Geno Cooney was. We're going to miss you - charismatic, kind, and humble man. The center has been turned around because of you. Since you've been president, the Irish are coming back again. We are going to deeply miss you. And by the way there will be no more presidential pours lol. **-Maeve Burke**

Much respect for Eugene! His time spent as President of the IAHC helped to take it up yet another notch higher. His ability to take such a great organization and further elevate it is the most that anyone could have hoped for. Rarely did you not see him living and breathing the center. Whether it be his presence at large events with a smile that made everyone feel welcome or at the Fifth Province doing card tricks that left you amazed, you felt his ability to bring everyone together. May the road rise up to continue to meet him....

Sean McDonough

Well, they say all good things must come to an end and it's with a true sense of regret that I write a word of two regarding the imminent departure of "yer man" Geno Cooney.

No, he's not departing this world (God forbid); he's taking his magnificent personality, his brilliant management skills and his all-round generous nature and deservedly concentrating on family, friends and (heaven help us) his business.

That we'll miss him is self evident.

Charming.

Talented.

With a heart the size of Texas.

Take a good look at this fella, you don't see his like every day.

We'll miss your guidance, your heart, your jokes & card tricks.

God bless.

Brad Armacost



Sláinte!

share our gratitude and thanks for the time and effort put in by our good friend Geno Cooney. Warm and engaging, generous and funny, Geno knows how to bring people together. He is unselfish, giving and ready with a can-do spirit. Geno is always a big supporter of cultural events, including our annual Bloomsday event. In fact, he is quite the cultural powerhouse himself, whether he is telling jokes, doing

ing at the Irish center has always been fun and full of energy and we all have you to thank for that. Everyone feels welcome here no matter where they're from. We'll all miss you and we wish the best of luck. **-Sam Asplund**

It had been an honor to work alongside Geno these past few years. He was always supportive of me and the bar staff. His love of the center was clear to anyone who came across him. Geno

with a comedian/magician/radio personality who's a funeral director! A unique guy who always has a smile, a funny story and nicest of all: a thank you for working hard. For that, I thank YOU. Cheers, Geno. Well done. **-Laurel Kozsi**

Geno Cooney is a true gentleman. In just three short years he revitalized the IAHC with his humble leadership and charismatic personality: It was the

Will County Celtic Fest 2018

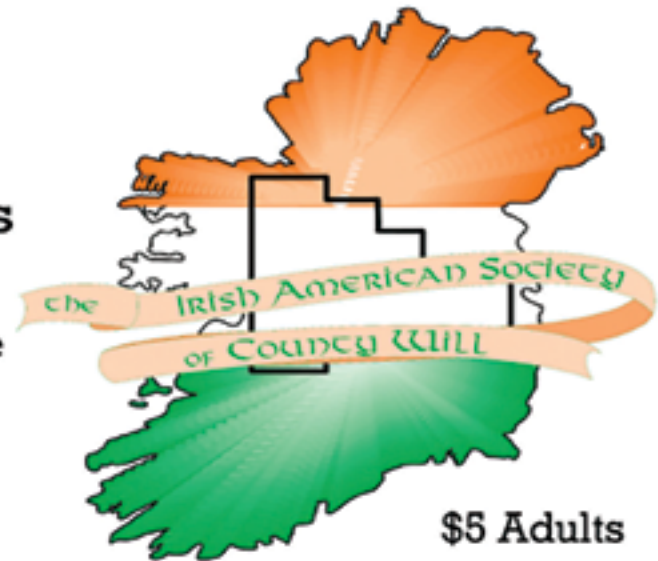
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www.tunesofglory.org

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Message from ICS

ICS is excited to announce that we will be hosting a quiz night fundraiser on Tuesday August 7th from 7-10pm in the Galway Arms Pub in Lincoln Park. The admission price for this event is \$15 per person or \$80 for a team of six people. Come along for the craic and support a good cause!

ICS is also raffling off two sets of two tickets to the Ireland vs. Italy Rugby match on November 3rd. 1st place price comes with a \$500 gift voucher to Chicago cut and second place price comes with a \$100 gift card to the Dearborn Tavern. Tickets are on sale now for \$20 per ticket or six tickets for \$100. The drawing will take place September 22nd via Facebook Live, Call today to purchase your tickets! All proceeds raised support ICS support programs.

Below right are some photos of ICS at the Pride parade & the *Families Belong Together* Rally.

Upcoming Events

- **Immigration Legal Clinic:** Wednesday, August 1st (4-7p) IAHC (appointment only)
- **Immigration Legal Clinic:** Tuesday, August 21st (4-7p) IAHC (appointment only)
- **Immigration Legal Clinic:** Wednesday, August 29th (4-7p) IAHC (appointment only)
- **Quiz Night Fundraiser:** Tuesday August 7th (7-10p) Galway Arms Pub, \$15 per person
- **Irish Passport Day:** Thursday, August 23rd (5-7p) at O'Shaughnessy's Public House
- **Irish Rugby Raffle Drawing:** Monday, September 22nd, 12 noon IAHC & via Facebook Live



ICS has been working with the Cook County Health and Hospital System to expand health coverage to low income or uninsured Cook County residents.

CCHHS's CareLink financial assistance program now offers enhanced benefits and coordinated access to health care services for uninsured patients. The program aims to provide Care Coordination Services to help individuals stay healthy and avoid unnecessary and expensive visits to the emergency room. Individuals enrolled in the program receive assistance from Care Coordinators who help the patient improve their health through regular clinic visits and check-ins. Immigration and documentation status is not a factor in determining eligibility for enhanced Carelink.

To enroll or to find out more visit: <http://www.cookcountyhhs.org/patient-services/billing-financial-assistance/assistance-programs/>. You can also call our office for more information or if you need assistance with your Carelink application.



Talking to Someone about Their Mental Health

Because of the shame and stigma that persist around mental illness we sometimes avoid talking to friends and family about mental health concerns. If you're struggling to know how to start this kind of conversation, remember the following:

You don't need to be an expert on mental health to have a conversation about it. Don't let a lack of medical or technical knowledge prevent you from having that important conversation.

Have realistic expectations of yourself - it's very unlikely that you alone can resolve another person's mental health issues and that's okay.

Don't underestimate how impactful a simple conversation can be for those experiencing a mental health issue.

Thinking of mental health issues as a weakness or something to be ashamed of is a trap. It keeps us from connecting to one another in a meaningful way when that's what we need the most. Don't let your own negative perceptions of mental illness stop you from offering support to others who are struggling.

Don't worry that you won't know what to do if someone tells you they're struggling with mental health issues - listening in a supportive way and offering your help is the most important thing you can do.

Asking someone if they're thinking of suicide won't make them more likely to do it. You cannot 'put the idea into someone's head'.

For more information tips on talking to someone about their mental health visit the HeadTalk section of the Irish Community Services Website at www.irishchicago.org.

Another great local resource for mental health information including how to access treatment is the Chicago branch of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. They can be reached by phone on 312-563-0445 and they have a detailed website that you can access at www.namichicago.org.

Let's talk about mental health. Let's start a conversation!



Minimize Your Liquor Establishment's Risk of Being Punished and Fined

By Sean O'Leary

Any establishment which sells alcohol is subject to inspection by state and local authorities in Illinois. Violating state or local laws can result in substantial fines. Sometimes fines for numerous offenses could add up to an establishment paying 100s or even 1,000s in fines. For business owners it becomes very frustrating when the government dings you for what you see are nickel and dime issues. But a business owner can eliminate the need for the inspector to writeup these fines by following some simple precepts. I want to provide a roadmap on how to decrease your chances of committing punishable offenses. The roadmap won't guarantee that you will never get written up and the roadmap does not include every

offense, however by following the roadmap, you will minimize the odds of getting written up.

Here are some key areas a business should concentrate in order to decrease your chances of committing an offense.

1) Sanitation-Keep your place clean! Nothing shouts out that you should look at my place more closely than a dirty and filthy premise. Obvious issues of sanitation will raise red flags for the inspector. The bar, kitchen, and bathroom areas should be of a special focus.

Once an inspector notices your place is unclean on the surface, I can guarantee they will inspect your tap lines and find them unclean and fine you. Then they will inspect your liquor bottles to check for further issues. The fines will

quickly begin to add up! Inspectors go to town on sanitation violations, so keeping your place clean will minimize potential fines.

2) Keep proper records. A retailer is required to keep 90 days of records for any purchases of alcoholic liquor. Ensure that these invoices are available for the inspector.

If a manufacturer or distributor sells items to you, make sure you have invoices or other record which show that the items were purchased. Absence of these items will probably result in a sanction and a fine.

3) Hang and display your liquor license, pregnancy warning sign, drinking age requirement sign, and human trafficking sign. It is not enough for these to be on the premise, they must be hung and conspicuous. It doesn't take much effort to display them and conversely, it does not take much effort for the inspector to discover them and fine you.

4) Pay your taxes and keep your license updated. When you run a day to day business, you lose track of the business compliance matters. If you don't pay your taxes on time, the state can put a hold on your license and collect in addition

to taxes, penalties, interest, and administrative fees.

If you are operating without a proper license, then you are not operating a valid business and can be subject to additional fines on the state and local level. Further, the longer you operate without a valid liquor license, the more difficult it will become to renew your



Sean O'Leary

license, and the more money it cost to renew the license.

5) Do not serve underaged drinkers. The state takes this offense seriously and lays down severe fines and punishments. A first offense it subject to a \$500 fine, the 2nd and 3rd offenses could constitute heavier fines and suspensions. A fourth offense can lead to a license revocation. Additionally, you may face sanctions at

the local level.

6) Do not take free items from a distributor. The general rule is that a distributor/manufacturer can provide retailer consumer specialties which are items that are small and that a consumer can carry away. Items such a barbecue grill are not small and cannot be carried away.

If the distributor/manufacturer brings items such as shirts or glasses, they either need to be passed onto consumers or paid for and properly documented. It is probably a bad idea for your employees to wear the shirts that should be passed onto consumers.

7) Do not buy alcoholic liquor from an out-of-state retailer and bring it into Illinois. If an Illinois retailer purchases from out-of-state retailers more 108 liters of wine, 45 liters or more of distilled spirits, or 118 liters or more of beer, it can be subject to a Class 4 felony. If convicted of a felony, the license can be revoked.

8) Do not buy your alcohol from another Illinois retailer. It's a bad idea and since the state requires 90 days of invoices, this is low hanging fruit for the inspector.

9) Follow happy hour / discount rules. Providing a lady's night or a discount for mug club members seems like a great idea and lots of fun and you may even advertise this idea widely. Problematically, these discounting practices violate happy hour rules. The key is to know your happy hour rules and if you don't know the rules, then don't advertise the special.

Final wrap-up

The state and local officials want to ensure an orderly marketplace and frequently inspect retailers with a liquor license looking for violations. If you follow the roadmap I provided and implement it successfully in your business, then when the fines decrease significantly, and then you owe me a beer!

Sean O'Leary, is a premier liquor attorney with O'Leary Law and Policy Group dealing with all issues from licensing, regulatory issues, and enforcement. Contact him with any questions at sean.oleary@olearylpgroup.com Irishliquorlawyer.com

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



A Cháirde

Thank you for continuing to support live music in the Chicago area and here at Gaelic Park. We are looking forward to seeing and hearing Cúig at our next concert on August 26th. Cúig, with members from Armagh and Tyrone, was named "Best New Irish Band" by this very publication in 2016. It features Miceál Mullen (Banjo/Mandolin), Rónán Stewart (Fiddle/Uilleann Pipes/Vocals), Cathal Murphy (Percussion/Guitar/Vocals), Eoin Murphy (Button Accordion) and Ruairí Stewart (Guitar).

For only \$15 per ticket, the

concert is a great value. You and your best trad music friends will enjoy an evening with Cúig, and will appreciate their bold approach to the music. Tickets can be purchased on the concert page of our website.

Best of luck to all who will be competing this month in the GAA Central Division football and hurling semi-finals and finals. (Good luck, Siobhán H!) Fans can expect great matches, great atmosphere and good-looking crowds.

Is mise le meas,

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Fri	Aug 3	Jerry & Kara Eadie	7:30pm
Sat	Aug 4	Mulligan Stew	8:00pm
Wed	Aug 8	Frank Rossi	6:00pm
RIB NIGHT on the Patio (weather permitting)			
Fri	Aug 10	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Sat	Aug 11	Fifty-One Lincoln	8:00pm
Wed	Aug 15	Jimmy O & Rhonda Lee	6:00pm
RIB NIGHT on the Patio (weather permitting)			
Fri	Aug 17	Larry & Billy	7:30pm
Sat	Aug 18	Kieran Byrne	8:00pm
Wed	Aug 22	Ray Gavin	6:00pm
RIB NIGHT on the Patio (weather permitting)			
Fri	Aug 24	Bernie Glim	7:30pm
Sat	Aug 25	Gleason Irish Trio	8:00pm
Wed	Aug 29	Liam Durkin	6:00pm
RIB NIGHT on the Patio (weather permitting)			
Fri	Aug 31	Joe Cullen	7:30pm

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www.chicagogaelicpark.org



2018 CGP Calendar of Events 2018

AUGUST

Aug 1 Monthly Musical Luncheon* Noon
Music by Joe Cullen

Ladies Auxiliary Next Meeting, Wednesday, September 12th

* 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 Lessons 7pm/Ceili 7:30pm

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



CGP Office 708.687.9323 www.chicagogaelicpark.org

Visit the CGP Library in the Shamrock Room

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Our Lady Of Knock Feastday Celebration



Benediction, Rosary and Procession to the grotto to be held on Monday evening, August 20, 2018 at 7:30pm

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Sunday August 26, 2018

Cúig



Tara Room 6:30pm - Tickets \$15

Saturday October 27, 2018

Sephira

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Tara Room 8:00pm - Tickets \$25

Paddy Homan and the Noble Call Christmas Show



Friday December 7, 2018

With Opening Act
Southside Phenom: Liam Durkin
Emerald Room 7:00pm - Tickets \$25



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Food and refreshments will be sold throughout the day

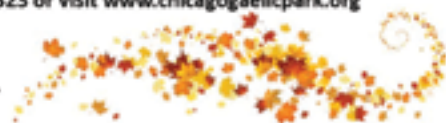
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We hope you are enjoying your summer! Stay tuned to this page for announcements regarding

our Fall play in November. Watch our website and facebook page for audition dates and times.

If you are interested in

becoming a member of the Gaelic Park Players, the meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm at Gaelic Park. 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.



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Mick

Mike Morley



Stewards Of Denial

Oxford. Mention the name and staid stone halls of learning come to mind. But in recent years Britain's press has (reluctantly) exposed a less appealing portrait of old Oxford town, revealing that from 2004–2012, a group of Oxford men groomed British children aged 11 to 15-years into prostitution.

Britain's leading children's charity, The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, is supposed to initiate "a Serious Case Review (SCR) after a child dies or is seriously injured and abuse or neglect is thought to be involved". Yet a decade passed before an SCR was finally issued in 2015 revealing that more than 300 children, mostly girls from the city of Oxford, may have been groomed and sexually exploited in the area since 2004. It accused Thames Valley Police of failure to act despite repeated calls for help. And it accused Oxfordshire Social Services of failure to protect the children despite compelling evidence they were in danger.

One young victim testified: "I turned up at

the police station at 2AM, blood all over me, soaked through my trousers to the crotch. They dismissed it as me being naughty, a nuisance." Another: "I made a complaint about a man

who trafficked me from a children's home. He was arrested, released and trafficked me again." A political correspondent for the Telegraph wrote: "Social work leaders are devising 'tortuous' excuses not to investigate their failure to protect children". In a number of cases officials argued, successfully, that there was no need to investigate

a child seriously injured by a violent parent if the child later recovered!

In 2013 The Guardian covered the trial of nine Oxford men who subjected "vulnerable girls as young as 11... to acts of 'extreme depravity'. They "were plied with drugs and drink, and raped, sometimes by several men and sometimes 'for days on end'. The girls were imprisoned and told their families would be harmed if they tried to escape" They were subjected to "humiliating and degrading conduct" including "biting, suffocation, burning and branding; weapons, including baseball bats, knives and meat cleavers were used during the torture, the



A court artist's sketch of defendants (left to right) Kamar Jamil, Akhtar Dogar, Anjum Dogar, Assad Hussain, Mohammed Karrar, Bassam Karrar, Mohammed Hussain, Zeeshan Ahmed and Bilal Ahmed at Old Bailey courthouse, London.



We Banjo 3 after performing at the Heritage Centers' Irish Fest.



Happy campers enjoying the IAHC Fest and the terrific weather! Photos by Colleen Gallagher of Lifetime Treasures Photography.

court heard."

Seven men in the Oxford ring were convicted in May 2013. The ringleader, Mohammed Karrar, was "brazen in his exploitation", according to the Guardian: he "acted in the belief that the authorities would never challenge him – something that for years proved to be true."

Why were these gang members so sure of receiving carte-blanche from officials? Were judges, social workers, teachers, clergy and police- not to mention the entire journalistic establishment- somehow coerced to look the other way? Of course not. The SCR laid the blame on a "culture of denial". Police appeared far more concerned with political correctness, "PC", than with crime. When The London Times first broke the story of one of the victims and her abusers in 2013, the paper was accused of "racism", because it implicated Pakistani men in the scandal.

The girls were white and all the abusers were not. The report also called for research into why a significant number of perpetrators of child grooming are of "Pakistani and/or Muslim heritage".

It's now become apparent that such large scale abuse is far from rare. Similar accounts have surfaced of Muslim rape gangs in Bristol, Derby, Rochdale, Rotherham and Telford. In Rotherham nineteen men and two women were convicted in 2016 and

2017 of sexual offences. From the late 1980's organized child sexual abuse in Rotherham, S. Yorkshire, continued almost unchallenged by legal authorities. Their failure was variously blamed on: the sexist attitudes of authorities toward working-class victims; fear of being labeled racist, and fear of damaging "community relations". The Labour council's reluctance to confront a Labour-voting ethnic minority was also cited, along with the desire to protect the town's reputation.

Rotherham Council's chief executive, its director of children's services, and the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire Police all resigned. And when Sarah Champion, Labour MP for Rotherham was quoted in an article for The Sun last year stating the obvious: "Britain has a problem with British Pakistani men raping and exploiting white girls", she too was forced to resign.

In 2015 Telford, population barely 170,000, had the highest rate of sex crimes against children of any UK city. Some 1,000 girls, most of them white, were victims there of trafficking, drugging, beating, rape and even murder by members of groups suspected to number in the hundreds, making it the largest of any British grooming scandal to date. As in other grooming gang cases, it was alleged that authorities failed to record and track details on abusers from "Asian communities" for fear of being labeled racist.

It's difficult to sort out the number of gangs and cases, since both the press and government actively suppress information and coverage of the crimes. Det. Insp. Simon Morton, of Thames Valley Police, said: "You can't report it, you can't put it on TV, you can't write it down. We have had members of the press in tears in court."

Of Twenty-seven men and two women alleged to have raped, trafficked, drugged, and sexually exploited more than a hundred girls as young as eleven years old; seven men were finally sentenced to jail terms last May. The British government imposed a gag order on the trial.

When right-wing gadfly Stephen Yaxley-Lennon (alias Tommy Robinson) defied the order and, as verdicts were coming in, stood on the street outside Leeds courthouse, streaming a report from his cell phone, he was summarily arrested and - sans lawyer, sans trial- thrown in jail for 13 months.

© Michael P Morley 2018

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Saying our final goodbyes to those that we love is never easy. But the Irish in America can now honor the deceased with a powerful, final act of kindness. Handful of Home, a newly launched company with offices in Dublin and the U.S. is helping Irish Ameri-

by ship to the U.S. in search of a better life. Several generations later, Aifric and Dominka realized the importance of preserving a connection to their roots. Thinking of the 33 million Americans that currently claim Irish ancestry, they decided to take this longing



cans lay their loved ones to rest in the U.S., surrounded by the earth of Ireland.

Irishwomen Aifric O'Byrne and Dominka Hyriakova, the people behind Handful of Home, both had family members going back generations that were forced to leave Irish shores due to poverty, famine and persecution. Many of their ancestors traveled

for their homeland to the next level. They set about doing something completely unique by offering the possibility, if not of being interred in Ireland, then being laid to rest in the U.S. surrounded by Irish soil.

Their beautifully designed Handful of Home Ceremonial Canister is filled with 2lbs of cool, soft pure Irish earth. Designed

for use during End of Life ceremonies, each family member is invited take a handful of earth in their hands, holding the land of their ancestors in their fingers, and scatter it onto the coffins or urns of the deceased.

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Five Farms launched in Wisconsin in

The earth in Handful of Home is sourced from the four corners of Ireland and is rigorously tested by both Irish and U.S. Departments of Agriculture before being safely imported into the U.S. Handful of Home Ceremonial Canisters are warehoused in Massachusetts and available for delivery in the continental U.S. The Ceremonial Canister can be ordered on the company's website www.handfulofhome.com with multiple payment and shipping options and a secure online purchase guarantee. www.handfulofhome.com.



February and has been equally well-received there. The state is home to Milwaukee Irish Fest, the world's largest celebration of Celtic music and culture. Now in its 38th year, the four-day festival will showcase more than 100 entertainment acts on Milwaukee's lakefront.

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The High Queen Of Irish Cookery

CORK: Myrtle Allen, founder of the Ballymaloe House, died recently at the age of ninety-four leaving behind a legacy of modern Irish cooking, a Michelin starred restaurant, a world renowned cookery school and a family to continue breaking culinary ground.

Back in the day, living in Chicago, spouse of Dr. John B. Duff, President of Columbia College, I assumed the role

of presidential spouse, acquiring a heavy schedule of entertaining in the presidential residence, while maintaining a public relations firm in the city's downtown area. I soon earned a reputation in the culinary arts, and fantasized often about enrolling in Myrtle Allen's Ballymaloe's Cookery School. An ambition, a dream never realized.

Dining at Ballymaloe in the nineties was a memorable albeit expensive culinary experience. Mrs. Allen, inspired by US Chef Alice Waters, introduced the farm-to-table concept of cooking, currently updated "from farm to plate," providing assurances of freshness. This, for Ballymaloe was an easy switch, a powerful fit since the Allen's 300 acre farm provided fresh produce, the Irish sea an abundant of fish, and a thriving industry of farm-house cheeses. Before long



Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

Ballymaloe's menus were compared favorably with French and Italian cuisine and Irish food perched high on the

Ballymaloe's organic farms.

My dream of enrolling in the cookery school continued, but was permanently quieted and put to bed four years ago attending a black tie gala dinner, an annual event hosted by the Irish Georgian Society at Chicago's Casino Club. My host, Robert O' Byrne, a Dublin man, President of the Georgian Society arranged an after-dinner presentation featuring the Ballymaloe Cookery School delivered by Mrs. Allen's granddaughter Rachel Allen.

Price of enrollment in the cooking school is hefty, and as explained in detail, daily participants required to milk their cow each morning, pick



Myrtle Allen, founder of the Ballymaloe House

European culinary map. When the late Mrs. Allen took over an Irish restaurant in France, it earned the reputation as the Best non-France Restaurant in Paris!

Cookbooks were published, daughter-in-law Darina Allen soared as an addition to the six Allen sons and daughters, television programs feature her routinely as Irish food was transformed by venue, and menu. Today she is recognized as an internationally renowned food writer, as are granddaughters Fern and Rachel Allen who has opened a restaurant in Cork, an eatery based on the culinary philosophy of her belated grandmother. She cites the rich soil of Ireland as the key to fresh produce. "It's a temperate climate, and an abundance

appropriate herbs for the day's cooking schedule, and check on their individual culture of cheese. None of it personally desirable, seeking only hands in flour, mixing ingredients, whipping fresh Irish eggs, following recipes, listening to instructions, creating dishes with fresh vegetables, and dining on the results in the formal restaurant at Ballymaloe Restaurant. I departed the Casino Club crossing one item off my bucket list.

Am told a story about two middle aged maiden Irish women exiting the famous Cookery School. One says to the other: That Missus Allen, isn't she a wonder? The other answered without hesitation: Aye, but she's a bugger for the butter!"

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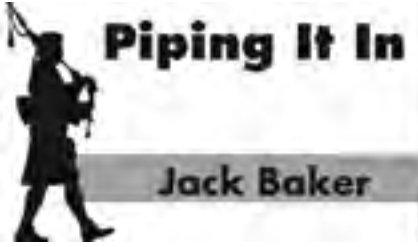
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I've ever heard, Gillian sails to new heights, taking chances, playing with fire and imagination and grace. She does some of the late Jerry Holland's music, he was her teacher and would be mightly

Oops! The Computer Ate My Homework!

Well, If you read my column last month, you'll remember that it stopped right in the middle of a sentence. What happened, I'm not sure. I know I wrote the whole bloody thing but when I sent it in the last third was lost and has yet to be found. My excuse is that I'm old and computer illiterate. That's my story and I'm sticking to it. So here's kinda what got lost.

When you find a recording mixed by



Trevor Hutchinson and that same man performing with the likes of Kevin Crawford, Cillian Vallely, Séan Smyth, Colin Farrell, Ed Boyd and Patrick Doocey, you've found Lunasa, www.lunasa.ie, and you're in for a treat. I will argue that Lunasa has never put out a bad cd and their latest "CAS" is certainly one of my favorite. Joined by a host of Nashville country artists, "CAS" contains some of the finest work to come from Lunasa. One track that I was taken with is a version of "The Bonnie Light Horseman", beautifully sung by guest artist Natalie Merchant. The whole album is delightful and full of the kind of soul-enriching music we all desire but seldom get. Just the chance to hear Kevin Crawford's flute and Cillian Vallely's pipes are worth the price of admission.

A couple of years ago I had the distinct pleasure to review the first album by Gillian Head, one of the finest fiddlers to come from Nova Scotia in a long time. This last month I had the joy to receive Gillian's latest release "tidal" and boy-o-brother it is so alive with powerful, flat out fun fiddling that there is no way that you can keep from falling in love with it. Joined by Jason Roach, as fine as piano player as

proud that the seeds he planted have grown into this dynamo. She also does tunes by Liz Carroll and a goodly number of original tunes that will leave you awestruck by her immense talent. I sincerely hope some of the performance venues in this area start dragging this powerhouse fiddler down from Nova Scotia to grace Midwestern stages. This is a young musician to keep your eye on, and your ears open to, don't get much better.

I love banjo music, truth. I've heard all those bad jokes about banjo players and their instruments but, in spite of it all, I love that stuff. This last week I got in the post one of the finest banjo recordings I've ever heard and that's saying a lot. Garry O'Meara's new cd "Pickin' Time", www.garryomeara.com, is just a whole big bunch of the finest banjo picking you could ask for. Traditional Irish, bust out bluegrass and a sweet delicate track called "Stealth" that defies description



except to say that it's haunting and beautifully done. To say that Garry knows his way around a banjo, is like saying Edison was a clever fellow. Garry is a member of the Brock McGuire Band, a band famous for their outstanding Irish instrumental music and their outstanding membership. If you enjoy good banjo, and you know you do, this is an artist and a recording for you.

Hope to see everyone up at Milwaukee's Irish Fest this month, four days of the most outstanding music at the most outstanding festival venue. Our booth will be in the Grafton Street vendor area, between the Miller Stage and the Air Lingus Stage. Stop by and say hi, or catch me online at store@rampantlion.com Slainté

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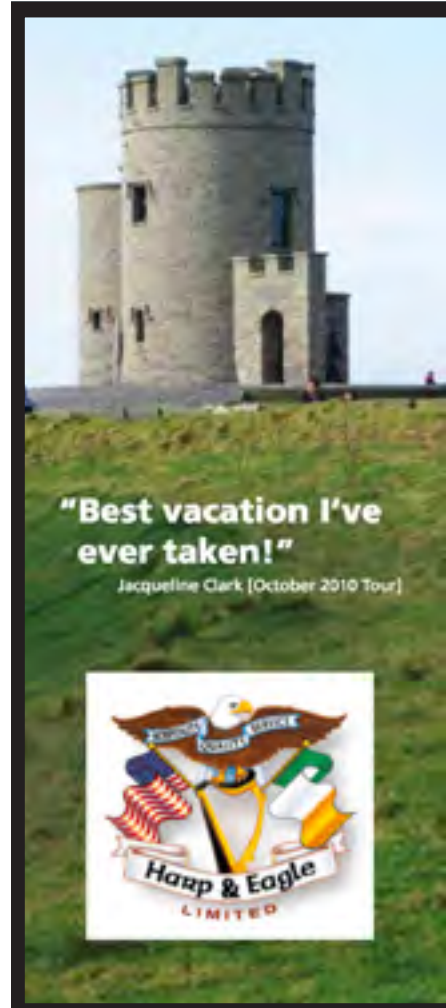
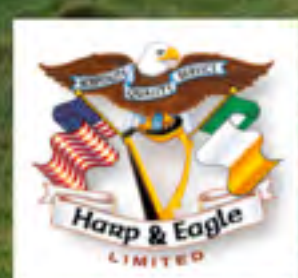
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Lessons From Some Talented Youngsters

Recently I attended my granddaughter's dance recital in Minnesota. A number of her fellow dancers will be leaving the troupe to head off to college in the fall to various universities around the country. Each of the seven departing performers were recorded and asked for suggestions that they might like to share with their younger fellow dancers. I was genuinely impressed by the excellence of their suggestions and advice, so let me share a few of the highlights with you.

1. Always strive to do your best in everything you attempt in life. Don't do anything half-heartedly. Do your very best. There were a lot of common themes espoused by the performers, but this one

was universally stated by every participant. I don't think they were trying to suggest that everyone can be a superstar in the normal usage of that word; but some of these dancers made up for their limited talent with their joyful participation and displayed super star enthusiasm.

2. Push yourself. Don't just coast because others do; maybe they don't have the drive and ambition that you have developed. The demands of this dance program celebrate achievement and skill development; not just lackadaisical

participation and attendance. Frankly, it was delightful to hear them speak with such gusto and determination. As one of the many grandparents seated in that audience I was inspired by the words of these young people.

3. Believe in yourself, regardless of what anyone else might say. Detractors may try to bring you down; ignore them, even the ones who might sincerely mean well and might be your "best" friends. If your relationship will not survive some disagreement, even discord, you need to challenge whether you and the other person are really friends or merely dance buddies.



Speaking of doing your best, Maeve (Boyle) Bognanno, daughter of Danny Boyle of the Shannon Rovers, recently received the Daisy Award for her extraordinary dedication to her job as a nurse and for going above and beyond her typical nursing duties. She was nominated by a fellow nurse who gave a glowing description of many of the things Maeve does while working. The award is made possible in memory of J. Patrick Barnes.

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



4. Listen to your "teachers". In many environments, some of us have learned more from our fellow students than those listed as "teachers". This is in no way a criticism of teachers; in fact our learning is regularly inspired by their encouragement. In addition to learning from your formal teachers, make it a point to seek out those students who really seem to understand the material better than you do. This would be a healthy trait to develop as you grow older. There are a lot of smart people in your life, learn from them.

5. Never take a day for granted. I found this suggestion somewhat unnerving; kids in my era believed that they lived in a reasonably safe environment. We assumed that we would get home from school every day and have dinner with our families. The notion that we might be killed by a crazed gunman never really occurred to most of us. Of course, a child might be injured or killed in an accident or drown in a quarry used for swimming, but being gunned down was not a real consideration. These young people of today have grown up in a much different world through no fault of their own. I didn't sense any real apprehension on the part of the young people, but rather it is a reality of the times that we have created for them. There are new dangers in our lives. Remember the lady who got sucked out of the window of the Southwest Airlines plane taking her home from New York City?

6. Appreciate your good friends. You and they can be of enormous help and support to each other because sometime a relationship born while we are children can last for a lifetime. Sometime this summer ask your grandmother or grandfather who were the special people in their early lives.

With all the talk going on about World War II as I write this column (it is shortly after the anniversary of D day,) you will hear stories of the sacred nature of having old friends, even if you haven't seen each other for years. I was reminded of the TV series, "Band of Brothers"; it could have been called Bond of Brothers. Such true friends can help you see things more clearly than almost anyone else can.

7. Take risks. Perhaps you can stand up for someone who is not as talented or highly regarded as you are. Some people are just targets for bullies; having you at their back could change their live. Be willing to respectfully challenge those in authority. Typically a challenge itself will not get you in trouble, but rather the manner or tone of the challenge might.

I applaud the thoughtful suggestions that these young people shared with us. Hopefully I have conveyed their excellent thoughts properly. **CARPE DIEM.**

For Your Consideration: If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours. Henry David Thoreau, American poet, essayist, philosopher, naturalist and historian.

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

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On the Upbeat

By Maryann
McTeague Keifer

I believe we all have a haven to intellectually and emotionally retreat to when the time presents itself. I actually have two—music and reading. I can become completely lost in both. Just ask my daughter, who in her teen years learned those were the best times to ask permission to do something she thought I might say "no" to... Finding that haven is the theme and title of We Banjo 3's just released album. David croons out "Let me be your haven..." in the opening song which he wrote. The lyrics ask us to put down our weapons in the name of love and peace. David's voice cries out to all who listen to come together and find that special place.

This album is quite a bit different from those that preceded. Although you can find the Irish influence, it is definitely not an Irish music collection. You will find folk, and you will, especially, hear the fabulous mastery of bluegrass they have achieved. While songs dominate the album, the tunes and accompanying music is stunning. All the tracks were written and arranged by the band, a first for them—a very successful first! WB3's rabid fans will be excited to see that "Don't Let Me Down" has been included in the collection. A favorite since they began performing it, all will now be able to listen and sing along anytime they desire. "War of Love" has a well-known story of the girl who got away and is now marrying someone else. A familiar theme, but David has made it more special, given it more feeling. "Sunflower" tells of the light and beauty a love brings into his life. "Pack It Up" will be a great fest song to get the audiences competing with the chorus. All the songs' lyrics paint vivid pictures

in your minds and will make you "feel" the words. David's voice and the way he puts the emotions into the songs is a gift, and we are the recipients.

The musical talent of this group has never been questioned. They are all superior. This album is special, though. It is one you will be playing over and over to hear more, absorb more, enjoy more. Enda's banjo playing has always been exceptional and seemingly effortless. On this album, you will hear a difference as he



has added the American 5 string banjo to many of the cuts. The picking is clear and crisp, spirited, incredibly intricate, and so very "Enda"! Enda is a major force in the respect the banjo has gained in both Irish and American music.

While Martin owns many All Ireland banjo awards, it is the mandolin we love to watch and listen to him play. He has a way of making it sing and give life to the tunes. It is more than enjoyable to watch him play and seemingly interact with it as if his mandolin had a life and soul of its own. He has become one of the premier mandolin musicians. On this album, the mandolin/banjo interplay is absolutely captivating.

Fergal's fiddling takes us on the journey of every tune set and song on this album. From a staccato beat to a peppery twang to a rolling wave, his play carries each set, while at the same time, blending perfectly. Listening to him play, you would assume he had been born into and raised with bluegrass. His play is easy, fluid, strong and enticing. I always want more! The stunningly beautiful "Marry Me Monday" which he wrote for his Ruth for their wedding last year will be a favorite.

We Banjo 3 are crossing the USA at this time on their summer tour. Whether it be an Irish or Bluegrass Fest, concert or intimate performance, their music and new album HAVEN will have all singing with, tapping toes to, and falling in love with the music and the four extraordinary musicians before them on stage. They deserve every accolade given. Do not miss any opportunity you have to experience the phenomenon of We Banjo 3!

Hope to see many of you at some of the fests this month—Dublin, Iowa, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Minnesota, Kansas City, Peoria, Philadelphia ...don't miss the chance to enjoy the talented musicians we are so very fortunate to have in our lives! Let the music be your "haven"!

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



MacGill

For the past 38 years Joe Mulholland and his team have brought national debate to The Glenties, a small rural community in Donegal, through the annual MacGill Summer School. The school largely consists of politicians in government and in opposition who attract national media attention. In a country where summer schools come and go, MacGill has proved notably durable. Yet this year a controversy has shaken the school to its foundations.

The kindling that quickly caught a spark and engulfed media coverage of MacGill in late June was a poster featuring 24 male participants of the 2018 School. The poster, to its antagonists, represented everything that is wrong with the school and more besides: it denoted the exclusion of women from having a meaningful role in public debate, especially in a year in which women's issues have been particularly prominent, being the centenary year of Irish women gaining the right to vote (the Representation of the People Act, 1918) and the year in which the Eight Amendment in the Irish Constitution was repealed. That said, the poster was itself unrepresentative since the line-up of the MacGill Summer School was 25% female.

The ratio of women to men at the school caused an immediate backlash. A few politicians (Catherine Murphy, Róisín Shortall and Pearse Doherty) as well as an academic threatened to withdraw from the school unless the program became more representative of women. In response to the controversy, Joe Mulholland acknowledged that he should have done better and un-

dertook to increase the number of women on newly planned panels.

Critics of the program fell into two camps. There were those who simply wished to see something



more like 50:50 gender representation among the school's speakers. For others, vituperation of Mulholland and the school's gender ratio was an entering wedge to campaign for content change in the school's program, and a means of gaining a platform to specify participants to be included who are more 'relevant' and 'in tune' with contemporary politics. Surely, though, proclaiming the 'irrelevance' of the school confers upon it a degree of relevance that its critics disclaim?

The Times editorialized on June 21st on the controversy as follows: 'Before Mr Mulholland's late statement last night *The Times* had decided not to cover this year's event unless changes to the line-up were made. That will be reconsidered if Mr Mulholland adds more female contributors'. The slithery word, 'reconsidered', enabled *The Times* to avoid adopting a definitive editorial stance on the school; and to remain in lockstep with the consensus.

The Times added, in criticism of the school's line-up in recent years: 'The speakers were rarely young or among the new Irish or working-class or even possessed

of non-establishment views'. That description sounds shockingly like the complexion of Dáil Éireann and yet our national assembly receives near constant coverage (to the extent that an avid television viewer is probably more familiar with the brown leather of the government's benches than those elected to sit on them). Is *The Times* also considering boycotting Dáil Éireann by depriving it of coverage? After all, only 35 out of 158 seats in Dáil Éireann are held by women (22.1%), proportionately fewer women than in MacGill's initial line-up.

Back in 2013, Catherine Murphy sat on a panel at MacGill in which she was the only woman, and which was chaired by a man. I remember because I was one of the speakers invited in 2013 (and I will be there again this year to show my most recent film on the opening day of the school). I also remember Murphy speaking from the podium about how proud she was to be invited and grateful to Mulholland. That year 28.75% of the guests at MacGill were women—hardly a dramatic difference compared with this year.

In 2013 the gender balance of the School was hardly mentioned in the coverage of the school whereas this year it has practically threatened the school's continued existence. The ratio of women to men is not substantially different to previous years, and it is more inclusive of women than is our national assembly. So why exactly was MacGill singled out?

Consider this attack on the honour of participants from academic Mary McAuliffe, who tweeted on June 21st: 'With some honourable exceptions, most of the male invitees to #MacGill2018, including some lefty men whom one would have thought might be supportive of a campaign on #genderbalance, have been conspicuously silent. But we see you!'

There is nothing so inimical to a mob as individuality because mobs thrive on stamping out di-

versity of thought. The assumption that 'lefty men' are unsupportive when they fail to toe the line is very revealing. Could not 'lefty men' have their own views about what is defensible and what is reprehensible about MacGill and its program, and about how they wish to respond, if at all? Or is it simply that the views of 'lefty men' are only of interest if they can be hewed to an agenda to destroy dissent to the one admissible view about the school's program?

The sleight of hand implication that when diversity of gender is attained then ipso facto diversity of thought follows often masks the objective of achieving the former while silencing the latter. Attempting to monopolize the right to define diversity is deeply undemocratic because it denies the right of the individual to exist independent of a grouping. Frequently, therefore, 'gender balancing' is in fact a device to attack the liberty it claims to uphold. The end of the diversity rainbow is, by this

logic, only discovered through fixity to one banner. It is ironic that the assailants of a political forum have rallied to such uniformity of critique.

Not everyone is enthralled to this orthodoxy though. Journalist Dearbhail McDonald, writing in the *Irish Independent* had this to say about her refusal to bow to peer pressure to boycott the school: 'I'm not convinced that depleting the number of female speakers at MacGill will benefit our cause. So, I'll continue to call out the 'manels' and rail against equality [sic] whenever I can. And what better place to showcase my aptitude and womanhood than in a room full of silent, attentive men?' McDonald's stance, favoring discussion over grandstanding, is a clear assertion that she has her own campaign, and that she has the courage to stand by it. We need more people like her because the response from most other commentators to this saga has been symptomatic of a creeping climate of censorship.

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Tricky Mickey Lowry and Other White Collar Crooks

"What business had they, bringing me here to the special criminal court in Dublin?" wailed dodgy TD Michael Lowry after being slapped very mildly on the wrist with a €25,000 fine for tax offences.

Gee, I don't know, Michael, but let me take a wild guess. Maybe because they thought, like most of the rest of us and definitely me, that you're a criminal?

But he's a card, is Michael. A white-collar card. It's all apparently a State & Media conspiracy to besmirch the name of a good man, you see. In fact, he was only short of pulling on a Richard Nixon mask, raising the two fingered V-sign and yelling **I AM NOT A CROOK**. Thing is though that I've got a soft spot for the late Tricky Dicky and none at all for Tricky Mickey.

"Nobody understands unless you are in the position, if you've been harassed, chased and hounded by various institutions of the state. It's only when you are in

that position, and fortunately I had the strength, I had the courage and I had the conviction, blah blah blah..."

The strength and the courage... pass me the sick bucket, I do believe I'm about to have a movement.

Ah yes, it's a tale as old as Time: a good, decent man picked on and bullied by the nasty media. Amazing how different someone can sound when he's giving a self-serving public speech compared to when he's caught on tape, though.

Here is Tricky Mickey being strong and courageous with property consultant Kevin Phelan in 2004, concerning a certain £248,624 sterling that the mean old Revenue commissioners were showing an interest in:

"I'm asking you Kevin, for f**'s sake, will you protect me just a small bit. For Jaysus sake, don't land me in it. I'm destroyed as it f****'g is. I can't bring out that f****'g 200 – that 250 – again.**

If that comes out, I'm f****'g ruined, I'm bankrupt..."

"Kevin, the only question I'm asking you, Kevin, Kevin, I'm asking you – I'm f**'g begging you. Please don't, because I'm not – they can't find that 200. I never declared it... The 200 – the 250 – that I gave you, I paid that directly, I never put that through my books or my account or anything, nobody's going to f****'g get it, so I've got, you know, I mean, I'm not even bringing that into it..."**

Bloody hell, Tricky Mickey could out-curse an Anglo-Irish banker! And in the end, he needn't have worried. Why would he? Did he have a rush of blood to the head and suddenly imagine that he was in Britain instead of Ireland? They send corrupt politicians to jail over there. We don't do that here.

I've said it many times, but it always bears repeating: you have to be REALLY out of luck to do time for white-collar crime in Ireland. Sure, you'll be banged up for not having a TV license or other very serious crimes; but if you're a bent TD? Ah come on, be realistic. You'll get a finger waved at you – IF that – and told not to do it ever again, swear on the Bible.

The unlamented Dame Enda Kenny once described Ireland as 'a great little country to do business in'. What he meant of course was 'great little country to do CRIMINAL business in'. He left out that one important little word.

I knew Lowry when he was swanning around the Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin back in the late 90s. To say I loathed the fraud back then would be to put it mildly. He loved the idea of having a mistress, since his hero Charles Haughey had one. [Relax, editor, it was front page news and in fairness to the lady she has openly been on record as regretting it ever since. I wouldn't

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



have been boasting about waking up with Lowry's head next to me on the pillow of dreams either.]

Haughey had a mistress, too; I suspect that Lowry felt like a little miniature of him.

He would always emulate his hero, the equally corrupt Charles J. Haughey in other ways, by wearing Really Expensive Suits.

Thing is, Haughey could pull that off since he looked really sharp in clothes that were payed for by the taxpayer. Really bloody sharp, that old crook was. Let's be honest: love him or loath him, the man could wear a suit.

Lowry on the other hand never really ever looked like anything but a cheap, tenth-grade, used car salesman.

More than a decade ago I wrote in an article for New York that I thought that his smug, smirking face had begun to resemble that of a man who had sold his soul and suddenly realised there were dues to be paid. Well, fast forward and here he is boasting of being courageous at the age of 61 when he looks every day of 81.

Can I give a special mention to the really courageous – and not in a Lowry way – journalist Elaine Byrne, author of 'Political Corruption in Ireland 1922-2010'. She put up with more than most of us have had to put up with, just to get the story out. Last week she wrote:

"Journalism got them despite the defamation action by Denis O'Brien hanging over my head since 2012. In 2015, Lowry made a complaint to the Gardai alleging improper disclosure by a Revenue official to me in relation to a raid by Revenue on his house in 2013. Nothing more came of it when I pointed out to the Gardai

that I was living on the other side of the world, in Australia, when it happened.

"In 2015 Lowry took a case in the High Court seeking

to prevent last week's court case going ahead. One of his grounds was that I was involved in a conspiracy to interfere with his right to a fair trial.

"The judge rejected this: 'The journalist made a complaint to the authorities and made the evidence available to them. I can see nothing whatsoever improper about this and, indeed, the respondents have argued that the journalist was under a statutory duty to do so.'"

Mad Mickey Lowry is well within his rights to believe that every single journalist in Ireland is out to get him. Same as I'm within MY rights, as I sit here with my rather fetching tinfoil hat on, to believe that the Martians have landed and are SPECIFICALLY out to get me, because I know things about Area 51.

But we have this thing called 'third person perspective'; and in my case it's because I have a long-suffering woman next to me saying: Calm down, Brady, and double your dosage; no one is out to get you. You're just a nutter.

Mad Mickey, he doesn't seem to have that. He's got no one to tell him that he's really just another guy with a conviction against him. He really believes that they're out to get him.

Lowry, get real: you got away with it (more or less). Be happy; and the next time that you pull on your hard-down-by Richard Nixon mask, look on the bright side and remember that the Vulcans have a saying:

"Only Nixon can go to China".

You can email me by way of the planet Vulcan or even the Starship Enterprise at chasbrady7@eircom.net

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An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



Trump Actor/President

I recently listened to a historian who compared our current President to former holders of the office and it appears that Mr. Trump comes up short in many of the categories that are considered important in a leader.

In fact looking at the results of a survey from the Brookings Institute and I quote "in addition to coming in last in the overall greatness rating, President Trump was ranked by our surveyed experts as the most polarizing of all presidents, The Trump White House pursued fractious policies in seeking to implement a travel ban, dismantling Obamacare, withdrawing from a global climate pact, and agreeing to move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem."

In my humble opinion Trump may be last in many surveys but he surely comes first in one category.

That is in acting, take a bow Mr. President. This is a man who was elected on the slogan "make America Great again" but surely this man's actions are actually leading the US in the opposite direction.

How does closing our borders to refugees and asylum seekers help to make us great again? How does treating our allies as enemies by imposing unnecessary sanctions and an ill advised trade war, make America great again? How does treating our Nato partners as immature school children and not as loyal allies make the US great again? How does meeting extreme right wing Politian on an official trip to the UK, where breaking one of the most important diplomatic rules does not even cost the President a thought? I'm referring to the long established rule that a visiting foreign head of state does not interfere in the internal politics

of the host state.

The issue as I see it is this, a President who is more interested in creating waves. A President who does not treat the poor at our mercy with compassion and welcome the stranger, the orphan, refugees and asylum seekers is not great and is in fact sending our country in the wrong direction. Mr. President it is time to make America Compassionate again, Kind again, a good ally again, the country of big shoulders and welcome shores again, this is what will make America great again. It is time to change course Mr. President before it is too late.

Laughter is The Best Medicine
Many years ago, Norman Cousins was diagnosed as "terminally ill". He was given six months to live. His chance for recovery was 1 in 500.

He could see the worry, depression and anger in his life contributed to, and perhaps helped cause, his disease. He wondered, "If illness can be caused by negativity, can wellness be created by positivity?"

He decided to make an exper-

iment of himself. Laughter was one of the most positive activities he knew. He rented all the funny movies he could find - Keaton, Chaplin, Fields, the Marx Brothers. (This was before VCRs, so he had to rent the actual films.) He read funny stories. He asked his friends to call him whenever they said, heard or did something funny.

His pain was so great he could not sleep. Laughing for 10 solid minutes, he found, relieved the pain for several hours so he could sleep.

He fully recovered from his illness and lived another 20 happy, healthy and productive years. (His journey is detailed in his book, Anatomy of an Illness.) He credits visualization, the love of his family and friends, and laughter for his recovery.

Some people think laughter is a waste of time. It is a luxury, they say, a frivolity, something to indulge in only every so often.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Laughter is essential to our equilibrium, to our well-being, to our aliveness. If we're not well, laughter helps us get well; if we

are well, laughter helps us stay that way.

Since Cousins' ground-breaking subjective work, scientific studies have shown that laughter has a curative effect on the body, the mind and the emotions.

So, if you like laughter, consider it sound medical advice to indulge in it as often as you can. If you don't like laughter, then take your medicine - laugh anyway.

Use whatever makes you laugh - movies, sitcoms, Monty Python, records, books, New Yorker cartoons, jokes, friends.

Give yourself permission to laugh - long and loud and out loud - whenever anything strikes you as funny. The people around you may think you're strange, but sooner or later they'll join in even if they don't know what you're laughing about.

Some diseases may be contagious, but none is as contagious as the cure. . . laughter.

By Peter McWilliams

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



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Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



Co. Longford (Gaelic-longfort) County Longford is part of the middle region and it is in the province of Leinster. Longford county council is the authority for the county. The population is about 40,000. It is a small county, the fourth smallest county in Ireland. It borders Cavan, Westmeath, Roscommon and Leitrim. Most of Longford lies in a basin of the River Shannon with Lough Ree forming much of the county's western boundary. The northwestern part drains towards the river Erne and Lough Gowna.

Lakeland, bog land, pastureland and wetland characterize Longford landscapes. The highest point is at Clonghugh also known as Cairn Hill near Drumlish at 279 m. (916 feet). Cairn Hill is the site of television transmitted broadcasting to most of the midlands. The river Shannon marks the county border with Roscommon while the rivers Inny and Tang form much of the boundary with Westmeath. The Royal canal flows through the south of the county ending at Cloondary at the Shannon. The canal was refurbished and re-opened in 2010. Some notable lakes include Kinale, Lough and Lough Gowna on the Cavan border. Lough Forbes on the Roscommon border and Lough Ree in the south where Longford, Westmeath and Roscommon meet. The territory corresponding to Longford was a frontier colony of the kingdom of Meath in the first millennium between the 5th and 12th c. The territory was called the Kingdom of Tethbae ruled by various Tuath such as the Cairpre Gabra in the north. There were monasteries established at Abbeyderg and at Saints Island on the shore of

Lough Ree. Monastic remains at Ardagh, Abbeylara, Abbeyderg, Abbeyshrule.

Famous people from Longford include Kitty Kiernan, (Michael Collins fiancé), James Dooley; Australian politician, and Frank McCoppin Mayor of San Francisco.

I spoke to a lovely man from Longford named, Donal Reilly. He reminded me of the rich heritage associated with Longford. For example the famous Ardagh chalice. One of Ireland's great treasures from the middle ages, it was discovered in Ardagh, Co. Longford. There is a city in Australia named Longford, also Longford Kansas. There is a pub called Longford on the Southside in Crestwood.



There is a famous song from Longford named, Rising of the Moon. It's about the Irish rebellion of 1798 battle between united Irishmen and the English army. I found a story about healing I thought was worth sharing about a man who had cancer.

"It's hard to say which was in worse shape: the run-down century-old church or the cancer-ridden 56-year-old man perched on its crumbling steps. For years, Greg would sit on those very steps and pray when he walked his dogs along the country lanes in rural Minnesota. But in May 2009, he learned that the headaches, earaches, and jaw aches that had plagued him for the past year were

due to inoperable neck cancer. It had progressed so far that the doctors told Greg's family to start planning his funeral.

"I was sitting at the church one evening, pouring my heart out to God," Greg says. "I kept looking at the building and the shape it was in. I said, 'Before I leave this earth, Lord, I'd like to do something for you.'"

Greg decided that that something was to fix the peeling paint and the leaking roof, the mangled steps, and the rotting floorboards. He approached the church's association with a deal: He would completely repair the building on one condition: "That I get a key to the front door so I can go in anytime I want to worship." He warned that it would be slow going—he had just gone through three rounds of chemotherapy along with 40 sessions of radiation and had lost 66 pounds. They said yes anyway.

Incredibly, as Greg scraped paint and replaced boards, he felt himself

growing stronger every day. The more he worked on the church, the better he felt—he didn't even need the strong prescription pain meds his doctor had prescribed. "My oncologist was blown away," Greg says. "She said, 'Whatever you're doing, keep on doing it.'"

As Greg continued to rehabilitate the church, medical scans revealed some startling news: His

tumors were shrinking. Four years and 23 days after Greg's diagnosis, his doctors were able to remove his feeding tube—the one they'd said he would have for the rest of his life—and he ate solid food again. Today, Greg's tumors are gone. He is considered officially in remission and no longer needs follow-up tests.

And the church? After five years of Greg's labor and love, it has been restored to its former glory too. Greg held his third-annual open house there, inviting the entire community. "While I was restoring the church," Greg says, "God was restoring me." Good luck to the people of Longford. Questions/comments, (708) 425-7021.

Remembering Corporal Martin Cunningham 100 Years On

By John Breslin

Approximately 60 people gathered in a quiet corner of a cemetery on the south west side to remember and honor an Irish-born soldier who died fighting for his adopted country exactly 100 years ago.

Cpl. Martin Cunningham, originally from Co. Mayo but who emigrated to the US as a young man, died on July 22, 1918, in northern France.

His remains were returned to Chicago - where his sister Margaret Brady lived - two years later, but his grave at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery was never marked. Until now.

On the centenary of his death, dozens descended on the Morgan Park cemetery to dedicate a new marker to honor the Mayo man's sacrifice.

It reads: "**Martin J. Cunningham, Corp. US Army, World War 1, Sept. 28 1988, Jul. 22 1918.**"

"It was a great showing, and felt like a homecoming, and he deserved it to thank him for his sacrifice," said Pat

Tap on South Western and 109th to raise a glass or two in memory.

The event on Sunday was the culmination of a series of conversations and events that began with Michael Feeney, the brainchild behind the Mayo Peace Park in Ireland, giving Pat Gorman the soldier's name. The peace park remembers those Irish who have died fighting for other countries, either adopted like the US, or the British.



This was not the first time the pair have worked together, not by a long way. Gorman has researched the lives and deaths, and found the graves, of over 200 deceased soldiers, many of them Irish who emigrated to the US.

Gorman said finding Cunningham's resting place was not the most difficult. The Chicago Tribune noted his death in the war, and included a picture, which the genealogist said was a key, and emotional, moment in the search, to be able to look into the eyes of the long dead soldier.

He found the burial file, which revealed he was interred



in May 1918.

The division was moved forward to the front in July to counter a German offensive. It is likely Cunningham died in what became known as the Battle of Chateau-Thierry, a bitter and fierce one, according to accounts, one that included hand to hand fighting.

One hundred years later, dozens of people gathered in the sunshine of a cemetery in Chicago to remember Cpl. Martin J. Cunningham, son of Martin and Mary nee (Forkan) Cunningham of Treenlaur in the Townland of Shanvally, Co. Mayo. And a US soldier.



Fr. Gene Smith, of St. Lynas Parish

Gorman, a Dixon, Il-based genealogist and driving force behind the moves that led to the ceremony. "It was a rush of emotions." He was "flabbergasted" by the number that turned out.

Piper John Harmening, of the Chicago Police Department's Emerald City Pipes and Drums, opened with a rendition of "Amazing Grace." Gorman himself said some words about the life and death of Martin Cunningham.

Fr. Gene Smith, of St. Lynas Parish, read scripture, verses from St. Luke that foreshadowed the birth of Christ. He linked this with the Passion and the Resurrection, followed by a reference to the passage of the burial of the young boy from Dostoevsky's the Brothers Karamazov.

Fr. Smith explained he wanted to link life, death and resurrection to the key point in the passage in the book that one good memory is enough to keep a person's spirit alive - and they were remembering Martin Cunningham and the sacrifice he made for his adopted country.

Piper John Harmening finished the ceremony with "America the Beautiful."

Then a dozen or so of the group repaired to Kelly's



Piper John Harmening

in Mount Olivet following his removal from France. It was then a case of deciding how best to remember the Mayo man.

It was decided to set down the marker, and Gorman asked the archdiocese to waive the \$275 fee to do so. It refused. The Catholic Charities of Chicago, particularly Eileen Higgins, one of its vice presidents, stepped in and the cost was covered.

Gorman said he had little idea as to what might be the format of any ceremony, if any.

But then Officer Tommy O'Brien reached out after reading an earlier piece in *Irish American News*, penned by Gorman. "He told me, 'You need to do this, throw together a small dedication'," Gorman said.

O'Brien and a posse of Chicago police, along with veterans' groups, went about organizing the piper, the wreath and the involvement of Fr. Smith. They also organized the printing of a program for the event.

Cunningham, who joined the US Army prior to the country's 1917 entry into the war, was attached to the 28th Infantry Division, which shipped out to Europe

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