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From Our House to Yours, Merry Christmas!

As another year quickly winds down, Cathy and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas!

We are very thankful and humbled by the support of the *Irish community* at large, and we thank all of you for your contributions to our paper.

Thank you to our *advertisers* who make it possible to fill these pages.

Thank you to our *subscribers* who enjoy our paper enough to receive it every month.

Thank you to our *columnists* who provide their experiences and points of view - most of them for the love of it!

Thank you *Irish organizations* who put your news in the paper each month, and allow us to mail the paper to all of your members who wants it. You have trusted us with your information for years, and we will never lose sight of that.

And thank you *readers* for not only



Cathy and Cliff Carlson, Publishers, Irish American News. reading the paper, but for frequenting the many businesses on these pages, and for your input, pro and con!

We truly enjoy bringing all of your varied interests together on these pages, and look forward to doing so as long as we can!

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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



is clearly a vital step in tackling the first two. The Health situation is chronic and likely to get worse as the population ages. Currently the children's lobby is ascendant over

that for the elderly, but with the old growing in numbers and living longer, this balance will have to be addressed sooner or later.

One lobby group DID receive a budget setback. Ireland is currently behind schedule on her commitments to combat climate change, and the environmental lobby had pushed hard for an increase in carbon tax in the budget, to the extent that the Taoiseach had announced it would happen. Enter political reality. Increasing carbon tax means hikes in the cost of petrol, home heating oil and also in the cost of solid fuels such as coal and turf, measures either socially regressive (the poor and the elderly tend to burn solid fuel) or discriminatory against rural dwellers given the paucity of public transport outside the major urban areas. Politically a no-brainer at this time. Result: no budget carbon tax increase, to the dismay of environmentalists of every hue.

It would be difficult to find anyone in Ireland who does not accept the reality of climate change and the need to take measures to combat global warming. But actually translating this into concrete steps, particularly involving paying more and changing lifestyle is another matter. Even pointing out that Dublin is further north than Calgary cuts no ice (ouch!). Last Spring's storms sounded a warning but not sufficient to cause a sea change (ouch again) in attitude amid widespread belief that the major polluting countries (led by Trump's USA) are doing little or nothing nationally. Perhaps this will change when threatened heavy financial sanctions from Brussels (which could run to several 100 million euro annually) kick in after 2020, but before that there is Brexit and every likelihood of an election, hence the tardiness of politicians to act.

It would be equally difficult to find anyone in Ireland who would not agree that more should be done for Irish Travellers, generally accepted as Ireland's most marginalised community. The Presidential Election, while it resulted as expected in an overwhelming victory for the incumbent Michael D, did throw up an interesting development – still being digested – in the performance of the runner up Peter Casey; on 1% ten days before the poll, he launched an attack on the Travellers in a radio interview. The lobby were outraged, condemning Casey as racist.

Politics and Lobbies

Since 1 October Ireland has had a budget, a presidential election, a constitutional amendment and controversial alcohol legislation. All this as the drama/comedy/tragedy of Brexit continued to play out in Britain. For Ireland also, Brexit is drama, comedy and potential tragedy. There is no positive aspect to Brexit for Ireland. We shall suffer; the only question is to what extent and Government policy is aimed at damage limitation.

As I write it is still not clear what form Britain's final exit from the EU will take. An agreement was cobbled together in early November between the negotiating teams which satisfied Ireland's (and the EU's) special concerns regarding the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland. The agreement, championed by Teresa May, is probably the least unsatisfactory deal that could have been agreed but has generated uproar at a political level in the UK, with Ministerial resignations and every likelihood that the agreement will be rejected by the British Parliament.

Britain is big enough and powerful enough to survive whatever happens in the short term at least but the whole process could well "unleash demons of which ye know not" in David Cameron's striking phrase. The Brexit lobby, elitist, loud, and stoking populist sentiments, continues to hold sway. They need to be taken down, but is May the person to do it?

Domestically, first off, the referendum to delete Blasphemy as a crime from the Constitution was carried decisively and uncontroversially on 26 October, which at least removes Ireland from the ranks of unsavoury regimes like Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and others of that ilk, which prescribe and carry out punishments, often draconian, on "blasphemers." Good riddance!

The 2019 Budget had few surprises. With an election ever closer and negotiations to extend the Fine Gael Fianna Fail agreement imminent, a steady-as-you-go budget was always on the cards. There were modest increases in social welfare payments, modest cuts in income tax and modest sticking-plaster applications to the three "H's" – Housing, Homelessness and Health. There are no magic bullets to fix any of the three, though an increase in housing supply

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This would normally be enough to silence anyone putting a head above the parapet. But Casey, a millionaire who has spent the bulk of his working life abroad, was unfazed, stuck to his guns and broadened his attack to condemn also the "sense of entitlement" in what he termed a "welfare dependant state," hijacking in the process one of Taoiseach Leo Varadkar's pet phrases, that he stood for "those who get up early in the morning" paying for everything and getting little back. Casey finished with 23% of the vote and, significantly, 10% of the total electorate.

The PC brigade closed ranks, with politicians and the media uniting to condemn Casey and his supporters, writing off the result as a flash in the pan. Yet subsequent revelations that the bulk of local authority monies earmarked for Traveller accommodation this year have yet to be spent, indicates that there remains a problem and that as a society we have still not progressed much beyond that several decades ago when one prominent political commentator observed that everyone was agreed on housing the Travellers – the only problems were when and where.

Just prior to the budget there was finally success for one particular lobby with the passage of the Public Health (Alcohol) Bill, which, inter alia, sets out minimum prices beneath which alcohol cannot be sold. The

bill passed after a lengthy campaign which saw the health lobby pitted against the powerful drinks lobby. The legislation is a determined attempt by a loose coalition of medical and health experts to curb Ireland's drinking culture and in particular to address the problem of binge drinking, especially by the young, through a variety of measures. These include education on the health threats posed by alcohol as well as regulations to control advertising marketing and sponsorship of alcohol, but above all through significant price hikes which will effectively end the availability of cheap alcohol.

Whether the package (including health warnings on wine bottles) will survive legal challenges and EU competition regulations remains to be seen. Ditto with regard to whether the legislation will change behaviour and attitudes to alcohol. The health lobby are taking their cue from the tobacco experience, where cigarette prices are now among the highest in Europe, and official consumption has slumped. But this is to ignore what has been a massive cultural shift away from smoking across the developed world, and also the local booming illegal trade in counterfeit and smuggled cigarettes. And remember, in the 1980s, when disposable income was low and alcohol taxes relatively high, determined drinkers simply made their own. Home Brew anybody?

Poetry of Gerard Manly Hopkins

Those who love the poetry of Gerard Manly Hopkins, who died in Dublin in 1889, may wish to go to the new Gerard Manly Hopkins website at <https://hopkinspoetry.com> where a wealth of inspiration and information, including Facebook and Twitter connections, is now available.



About the Cover



Photo by Kevin O'Donnell
kodophoto.smugmug.com
Picture taken at Cana Island, Door County, WI

Irish American News recently caught up with Kevin O'Donnell, who long-standing readers may recall as the singer/songwriter, founder and front man of the folk band Arranmore, and author of the critically acclaimed book *Fado, A Memoir of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness*. This is in addition to his ambitious 2013 collection of original historical fiction songs on the solo album, 'Deep Is The Well.' Kevin continues to expand his tireless artistic appetite, most recently in the genre of landscape photography. Now retired, he and his wife make their home on several acres along the shores of Lake Michigan in Door County, WI, where in addition to photography Kevin has found time to become a certified master beekeeper and is active in local politics. You can see more of Kevin's work at kodophoto.smugmug.com and at deepisthewell.com.

Derek Warfield & Young Wolfetones Last Man Standing CD Available Now

Derek and the bands latest CD, Last Man Standing, Part 2 of their 1916 tribute is available now on their site for 20 Euros at www.theyoungwolfetones.com.

The Young wolfetones are currently on tour and just passed through the Chicago area with a grand



show at Clancy's Pizza Pub on Chicago's Southside.

They will be in Ireland for shows in Newry, Dublin and Sligo over the Christmas season.

They will be back in Florida - their home base - and will perform during the first half of the month of February.

There are 18 songs on the CD including, *Sean South from Garryowen, Irish Jaunting Car, Meet me at the Pillar, Spanish Lady, The Minstrel Boy, Coortin' in the Kitchen, Patriot Game, Four Green Fields, City of New Orleans and Wearing of the Green.*

Members of the band include Damaris Wood, Garry Gormley, Ciarán Cooney, and Cormac McGuinness.

Look for the feature and cover story on the band in the December issue of *Irish Music Magazine*. Their website is:

www.irishmusicmagazine.com/

For more on the band go to www.theyoungwolfetones.com,

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Hannah Flowers New Album - "Amhrán na Cruite"

St. Paul harpist and traditional singer Hannah Flowers is pleased announce the launch of her debut album "Amhrán na



Cruite/Song of the Harp." This album is a celebration of traditional Irish language song with harp accompaniment. Joined on the recording by renowned guitarist Dáithí Sproule, flautist Cory Froehlich, and dancer Danielle Enblom, she is proud to release this album featuring well-known as well as lesser-known Irish language songs. The beautiful songs featured in "Amhrán na Cruite" showcase the enduring stories of love, death and loss intrinsically woven into the fabric of Irish traditional music.

Hannah Flowers is an award-winning traditional singer and harpist from St. Paul, Minnesota. Known for her sensitive and lyrical accompaniment of songs as well as her syncopated and rhythmic accompaniment of dance tunes, Hannah enjoys

exploring the full depth of traditional Irish music and song. An active performer across the Midwest on the Irish harp, she has performed at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival, Irish Fair of Minnesota, La Crosse Irish Fest, and the Milwaukee Irish Fest. She also maintains a busy studio teaching privately and through the Center for Irish Music in St. Paul.

For more information contact: hannah@hannahflowersharp.com, www.hannahflowersharp.com



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Community Playgroup

ICS' Community Playgroup is off to a great start! Considerable turnout during our launch phase has demonstrated the need for and importance of such a group. As the latest research in early childhood education shows, the first few years of life are crucial to cognitive, social, and emotional development. The support children experience in their earliest years is what allows them to thrive as they grow. Young children and adults alike are more willing to explore, ask questions, and take risks that help them learn when they feel rooted in community. It is ICS' intention to foster that sense of belonging and build a support system of families that play an active role in childhood development, in turn strengthening the foundation of our community. Registration is required. Contact Youth and Family Engagement Coordinator, Aisling Culhane at aculhane@irishchicago.org for more information.

Teens ages 12 and up are invited to be a part of the first Chicago branch of Foróige, Ireland's leading youth organization.

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JOIN ICS YOUTH CLUB

ICS Youth Club meets every Thursday from 6:30-8:00p in the Irish American Heritage Center. 4626 N. Knox Ave. Chicago, IL 60630

Registration is ongoing. For more information contact Aisling at aculhane@irishchicago.org 773-282-8445

December Event Schedule

- **ICS' Big Irish Christmas Pub Quiz!** Tuesday, December 4th from 7pm-10pm in the Galway Arms Pub (2442 N. Clark St.), \$20 per person
- **Tara Club:** Wednesday, December 5th starting at 10am in the IAHC. Topic: Free Hearing Screenings
- **Community Playgroup:** Wednesday, December 5th from 10am-12pm at the IAHC
- **Immigration Legal Clinic:** Wednesday, December 5th from 3pm-6pm in the IAHC (by appointment only)
- **Foróige Club:** Thursday, December 6th from 6:30pm-8:00pm in the IAHC
- **Senior Christmas Party:** Wednesday, December 12th starting at 11:30am at Gaelic Park (Reservation necessary)
- **Community Playgroup:** Wednesday, December 12th from 10am-12pm at the IAHC
- **Foróige Club:** Thursday, December 13th from 6:30pm-8:00pm in the IAHC
- **Immigration Legal Clinic:** Monday, December 17th from 10am-1pm in Gaelic Park (by appointment only)
- **Monthly Musical Gathering:** Wednesday, December 19th at 10 am in the IAHC. Music by Joe McShane
- **Community Playgroup:** Wednesday, December 19th from 10am-12pm in the at the IAHC
- **Foróige Club:** Thursday, December 20th from 6:30pm-8:00pm in the IAHC



SUICIDE

Causes of Suicide

While there are no one cause of suicide, it most often occurs where a person encounters stresses or health problems that cause them to feel hopeless or despair. Mental health conditions such as anxiety, substance abuse, and depression are frequently a factor in suicide.

Warning Signs

It is not always possible to know when someone is suicidal but there are common signs that may indicate a person is considering taking their own life.

- Talking about killing themselves, being in trouble, feeling trapped, no seeing any future for themselves, or a way to die
- Isolating themselves from family and friends
- Difficulty sleeping or sleeping too much
- Giving away treasured possessions
- Weeping or asking people to say goodbye
- Mood of depression, agitation or fatigue
- Impulsive or reckless behavior
- Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Aggressive behavior and mood swings

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If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline or 911 immediately.

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Risk Factors

Risk factors are characteristics or conditions that increase the chance that a person may try to take their life.

- Substance abuse
- A chronic mental illness such as bipolar, anxiety disorder, schizophrenia or depression
- Childhood abuse, neglect, or trauma
- A family history of suicide
- Previous suicidal attempts
- Serious physical health conditions or pain
- Stressful life events like divorce, bankruptcy, or loss
- Long term stress like unemployment or bullying
- Exposure to another suicide or suicidalization because of suicide

Irish Get Another Try For The E3 Visa

In early November, it was announced that a bi-partisan bill was being drafted in the House of Representatives to grant Irish Citizens access to the unused 10,500 E3 visa's that are designated for Australia. This bill came about through an effort by the Irish Government and specifically Special Envoy to the US Congress John Deasy TD. It has long been an aspiration for the Irish to avail of the unused Australian E3 visas, and past attempts in 2013 and 2015 failed to materialize.

This bill, as it is currently written, would not address the issue of the undocumented but rather secure an additional route by which Irish citizens can immigrate to the US. Should this bill pass, it may grant citizens of Ireland an additional 5000 US visas.

The E3 is a two year renewable visa that requires an employment offer in a specialty occupation, and other academic or necessary qualifications. For questions or additional information about the E3 vis please contact our office.

- 123 people die by suicide every day
- 7 of 10 suicides are white males
- 10th leading cause of death in the US
- 25% of people who attempt suicide die
- 45-54% of people who attempt suicide die



Nollaig shona

agus

Athbhliain faoi mhaise

(Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year)
to
All the readers of *Irish American News*



Standing, left to right: Joan M. Mannix, Courtney Fischel, Dennis M. Lynch, Jack Cannon, Neil Schelhammer, Patrick C. Anderson, Emilie McGuire, Matthew M. Gannon. Front Row - seated left to right: Martin Healy Jr., David P. Huber, Kevin T. Veugeler and John P. Scanlon
Not pictured: Terry Sullivan, Terry Geoghegan and Matthew Healy.



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does not mean that the market season is over.

I simply love the farmers market! It has to be one of my favorite past time

activities. There is something so magically uplifting about shopping around, taking in all of the different seasonal varieties, and talking with the farmers.

I enjoy learning about how their produce is grown, where each farm is located, and what brought the farmers to this beautiful lifestyle. Developing a relationship with the ones who have such a strong passion about growing and curating beautiful, straight from the earth foods.

Supporting local farmers not only supports the local economy, but you are also getting the freshest, tastiest, most nutrient dense fruits and vegetables.

I'm about to let you in on a little secret of mine...There are actually a few markets here in Chicago that move inside during the winter!

That is right; all of the hearty, wintry essentials are present and accounted for,

from sturdy greens to freshly baked breads.

I have compiled a little list of five indoor markets here in the Chicago-land area. I hope this inspires you to venture out and get connected to this great community of Momma Earth lovers and supporters.

Green City Market: The ever so popular Lincoln Park Green City Market moves

from sturdy greens to freshly baked breads. I have compiled a little list of five indoor markets here in the Chicago-land area. I hope this inspires you to venture out and get connected to this great community of Momma Earth lovers and supporters.

Green City Market: The ever so popular Lincoln Park Green City Market moves

from sturdy greens to freshly baked breads. I have compiled a little list of five indoor markets here in the Chicago-land area. I hope this inspires you to venture out and get connected to this great community of Momma Earth lovers and supporters.

Is it just me, or does it seem like we went from 80 degree summer weather straight into 20 degree winter weather overnight?

As I sit in my cozy apartment watching white fluffy flakes - the first real snow of the year- falling down outside, I am trying to keep myself warm with a hot cup of tea and summer thoughts.

Thoughts of the scorching months; when the sun was blistering yet still delightful. During those sultry summer months, I lived for late night lakefront strolls, Saturdays spent on a boat in the Playpen, and Sundays shopping around a farmers market.

Although I am no longer able to (joyfully) partake in all three of those activities here in Chicago, there is still one that I (and we all) can still enjoy year round.

Can you guess which one?

If you guess the farmers market, you are correct! Just because it is freezing outside



indoors to the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, during the cold months. The market takes place every other Saturday through Apr. 28, when the outdoor market returns for spring.

Held every other Saturday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Dr., Lincoln Park (773-880-1266) or greencitymarket.org).

61st Street Market : Located inside the Experimental Station, it takes place monthly through April, at which point it returns to its 61st Street roots.

Held Feb. 10, Mar. 10 & Apr. 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Experimental Station, 6100 S. Blackstone Ave., Woodlawn (773-241-6044 or experimentalstation.org).

Logan Square Farmers Market : One of the biggest (and best) farmers markets in the city! It is indoors every Sunday at the Emporium Arcade Bar Logan Square.

Held every Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Empo-

rium Arcade Bar, 2363 N. Milwaukee Ave., Logan Square (773-489-3222 or logansquarefarmersmarket.org).

Evanston Indoor Farmer and Artisan Market: Giving the North Shore its fill of farm-to-tote delectables.

Held every Saturday through May, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; First Congregational Church of Geneva, 327 Hamilton St., Geneva (847-501-0430 or geneva-green-market.org).

My favorite out of all of these? The Logan Square Market!

If you see me there (I will be the ginger trying all of the samples, feeling all of the vegetables, and conversing with the farmers), do not hesitate to come say hi!

I just find it so wonderful that we are still able to enjoy some of the summer activities even in the winter. Some even still enjoy walking the lakefront (this ging..not so much).

Happy Holidays my friends! Sending you all the warmest thoughts and hugs! I will see you all in the new year.

Catherine Gallagher-The Ginger in the City; is a Chicago dweller and wellness lover. While currently in school studying Nutrition, she is making it her mission to help inspire and motivate others to live their happiest, healthiest life..one simple thought at a time.

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

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Dylan Walshe: All Manner of Ways

'All Manner Of Ways' is the new album from Irish singer-songwriter Dylan Walshe. 'All Manner Of Ways' was recorded in East Nashville, Tennessee, where Dylan currently resides.

This self released debut studio record of ten original songs features guests such as James Fearnley of The Pogues & Andy Gibson of Hank Williams III.

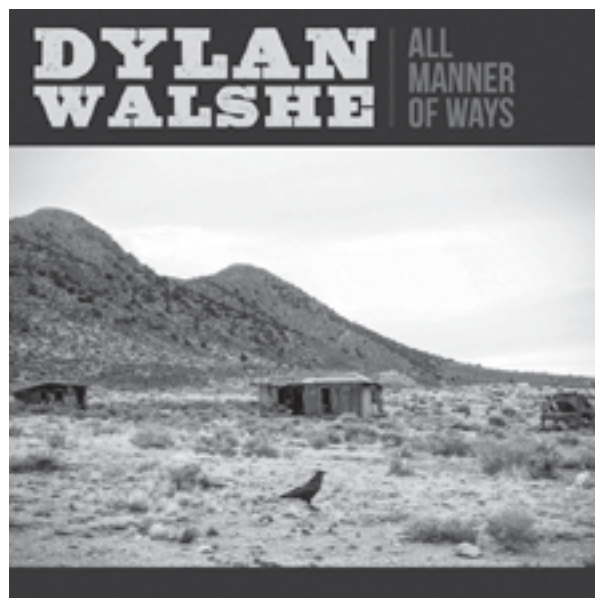
To date, Dylan has releases on Squoodge Records of Berlin, Voodoo Rhythm Records of Switzerland & a full length live album on Muddy

Roots Records of Nashville.

Dylan Walshe is a growing name on the international

touring circuit, regularly performing throughout the UK, Ireland, Europe, Canada & the United States.

In 2017, Dylan was invited to perform on the Flogging Molly



cruise alongside such artists as The Skatalites, DeVotchKa, NOFX, The English Beat &

The Bouncing Souls. Later that year, Dylan went on a U.S. & Canadian tour with Flogging Molly & The White Buffalo.

Dylan also opened for Billy Bob Thornton & The Boxmasters on their Maine dates in August of this year.

Over the last few years, Dylan has appeared on bills alongside such artists as *Del McCoury, Dr. Ralph Stanley, Ricky Skaggs, Peter Rowan, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, The Blasters, Scott H Biram, Margo Price, Possessed By Paul James, Donovan, The Legendary Shack Shakers, Bobby Bare, The Sonics, Tír na nÓg, The Melvins, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Scullion & L.C. Ulmer.*

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Christy Moore

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Cruel Winter

By: Sheila Connolly
Crooke Lane Books

Sheila Connolly has a wonder-into the story—as if I was one of the characters. Cruel Winter is re-attention of the people focuses on the reader into the mystery andally a “looked room” mystery. It all a stranger who has taken refuge become an intriguing part of it.takes place during a snow-stormthere too. She hasn’t visited the This happens so gradually thatin west Cork. A pub is isolated byvillage in many years. This is be-before you know what is hap-the snow. Two inches of snow havecause about twenty years before pening, you’re on the “inside”made the roads impassable. Be-she was accused of murder. TheMayflower. Connolly was born cause snow is so infrequent, therepolice investigated, but could findin 1950 in upstate New York, and no evidence to charge her. Nownow lives in Massachusetts with the American, and adults whoher husband. Their daughter is a were children then, want to takeplaywright.

are no snowplows or salt tracks.

People who can’t make it home from the village take refuge in a pub. The door is open for them. The owner of the pub is a 26 year old American from Boston who inherited the pub

In most novels, the readerand a small house. She likes the watches and observes. In thispeople she meets and is comfort-crime novel, I found myself drawnable with life in the village.

When everyone is settled, the a fresh look at the case. They Cruel Winter is the fifth in the have no pre-conceived idea ofCounty Cork Series. Connolly her guilt and only want to knowhas written 32 mystery novels! what really happened. I foundThey are so respected that they the whole related experience tohave earned Agatha and Anthony be exciting and enticing. Awards. She earned a Ph.D. in

The biographical informationFine Arts at Harvard University for Sheila Connolly, the author,and became an art historian. Lat-is an amazing story in itself. Sheer she became a fundraiser for a is the granddaughter of Irishnon-profit and then was an advisor immigrants and also a descen-for political campaigns. Her MBA dant of persons who came on thefrom the University of California



helped her to be an advisor for municipal investments. About those many experiences she says: “It seems that everything that came before was research for future books.”

I think you’ll like these quotes.

The main character is talking with a friend: “You’ve got issues with your own family, right?”

“I do, they weren’t happy with me when I said I wanted to be an artist...They’re even less happy now that a baby is on the way and I’m not married.”

“They aren’t going to be thrilled by a new grandbaby?”

“They’ve already got a few, all nice and proper in the eyes of the church and the village.”

“Shortly after the lights came back on in the pub, Maura, the owner realized she’d have to retire the antiquated, but still useful oil lamps to the basement. Or, maybe keep them in a handier place in case the power went out again...They snow was melting fast, as if the last twenty-four hours were being erased in front of their eyes.”

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All the Walls of Belfast

The Carnival at Bray meets West Side Story in Sarah Carlson’s powerful YA debut; set in post-conflict Belfast (Northern Ireland), alternating between two teenagers, both trying to understand their past and preserve their future. Seventeen-year-olds, Fiona and Danny must choose between their dreams and the people they aspire to be.

Fiona and Danny were born in the same hospital. Fiona’s mom fled with her to the United States when she was two, but, fourteen years after the Troubles ended, a forty-foot-tall peace wall still separates her dad’s Catholic neighborhood from Danny’s Protestant neighborhood.

After chance brings Fiona and Danny together, their love of the band Fading Stars, big dreams, and desire to run away



from their families unites them. Danny and Fiona must help one another overcome the burden of their parents’ pasts. But one ugly truth might shatter what they have.

All the Walls of Belfast will be released on March 12th, 2019 by Turner Publishing Company.

All The Walls Of Belfast is now available for PREORDER on Amazon , Barnes & Noble,

and IndieBound.

Sarah is a YA author focused on exploring contemporary issues facing youth today. Her debut novel, ALL THE WALLS OF BELFAST, will be released on March 12th, 2019 (Turner Publishing Company).



Pictured: Sarah J. Carlson
Photo by: Karla Angel



Generation Next

By Conor O'Connor

Seek comfort, seek challenge. I recently attended a conference with SLU's Residence Hall Association, a student government organization that advocates for the students who live on campus. The main goal of our delegation was to be chosen to host the 2019 conference at SLU. To achieve this goal, I had assembled a team of over a dozen student leaders to help construct a bid for it. Somehow, we were able to put together a 60-page bid chock-full of information, including an in-depth budget outlining expenses we anticipated having. After writing the bid, one step remained: presenting the bid at conference. While I was confident in the abilities of my team, I was terrified at the prospect of having to present the bid in front of a hundred or so student leaders representing colleges across the Midwest.

By the time our van reached Rolla, Missouri (Missouri University of Science and Technology hosted the conference) on the Friday of conference weekend, my anxiety level had increased significantly. My breath was ragged, my palms were sweaty. My mind wandered between worst-case scenarios and daydreams of an amazing conference yet-to-come. Before our actual presentation, we were given the opportunity to practice. Initially, we found ourselves on shaky ground. We didn't know where to stand, who to look at, and what order to present in. We stuttered information we knew by heart. With the support of our fellow delegates, however, we went through our presentation one more time and successfully found our footing. We cheerfully introduced ourselves to the empty lecture hall

and high-fived each other as we wrapped up.

Despite our success during practice, I still found myself feeling nervous. Presenting to an audience of table and chairs is one thing; presenting to an audience of real people is an entirely different one. Before I had a chance to dwell for too long, our delegation headed over to where the opening ceremonies for the conference were being held. As the keynote speaker came on stage, my friend Catie handed me a stack of notecards. "Take one and pass it down" she whispered. I did as she asked, and took a moment to glance down at what I was holding. On the left side of the card was a picture of a hamster covering in a box, with the words "Seek comfort" in boldface font typed above it. On the right side was a picture of a goldfish leaping out of its fishbowl, with the words "Seek challenge" displayed below it. Intrigued, I decided to tune in to what the keynote speaker was saying.

"Isn't it odd that, going into

these conferences, we have this desire to meet people from other institutions," he said, "Yet when push comes to shove, more often than not, we tend to hang out with people from our own institution?" His words were relatable; I'd been to one conference before and had found myself hesitant to branch out and meet other delegates. He continued: "My advice for you all is to heed these two, simple words: 'Here. Now.' Before every talk I give, I take time to reflect on why I'm here, what led me to this moment, and how I want to impact the people I'm speaking to. Seek challenge during this conference, get out of your comfort zone and make a difference."

What he said struck a chord with me. I've spent a lot of my own life either regretting things I can't change or worrying about what the future holds. In this way, living in the present has been a constant struggle for me. While rolling with the punches may seem intuitive to some people, that hasn't always been the

case for me.

The rest of the speaker's presentation emphasized the effect one person can have on the world. Every action a person makes, he said, causes a ripple in the life of somebody else. Sometimes that ripple is small, but other times that action can have a huge effect on a person's life. The man, whose name is Paul Wesselmann, even goes by "The Ripples Guy" on social media.

Armed with the advice of Mr. Wesselmann, I tried my best to focus on what was in front of me. Breakfast the next morning was terse but brimmed with excitement. My team and I were pumped to present what we'd worked so hard on. Several hours later, battered and exhausted by the sheer volume of questions we fielded, we got word of the Boardroom's decision: We won the bid! I was overjoyed at what my team and I had accomplished, and proud of myself for not only confronting, but seeking the challenge that I had been so afraid of. That's all I can ever really ask of myself.



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UPCOMING CONCERTS AND PROGRAMS



Click: A Collection of Frozen Moments in Time

Stacy McReynolds' exhibit features concert photography, sporting events and IAHC functions.
Through Sunday, December 16 • Hours: 1-5pm on Saturdays, 1-4pm on Sundays



IAHC Holiday Food Drive

Show your holiday spirit by donating to the Holiday Food Drive at the Center, benefiting the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Items most needed are canned fruit, cereal, pasta, rice and soup.
Through January 2, 2019



Christmas Bazaar

Deck the IAHC halls at the annual Bazaar and a full day of festive fun with Mass at 10:30am, breakfast, craft and bake sale, live music, dance, children's activities and visit from Santa Claus. Breakfast tickets: \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.
Sunday, December 2, 9am-9pm • Mass 10:30am • Irish breakfast 11:30am



Paddy Homan & the Noble Call Irish Christmas

This concert takes audiences back to the 'hearth' of an Irish Christmas, filled with songs, stories, rousing music and traditional Irish dancing.
Sunday, December 9, 5pm • \$20 IAHC members and \$22 general admission



New Year's Eve Party

Ring in the New Year in the Fifth Province with dancing, hors d'oeuvres, a champagne toast at midnight, party favors and entertainment by Gerry and Kara Eadie and Joe Cullen.
Monday, December 31, 7pm • \$35



Connla

Labeled as the hottest new group out of Northern Ireland, Connla have been making an impact on the folk and traditional scene.
Saturday, January 19, 2019, 8pm • \$20 for IAHC members and \$22 for general admission



Irish School Winter Semester

Kids ages 8-14 can experience Irish culture through art, music, dance, drama, language and more.
Monday and Wednesday session: January 21-February 20
Saturday session: January 26-February 23 • Five-week session is \$55 per student with an IAHC family membership or \$75 per student for non-members



December Entertainment in the Fifth Province

12/1: Kathleen Keane and Peter Brady	12/15: Without U2
12/2: Christmas Bazaar live music noon-7pm	12/21: Murphy Roche Irish Music Club, 9pm
12/7: Jimmy Keane and John McDonagh	12/22: Joe and Declan McShane
12/8: Rory Makem	12/28: Dooley Brothers
12/14: James Conway and Friends Session	12/29: Dirty Wellies

All music starts at 8pm unless otherwise noted • free



**PADDY HOMAN
& THE NOBLE CALL
IRISH CHRISTMAS**

**Sunday
December 9, 2018
5pm**

**\$20 IAHC members
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Mick Broderick



Dave Curley



Larry Nugent



Brendan Bulger



Brian Cunningham



CONNLA in CONCERT

Saturday, January 19, 2019 • 8pm

**\$20 for IAHC Members
\$22 for General Admission**



the heritage line

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER Chicago, Illinois



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President's Message

Season's Greetings to you and yours from all of us at the Irish American Heritage Center!

Make sure to come visit us this December and see the halls all decked and the Christmas spirit in its glory. With the help of the Christmas (Bazaar) elves, our Center has never looked better!



While the Christmas season is all about counting our blessings, hanging with family and celebrating with friends, it is also about the spirit of giving.

This year has been an extraordinary one for us. Our hard-working staff, Board of Directors and countless volunteers have done an incredible job of expanding our cultural programs while strengthening our financial performance, community outreach and fundraising efforts. In 2019, we anticipate continuing these efforts along with accomplishing some significant capital improvements that have been in the plans for quite some time.

I hope that all members have had the opportunity to review the IAHC annual report that was sent out last month. We hope you had time to note all of the accomplishments and achievements of the IAHC in 2018.

Our Annual Appeal campaign was mailed recently and I'd like to ask that you take a look to see if you can help. This big old building of ours does not take care of itself,

so it is through donations like the appeal that we can continue to fund improvements throughout the building every year. Any donation, large or small, would be much appreciated and very helpful to our Center. If you didn't receive the Annual Appeal mailing, call the office and we'll mail you one.

If you're still feeling generous, the 6th annual IAHC Holiday Food Drive is going right now and runs through January 2.

In 2017, we collected 1,614 pounds of food which provided 1,345 meals for the Greater Chicago Food Depository of Chicago. You can bring in your non-perishable goods all month long and bring the holiday spirit to families throughout the City of Chicago.

There are a number of fantastic musical offerings worth attending in December including a special Christmas concert with Paddy Homan & the Noble Call on Sunday, December 9 at 5pm and FREE concerts in the pub with Jimmy Keane and John McDonagh, Christmas with Rory Makem and many more. Don't forget Sean Cleland's free Thursday Shindig session every Thursday night in the Pub. So there you have it. There's plenty of opportunities to enter the Winter Wonderland that the IAHC will become in December!

Wishing you and yours a Very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!
Mike Shevlin, President

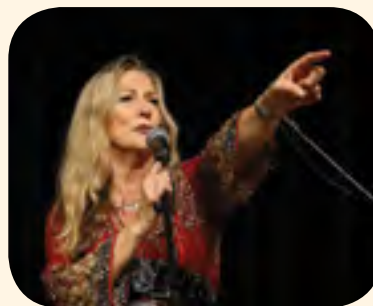
December 2018

12/1	Nathan Carter in Concert	Auditorium	8pm
	Shamrock American Club Social	Shamrock American Room	8pm
12/2	Christmas Bazaar	Whole Building	9am
	Bazaar Mass	Auditorium	10:30am
	Bazaar Breakfast	Erin Room	11:30am
12/7	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	Room 309	8pm
	Guinness Themed Sip and Paint - SOLD OUT	Erin Room	6:30pm
12/8	Christmas Tea - SOLD OUT	Erin Room	11am
	St. Patrick Fathers Social	Erin Room	8pm
12/9	Shamrock American Club Christmas Mass and Breakfast	Shamrock American Room	9:30am
	Great Books Club: <i>Mrs Osmond</i>	Library	1pm
	Paddy Homan & the Noble Call Concert	Auditorium	5pm
12/18	Celtic Women Interational Meeting	Room 304	7pm
12/24	Christmas Eve	Building Closed	
12/25	Merry Christmas	Building Closed	
12/26		Building Closed	
12/30	Genealogy Workshop	Library	1pm
12/31	New Year's Eve Party	Fifth Province	7pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Mon-Fri	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	4pm-8pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
Wed	Traditional Irish Music Session	Room 111	7pm
	Na Gaeil Irish Language Class	Library and Room 304	7pm
	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
Thurs	Memoir Class	Library	7pm
	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal	Room 306	7pm
	The Thursday Shindig Music Session	Fifth Province	7pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	10am-8pm
	Na Gaeil Irish Language Class	Library	10:45am
	Stacy McReynolds Photography Exhibit (through 12/16)	Art Gallery	1pm-5pm
Sun	Knotwork Celtic Art Class (no class 12/23)	Varies	10am
	Celtic Art Portfolio (no class 12/23)	Varies	1pm
	Stacy McReynolds Photography Exhibit (through 12/16)	Art Gallery	1pm-4pm

Library Hours: Tuesday 10am to 2pm | Wednesday 4pm to 8pm | Saturday 10am to 2pm



Thanks to all of our members, volunteers, performers and community for an amazing 2018!

The Heritage Line Staff

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Meg Buchanan, Laura Coyle, Catherine Kelly, Nancy Moore, Sheila Murphy, Mike Shevlin, Becky Tatz

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Healy Scanlon Law

This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. The articles 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 and four "Of Counsel" 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) (across from the Daley Center). 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.

Decades ago we wrote, and have since updated, a chapter in a book to educate Illinois attorneys on how to represent individuals involved in vehicle accidents. While our chapter "Intersectional Collisions" is written to educate attorneys through the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE), the overall subject matter should also be of interest to the general public.

This is the second in a series of articles in which we will be addressing some of the general topics in both our chapter and the book, Proving Fault in Auto Accident Cases.

Controlled Intersections

Last month we discussed some concerns that arise when vehicles approach an uncontrolled intersection; that is an intersection that does not have stop signs or stop lights for any direction of traffic. While traffic signs and lights can alleviate some of the confusion that may be present at an uncontrolled intersection, there are a number of issues that must be considered even if an intersection is equipped with traffic lights or signs.

Green light

The Illinois motor vehicle code provides:

Vehicular traffic facing a circular green signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits either such turn. Vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right of way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk at the time such signal is exhibited.

A driver with a green signal has the right-of-way and may presume that cross-traffic will obey its own traffic signals. However, a motorist's right-of-way at an intersection is not an absolute right, even when facing a green signal. While the signal may be in the driver's favor, he

or she must still always proceed with caution and concern for the safety of others. For instance, if a driver sees another automobile approaching an intersection at a high rate of speed, that driver may not blindly proceed into the intersection in front of that automobile assuming that the other motorist will stop for the light.

Yellow light

The duty of care imposed when facing a yellow light is even greater because the driver must be aware that his or her right-of-way is ending. The Illinois motor vehicle code provides:

Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal is thereby warned that the related green movement is being terminated or that a red indication will be exhibited immediately thereafter.

Whether entering an intersection on a yellow light is negligent will generally be determined by examining the speed of the vehicle, the distance from the intersection, the location of other vehicles, and other factors such as weather and traffic conditions. While cross-traffic does not have an unqualified right-of-way as soon as the light turns green, the driver entering on a yellow light must be aware that cross-traffic is about to proceed.

Even a car approaching a standing green light must proceed with care and recognize and guard against the possibility that the green light may turn yellow and then red, putting an end to his right to proceed and giving that right to vehicles approaching on the intersecting street. A driver in such a situation may not attempt to "beat" the light. Instead, it is a driver's duty to drive at a careful speed and have his car under control in anticipation of the light changing.

Red light

The Illinois vehicle code states:

[V]ehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal alone shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if there is no such stop line, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or if there is no such crosswalk, then before entering the intersection, and shall remain standing until an indication to proceed is shown.

This is a very basic concept: a driver facing a red light must stop until the light turns green and it is safe to proceed. However, an exception to this general principle arises when a vehicle has proceeded into an intersection on a green light in anticipation of making a left turn, but the signal changes prior to completing that turn. In this situation, the smooth and orderly flow of traffic requires that all vehicles lawfully within an intersection when a light change occurs must be afforded an opportunity to clear and must be permitted to pass through by all opposing vehicles. A driver at a red light that changes to green must also be aware of this rule, as that driver must make sure to allow any traffic that had proceeded into the intersection to clear before proceeding on his own green light.

Other exceptions to remaining at a red light are the "right turn on red" and the "left turn on red" provisions in the vehicle code:

...vehicular traffic facing any steady red signal may cautiously enter the intersection to turn right, or to turn left from a one-way street into a one-way street, after stopping....After stopping, the driver shall yield the right of way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time such driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction or roadways...

Unless directed otherwise by a "No Turn on Red" sign, it is permissible for a driver faced with a red light to make a right turn after stopping, provided that traffic is clear and it is safe to do so. To make a legal left turn on red, the vehicle must be on a one-way street and making a left-hand turn

onto another one-way street in which traffic is flowing to the left.

Another issue that can arise with respect to traffic lights, particularly in the Midwest this time of year, is weather. On occasion, traffic signals may become obscured by snow or ice, or may otherwise malfunction. In that instance, the intersection should be treated as an all-way stop, with each vehicle coming to a complete stop and then ensuring it is safe before proceeding into the intersection.

We recently tried a case where, unfortunately, a young woman in her early thirties was killed at a controlled intersection with the lights in one direction covered by snow. The defendant driver, not able to determine whether it was a green or red light, just reduced his speed rather than coming to stop and collided at over 20 miles per hour with the woman's vehicle that was in the intersection on a green light. Defense argued that the woman knew there was a problem with the lights because, before the collision she had stopped at the intersection when she had a green light, saw other cars on the intersecting roadway go through what defense argued she should have known was a red light, and then under those circumstances proceeded into the intersection. Despite those arguments, in the end, defendant's conduct was considered much more egregious, and the woman's estate rightfully recovered a multi-million dollar award.

In sum, all drivers should take care to keep a proper lookout and proceed with caution when approaching an intersection, even if that intersection is controlled with traffic signals. Many accidents will be avoided if driver keep aware of their surroundings, anticipate the actions of other drivers, and use common sense, rather than rely solely on traffic signals for guidance.

By:

Martin Healy, Jr. (above left) and (right) Patrick C. Anderson





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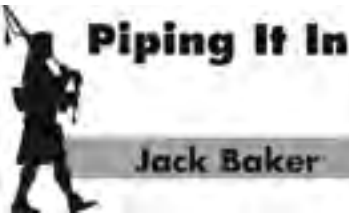
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Tuesday – Friday:	6am-6pm	Sunday:	7am – 2pm

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performance. The five Lads, Bryan Brookes, Phil Franck, Josh Franck, John McKewen and Daniel

McKewen possess lots of musical talent, great voices, enjoyable stage presence and some of the best beards in Irish music. They

The Best of 2018

As I sit here, in mid November, trying to fill my space I come to the realization that I have no new cds to write about! Oh yes, Derek Warfield and the Young Wolftones, www.theyoungwolf-tones.com, have a new one out, but I haven't got it yet and I'm really looking forward to hearing it but I can't review it if I don't have it. I also am aware that Ed Miller, www.songsoscotland.com, has a new release but I haven't received it yet either. I could, and have, sat and listened to both Derek and Ed for hours on end and I look forward to reviewing their new recordings next month but that doesn't help me out much with this month's column, the last of the year. So with no further drama, I guess I'll just delve into the recordings I have reviewed this year and try to figure out what was best.

I keep my new cds in a pile next to my cd player next to my desk in the basement. Wife keeps me chained down here so I don't get in the way. She comes down every so often and beats me with a rolled up newspaper so I don't lose my edge.

Periodically, like when the pile falls over, I put the cds I haven't been listening to away in the vaults, leaving the ones I'm still listening to in the pile. Subsequently it should be relatively easy to reach up and see which cds have managed to hold my interest all year.

Right off the bat, the first cd found by my clutching fingers is "Everyone In!" by the Drowsy Lads, www.thedrowsylads.com. This is for sure my choice for the best Irish-American band for 2018. I was lucky to see the Lads a couple times this year and, along with their excellent cd, they put on one hell of a live



get the crowd on their feet and deliver a good time, every time. They have recorded several excellent cds but their new one is, by far, their best and has pride of place in my play pile.

Another cd that has never left



my play pile is "Radiance" by The Fire, www.firescottishband.com. Composed of David Brewer on pipes, Rebecca Lomnicky on fiddle and Adam Hendey on guitar, The Fire is all acoustic and blends their instruments the way Battlefield Band used to. Master musicians all, these three talented folks also write a bunch of the tunes on this cd and there are some fine tunes there. I've been playing their cd a lot because no one really has a sound quite like theirs and I really enjoy it. I do love the bagpipes and David Brewer is a great piper but when you blend in fiddle and guitar just right



you get a beautiful sound that's very unique. I have to give The Fire the honor of the best Scottish-American band cd for 2018.

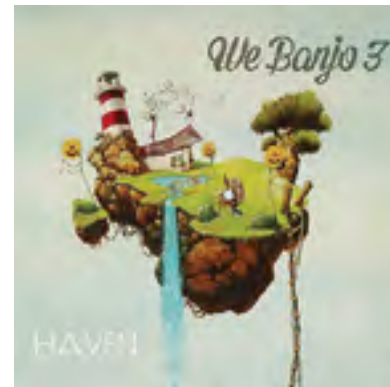
Fishing in my play copy pile gets me Enda Seery's cd "Raining Notes", www.endaseery.com, and my easy choice for best instrumental recording of 2018. Enda sparkles on flute and whistle plus he's a fine tune smith.

I've listened to this recording so much that I'm wearing out the packaging. There was plenty of stiff competition for Enda but after much contemplation, his is the best for me.

Lastly we have to move on to the overall best cd of 2018 and here there is little argument. We Banjo 3 dominated the festival scene this year, again. Their stage shows were full of energy and their following grew exponentially. Their release of "Haven" signaled their best recorded work yet and a best seller for me,

quite a shock I must say in today's market. Their appearance on stage at a multi-stage festival meant an exodus from all the other stages. They even had the coolest t-shirts! However, all the excellent music, great performances, great recording and cool shirts were not their only

claim to fame. No other band did as much charitable work as these guys, though they kept it quiet. Really a great bunch in so many ways. That said, it is my humble opinion that "Haven", by We Banjo 3, is my pick for best overall recording for 2018.



Here's hoping we all have a happy Christmas, a joyous and safe new year, and the best Hogmany ever. I'll catch your comments at store@ram-pantlion.com

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler

Who is John Hume?

He is a former politician from Co. Derry. He was born in 1937. He won the Nobel peace prize in 1998, a recipient of the Gandhi peace prize in 2001, and Martin Luther king peace award, 1999. In 2010 he was named Ireland's greatest. He also received the iBAM! Award as Person of the Year. Pope Benedict XVI made Hume a knight commander of the Papal Order of St. Gregory the Great in 2012. He has earned 44 honorary doctorate degrees. I am sure your thinking how many awards can one earn? For someone to wake up every day, go to work and just be a decent human being is enough work for most of us. But John Hume I think is so recognized and given such high honors because he was a man trying to bridge us and bring about peace. He was a leader of the Social Democratic/Labor Party, member of the European parliament and Northern Ireland assembly. He is the definition of a statesman. He is regarded as one of the most important figures in recent political history. He has



had many noble goals, projects and ideas. He is one of the main characters of the Northern Ireland peace process. John was born in Derry with a Catholic background, but his great grandfather was a Presbyterian from Scotland. At one-point Hume thought of becoming a priest but he became a teacher instead. He was always into social justice concerns. He became a leading figure in the civil rights movement in the 1960's. Hume was the founding member of Derry Credit Union. He became the youngest member of the Irish league of Credit Unions. A founding member of the Social Democratic and Labor party. They say Hume was directly involved with "secret talks" with the British government and Sinn Fein to try to come to an agreement. Hume liked to continue dialogues with both sides. The Hume-Adams-process eventually delivered IRA ceasefire. Hume is recognized as being the thinker behind many political movements in Northern Ireland A few things Hume's has said, "all the things I've been doing it's the thing I'm

proudest of because no movement has done more good for the people of Ireland north and south than the credit movement." "I thought that I had a duty to help those that weren't as lucky as me." Hume was an independent Nationalist member of the parliament of Northern Ireland in 1969. In 1971 he joined Westminster MP's on a 48-hour hunger strike to protest at the internment without trial of hundreds of suspected Irish Republicans. Hume retired about 15 years ago from politics, but he and his wife Pat continue to be active in promoting integration, issues around poverty and the Credit Union. Hume spoke in Seton Hall University in New Jersey in 2005 and in St. Thomas University in Canada in 2007. Hume holds the position of club president at his local football team in Derry city. Sadly, Hume has suffered from dementia (memory loss, confusion, change in behavior, delusions, loss of sense of smell, however it effects everyone differently) since the late 1990's. I have always admired John Hume and I waited until a beautiful time of year to honor and remember him for all his work, effort, change & peace he helped to build in Ireland.

Gaelic for the month
Peace-siochain
Leader-ceannaire
Award-damhachtain

Wife Material Underscore Theatre

Review by Terence Boyle
Want a laugh? A naughty and gloriously bawdy tale of the sexual adventures of a woman in search of passion. Wife Material is hilariously funny. You will laugh despite your discomfort. Jamie Shriner's work is tirelessly disconcerting, in the best possible way. She exhales her feminine prowess

journey towards love and sex. Underscore Theatre have a hit with this pussy hat play. Shriner is unapologetic about her natural cravings and desires. Her humour, sometimes self-effacing, is, for the most part, directed towards the hypocrisy of those who sit in judgment of powerful women, a pertinent comment for the present



time. Shriner must surely count



Chaucer among her muses.

The musical might make Mary Poppins blush, send Maria von Trapp straight to the confessional and even cause the halo of Mary Magdalen to tip, but it is refreshing to hear a woman boast about her sex-ploits without shame. If you want to learn something about what women want, then, this show is for you.

Wife Material will play thru December 9, 2018 at Underscore's newly-re-

Irish Proverb

*Deep Peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the watching shepherds to you.
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.*

Molanive@yahoo.com

110 In the Shade at BoHo Theatre

Review by Terence Boyle
Based on Richard Nash's play Rainmaker, this musical adaptation certainly gives value for mon-

ey. BoHo theatre have managed to bring us a terrific show, without skimping on the talent, for a fraction of the price of what it would cost on Broadway. From the set design to the Choreography, there is no shortage of hard work and gifted people. 110 In the Shade takes us into the depression-era

can conjure up false hope, and, in this case, it comes in the form of a trickster called Starbuck. Posing as a rainmaker, he dupes the Curry family into paying him for his services. A charlatan he may be, but in his wild schemes, Starbuck transforms Lizzie Curry's life from an old maid to something beautiful.



modeled, permanent home, The Understudy, 4609 N. Clark St. in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood. Tickets are currently available at underscoretheatre.org

The Understudy, 4609 N. Clark St., Chicago
Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 pm, Saturdays at 3 pm & 7:30 pm; Sundays at 3 pm.

Please note: there will not be a performance on Thursday, November 22 (Thanksgiving).

Tickets: Previews: \$15. Regular run: \$20 - \$25. Students \$15 on Thursdays. Tickets at underscoretheatre.org.

Benefit performance: Sunday, December 1 at 7:30 pm. Proceeds benefit Sarah's Circle, a non-profit supporting homeless and at-risk women.

www.sarahs-circle.org.

In a time when we face our own uncertainties, this musical is life affirming. Against a backdrop of 'fake news' and confidence men in power, there is still hope. Neala Barron, as Lizzie, is such a superb actor with a rich singing voice. Her vocal strengths are complimented by the sonorous voices of Denzel Tsopnang, as File, and Tommy Thurston, as Starbuck. Together, with a gifted cast, this trio of voices bring this extravaganza of heartfelt melodies to life.

This show will charm, and persuade you to believe the best when the worst is all you see.

Through December 16 Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00 pm and Sundays at 2:00 pm.

Tickets on sale at www.BoHoTheatre.com or (773) 975-8150. Tickets are \$25 for previews and \$35 for regular performances.



Out of this World

As I watched a news item recently in relation to the latest mission to Mars, my thoughts turned to this planet in which we live. We have the money and resources to tackle and eradicate world hunger but we choose not to do so. We spend billions of dollars on space exploration each year. Is this for the benefit of acquiring additional knowledge about the universe in which we live, or is there another and much deeper motive?

Our little planet is under a lot of pressure from a variety of sources, which may question its continuation as the future place of habitation for us, the human race. Since the days of the Industrial Revolution and our continual drive towards progress, we have started to interfere with the stability of the ozone layer. This could ultimately lead to the melting of the glaciers, the subsequent rise in ocean levels and an overall temperature increase in the atmosphere.

The tsunami at the end of 2004 actually shook the earth and if it had been a little stronger, it could have managed to take us out of orbit and drive us into eternal darkness. The earth is moving on five continental plates and when these encounter each other, it can lead to major earthquakes beneath the oceans and on the surface. Experts are in agreement that in the space of the next three billion years the moon is moving away from us and the sun is coming closer. No prizes for guessing what is going to happen in this instance.

There has been much discussion and alarm in relation to North Korea's preparation for nuclear capability recently. However, the biggest nuclear threat to the world may not be



from a super power but that which is bubbling under Yellowstone Park in the USA as we speak. If this ever explodes, it will potentially take half of North America with it and plunge the world into darkness and eternal winters for many decades afterwards. Mankind is also accelerating its own downfall by poisoning the rivers and lakes, promoting acid rain, destroying the natural forests and wiping out more and more species on an annual basis.

As you can see, our planetary home is not as stable as we think, and I firmly believe that one of the major objectives of the current space programme will be to find us a new planet on which to live over the next ten thousand years. A Plan B is being put in place.

The objective would be to find a planet similar enough to our own. In the beginning, we would have to construct an artificial oxygen atmosphere mantle to support life, and then over an evolutionary period we would begin to adapt to the particular climate of the planet and its universe. It may sound a little farfetched, but an amount of change can happen in the space of one thousand years. Remember, one thousand years ago, we were riding to the Crusades on horseback with the primary weapons being the sword and the longbow.

Change is inevitable, and change will bring far-reaching and abrupt challenges for us as a human race on planet earth in the millennia to come. In terms of evolutionary time, our short lives hardly register on the radar screen, and we are not as important as we would like to think we are. However, as intellectual beings we have a moral responsibility to take care of our planet while we are here so that it can be passed on as a viable entity for the benefit of future generations. It is important that we take care of it while we are here, as good planets are hard to find.

'The earth is the cradle of humanity, but mankind cannot stay in the cradle forever'

- Konstantin Tsiolkovsky.

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Bad Things Happen to Good People – Merry Christmas!

The Romans had consolidated their holdings after the murder of Gaius Julius Caesar, following a series of costly and bloody civil wars and the purges of political enemies of Octavius Caesar.

The nephew and adopted heir of Julius Caesar won the hearts and minds of the peoples and cultures that adorned Mare Nostrum, the Mediterranean or "Our Sea" of the Romans, by bribery and the threat of swift and brutal military intervention in Syria, Judea, Cyprus, Cappadocia, Cilicia and Greece. This coercion became known as the Pax Romana, "The Roman Peace."

Part of the coercion was a tax on the whole world, which is the background

for a Jewish carpenter and his large-with-child wife to journey to the root homestead of the husband – Bethlehem in Judea.

Rotten things happen to people and somehow a beautiful end is fulfilled.

As I write this, thousands of people are fleeing flames in California. Days ago they held title to the most breath-taking properties on earth. Why is that?

Almost a year before I was born, a British double-decker bus rounded a corner in Gillingham, England and smashed a phalanx of 10-15 year old Royal Marine Cadets as they marched to a boxing match, as a treat. On Dec 1, 1951, bus driver John William George Samson, 57, who had driven a bus for twenty-five of his forty years with the company, drove the route that he was all too familiar with in all kinds of weather as usually had done so; not knowing that Lieutenant Clarence Murrayfield Carter, a regular Royal Marine Officer, had ordered the cadets into three platoons, the older boys in Royal Marine uniform battle-dress and berets formed the two advance columns and last formation consisted of the youngest boys not yet in uniform.

Sometime around 5:30 PM. Mr. Sampson drove his bus into this last formation of fifty two boys – killing seventeen

immediately, seven succumbed to horrific injuries.

Mr. Sampson was driving according to the rules – 20-25 mph in foggy conditions near the dockyards, as he had done so for decades.

The Royal Marine Officer in charge had posted out older cadets to maintain discipline and serve as look-outs.

The little boys, the youngest 9 and oldest victim 13, were on their way to an exciting event.

A good man only doing his job would change all of that.

Scores of parents and relatives and the entire United Kingdom was paralyzed with grief even though our globe was afire with combat from Malaysia and Korea to Greece and Hungary due to Communist aggression, Jim Crow in America, north and south, as well as the goings on of the American crime syndicate. The death of children made people cry out in anger at GOD. 'How could YOU let this happen?'

Fair question. God was not driving the bus and Mr. Sampson was cleared of any and all wrong doing. God was not leading the cadets and the Royal Marine Officer was cleared of any and all wrong doing.

How could GOD allow this to happen? Ask the Judeans. Ask the Cappadocian's, Ask the Cilicians of the Caesar August. As Mr. Samson the Gillingham bus driver. Ask the families of 1,000 Oaks. Ask the families of Malibu.

Joseph went to Bethlehem and the Son

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of God, the Prince of Peace, the Sacred Heart Himself, Kid Christmas was born in a manger.

On my Birthday, November 8, 2018, I read about the massacre of 12 people enjoying a night of county music.

Since then, thousands of people have watched their home go up in flames.

Is this any reason to deny God?

I don't think so. Things happen. Sometimes they happen because of things we have actually done – that is called sin. We own that. Sometimes things happen beyond our control and that is called being alive.

What do we take away from all the bad things that happen? I hope that I try see some good in things. Screw up? Avoid the occasion of screwing up again.

If we are in pain – see someone who actually knows how pain must be addressed.

God gave us life. He did not create pedophile priests, the Chicago Mob, or the Santa Anna winds blowing flames along California's coast.

God sent his Son to take on our sins – free of charge.

Taxes, wildfires and careening buses out of nowhere will test all of us. Joseph went from his hometown of Nazareth to Bethlehem, 'because he was of the House and Family of David.'

It is nearing Christmas and I have disappointed people I love.

I gotta get to Mass.

See? Always something good comes of bad.

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A Cháirde

Congratulations to the winners of the Carraig Pub 5K in November! I am writing this too early to know their names, but I'm sure they were very fast and that they looked great in their new hoodies. Congratulations also to the Irish Rugby team for their victory over Italy in Chicago. And we were very pleased to welcome and congratulate some of the All Ireland winning Limerick hurlers when they visited, and we thank them for bringing the Liam McCarthy Cup with them.

"The holly green, the ivy green, the prettiest picture you've ever seen." Yes, our volunteers and decorators once again have shown their Christmas Spirit, and Gaelic Park looks beautiful indoors and out. We're ready for

all types of holiday parties and pub gatherings, and for our Irish Christmas Concert. Liam Durkin (the Bard of Mt. Greenwood?) will open the show, followed by Paddy Homan and the Noble Call, along with Brian Cunningham. The end of the month brings our ever-popular Family New Year's Eve Party, with a fun and noisy toast at 6:00 PM, and a dance floor full of kids, parents and grandparents. It's almost time to say good-bye to 2018, the year of Irish Language. We had a good year thanks to your support, and hope that your 2018 was good, too. Our board of directors, volunteers and staff all wish you a very Happy Christmas, and a healthy 2019.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan

2018 CGP Calendar of Events 2018

DECEMBER

Dec 2	Classic Carvery - Music Ray Gavin	3pm
Dec 5	Monthly Musical Luncheon* Music by Joe McShane	Noon
Dec 9	Mass & Breakfast	
Dec 9	Classic Carvery - Music TBD	3:00pm
Dec 14	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	7:30pm
Dec 16	Classic Carvery - Music Joe McShane	3:00pm

No Classic Carvery - Dec 23 and 30

* RR - Reservations Required 708.687.9323

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

Monday Evening Set Dancing	7:30pm
Tuesdays - Pub Trivia	
Tuesday Evening Ceili Dancing	7:30pm
Ceili Lessons	7:00pm
Sunday Evening CGP Radio Live WCEV 1450 AM	7:05-8:00pm



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Sat	Dec 1	Mulligan Stew	8:30pm
Fri	Dec 7	Ray Gavin	7:30pm
Sat	Dec 8	Kieran Byrne	8:30pm
Wed	Dec 12	Frank Rossi	6:00pm
Fri	Dec 14	Joe Cullen	7:30pm
Sat	Dec 15	Larry Nugent & Billy O'Donahue	8:30pm
Fri	Dec 21	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Sat	Dec 24	Bernie Glim Christmas Show	8:00pm
Fri	Dec 28	Jerry Haughey	7:30pm
Sat	Dec 29	TBD	

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Happy New Year!*



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Mingle & Jingle

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, 2018
 6:30-10:30pm - \$38.00 per person

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

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



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

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Our next monthly Mass & Breakfast Sunday, December 09, 2018

with Celebrant Fr. Mick Madigan Mass at 10am followed by Irish Breakfast in the Emerald Room Santa will stopping by after mass - bring your cameras!



Irish Breakfast consists of:
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Christmas at Gaelic Park



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MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2018

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Women's Little Christmas at Gaelic Park
 Sunday January 6, 2019 7:00pm

Join us for a fun-filled night Of music and laughter and who knows what else!

Little Christmas is a "ladies night out", rewarding women for their labors during the holiday season.

Drink specials and complimentary snacks.
 No Cover Charge

Please RSVP to reserve your seats. Phone 708-687-9323 Over 21's only



Rugby Bus Trippers Return Ireland vs. Italy (Ireland won)

TRIBUTE & DANCE
 Sunday, January 27, 2019
 HONOR & REMEMBER

Frank Burke 
Kevin Henry
Malachy Towey



2:00 - 7:00
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 A light dinner will be served @4:30
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 Margaret Mount 312-391-5151
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June Rookie and Trainers



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The Gaelic Park Junior Players production of *King Joan's Day* was a smashing success. Congratulations to writer/director Bill Gleason and all the cast & crew for a job well done! We look forward to seeing these talented young actors in many more productions on the Gaelic Park stage.

The Gaelic Park Players wrapped this hilarious story *Wigs on the Green* adapted and directed by Gail Lauryn. The performances each night filled the "house" with laughter and intrigue as the story unfolded with the tale of the swindle, the lilt of a song, bit of a dance, or debate about who would be allowed to attend the dance!

Be sure to join us February 22, 2019 for the Gaelic Park Players TRIVIA NIGHT!! Doors open at 7pm, Quiz starts at 8pm. Teams are max 6 people, but

as little as two is just as good. The cost is \$60/team. \$300-THREE HUNDRED cash prize to the winning team, with trophies to winners and runners-up. Make your team reservations with johndeivitt67@gmail.com and looking forward to seeing you there!

Gaelic Park Players have made the decision to "Take The Show On The Road"!

Each year the Gaelic Park Players is invited to perform at the Acting Irish International Theatre Festival. The next event will be held in Ireland for 2019, and travel to the festival in Listowel, Co. Kerry, Ireland. The group will be hosting a RAFFLE to help offset the costs of this trip and one lucky winner could "fly away" with the Grand Prize of 2-Round Trip Airline tickets valued at \$1,500! If you would like to join the group for the trip or purchase RAFFLE tickets, you are more than welcome! Please reach out to www.gaelicparkplayers.org for more information.



Sephira appeared at Gaelic Park on October 27, 2018

A Peek at Halloween 2018 Fun at Gaelic Park



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TAKE A MOMENT AND "LIKE" US!



Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Ready For A New Job In The New Year?

Many people consider the beginning of a new year as a good time to look for a different job. One reason for their decision may be driven by a careful look at their progress with their current employer this past year. I highly recommend an annual career assessment for everyone. Some of us just put off the personal review one year after another. You owe it to yourself to think your way through the journey of the past year. For example, were you given the opportunities for success that had been promised to you? Is your benefactor still in a position where he/she can be helpful to you or have they retired, transferred or did you simply fall out of favor? Whatever the reason, take this opportunity to plan out your goals for next year.

Over the years, it has been observed that there are seven obstacles that seem to stymie job search progress again and again. Perhaps to offset the defeatist tendencies that many people encounter, you might focus on the John Lennon song, "Imagine." This lovely song could inspire you to contemplate how successful your job search is going to be. In fact, with the right attitude, your search could surface a job far more to your liking than your present one; perhaps even your ideal job.

The first of the seven obstacles is the need to overcome the inertia that immobilizes many job seekers. Many people are frightened at the prospect of a long, drawn out job search. This fear is not unusual; it is quite common. But the job seeker must get beyond this fear and stay focused on the objective—finding a good job, that pays well, and will provide ample opportunities for career growth.

Second, it is essential that you learn to handle the rejections inherent in the job search process. It is unrealistic to expect success

in every interview. No one hits a home run every time they are at bat. Analyze your rejections and learn from them. Clearly some rejections will provide you with some really good ideas.

Third, organize your approach to your job search. You should decide on the ingredients of your ideal job, before you are too far into the search process. Develop your "story" or "sales pitch" before you start calling on prospective employers. Recognize that most job seekers find their jobs through personal contacts—not necessarily family and close friends; they can be business colleagues or old classmates. But you need to make sure and control the narrative, even with close friends and family members. In truth, many of us don't really know a lot of specifics about our friends; what we know is that they are friends. Think of your job search as a marketing campaign for yourself. To this day, I find that I am still learning new, pertinent things about people I have known for the better part of my life.

Fourth, talk to people face to face. Virtually everyone presents themselves better face to face. Yes, emails, texts, skype and phone calls are important in the process, but personal contact is critical. Time spent prepping yourself for an interview can be a game changer. In brief, if you can't tell me why I should hire you, who can? What are your strengths? For that matter, what are your weaknesses? You need to become comfortable answering questions that you don't like. You should be able to start answering those questions the moment they are asked. In my experience of interviewing 10,000 to 15,000 people, most interviewees don't give a polished presentation of their significant accomplishments. Outside of the interview, they will say, "I don't

want to brag" because it's deeply ingrained in us to avoid bragging. So remind yourself, if you did it, then you are simply reporting it.

Fifth, persistence is absolutely key in the job search process. Emulate someone whom you really admire for their determination and commitment. Don't quit without a definite rejection. Don't let your ego control your annoyance; there are companies who simply have a slow and inefficient recruiting process. Follow up with the slow ones; perhaps some of the best prospects will walk away from them and leave the opening available for you and others.

Sixth, Remember YOU are in control. Often people will surrender control of the process to their outplacement consultant, head hunter, or successful brother-in-law. Don't do that. Develop a system that you are comfortable with. Remember, if you are not in control, no one is.

Seventh, Do your homework—on the industry, on the company, if possible on the interviewer and finally, on the process itself. Showing the interviewer that you have done your homework thoroughly will speak volumes about your professionalism. Go to your local library or bookstore and locate

and digest two or three books on finding a job. It seems to me that the computer was created for just such situations. It will help you understand every aspect of the job search.

If you can recognize and overcome these seven obstacles, you will have a far better chance of landing your ideal job than the average "bear." Good hunting. 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 Thoreau--Poet. "The truth most of us miss in that great quotation is that success beyond anything we might now imagine-lies in wait for those who can put together enough courage to actually live the life they imagine." Earl Nightingale, legend in the field of motivation.

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Poppies, Protest and the Past

Remembrance Sunday, November 11th 2018, passed off as it always does in United Kingdom with an efflorescence throughout the disunited polity of red artificial flowers worn on lapels to commemorate 'the fallen' in the Great War, 1914-18. The only problem is that that is not all the poppy symbolises.

The association of the poppy with the WWI dead derives from a poem by a Canadian Lieutenant-Colonel, John Mc-

Crae:

'Take up our quarrel with the foe!

To you from failing hands we throw

The torch; be yours to hold it high!

If ye break faith with us who die

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow

In Flanders fields'.

The poppy, according to this verse, represents an incitement to war and the rallying cry in

a recruitment campaign. Given that the poem was published in 1915, it played its part in thickening the supply of young volunteers for WWI. Not enough though: by January 1916, men were being conscripted in Britain. Ultimately conscripted soldiers outnumbered volunteers, which gives the lie to the myth of the gallant patriot leaping to sacrifice himself for his country. It is also to write out of history the mass protests against WWI conscription, something that suits the British government eminently well. The soldiers made their sacrifice for King and country—so the rhetoric goes—yet it is more plausible to assert that Britain sacrificed the soldiers. Unfortunately, the explosive device within the poppy's delicate bud is rarely perceived in Britain today; and public figures who do not wear a poppy in the run up to Remembrance Sunday are systematically hectored.

In 2015, for example, actress Sienna Miller was pilloried for not wearing a poppy when she was interviewed on the Graham Norton Show. She later explained: 'Of course, I don't think there's anyone in this country who isn't grateful and respectful and never would want to cause offence and wear a poppy all the time'. Well, not quite. Negative reaction to the poppy is reasonably prevalent and it is, at a minimum, worthwhile considering why some people resent the pressure to wear it.

During WWI, an average of 6,000 soldiers were killed per day over a four year period. It is hardly surprising that a government substantially culpable for this level of carnage should try to focus people's attention on the victims rather than the victimisers—lest uncomfortable questions arise about its machinations, past and present. As poet Wilfred Owen put it, elders who encourage the young to die for their country spread the 'old lie' that it is 'sweet and proper' to do so.

Before the Troubles, it was much more common for na-

tionalists and unionists alike to remember the WWI dead in town squares throughout the North in November, and to wear the poppy. After 1969, many Republicans consciously repudiated those affinities; and attacked those, typically from a unionist background, who retained them. Hence the IRA's horrific bombing of Protestant civilians in Enniskillen on Remembrance Sunday 1987.

The massacre at Enniskillen is always in the backdrop when a new crop of Sinn Féin politicians, who are seeking distance from the IRA's violent campaign, comment on the poppy. For example, in an RTÉ television debate in October, interviewer Claire Byrne pushed Sinn Féin presidential candidate Liadh Ní Riada about her attitude towards wearing a poppy, which put Ní Riada in a double-bind. If she were elected head of state, her duties would involve laying wreaths at cenotaphs, raising the expectation from a British and unionist perspective that she might wear a poppy. To many Sinn Féin supporters, that would be anathema. On the occasion, Ní Riada replied: 'I think it is a sign of maturity that if you wear a symbol, such as the poppy, that you are saying we have come this far in extending the hand of peace and friendship, and so, yes, I would'. A poster of Liadh Ní Riada outside Letterkeny in Donegal was promptly smeared in red: 'Wear your blood stained poppy'.

Sinn Féin Senator Pádraig Mac Lochlainn (who also featured on the defaced poster) swiftly stated that he would never wear a poppy since it 'represents all British soldiers in all conflicts'. Mac Lochlainn's assertion is factually correct. As Gulf war veteran Charles Plumridge argued: 'Any questioning of the poppy can only cause anguish to the people that have worn it with pride over the years, the families of those who gave their lives and those people who are still

doing so [*italics mine*]'.

This reveals the nub of the matter. If people are free at all, they must be free to question, and they are right to question what the poppy means. In part, it means—and Plumridge as good as admits this—refusing to question the justifications given by the British government for deploying its army to kill and be killed, and in recent decades even breaking international law in the process. It means refusing to confront Wilfred Owen's exhortation to cease telling children 'the old lie'. And, by refusing to question and to form a judgement of one's own on the matter, it means falling well short of the maturity that defenders of the poppy are so apt to invoke. There is nothing so unnerving to people who insist on the universal acceptance of the poppy than self-definition.

The message is clear: piety is in; probing is out. Remembrance Sunday invites soft-spoken patriotism, delimiting the commemorative act to feeling the WWI loss, but not thinking it through. The objective of this deceit is to debar historical enquiry and debate about why 6,000 soldiers a day died, and where responsibility for their death lies. That is the pup being sold by British officialdom. The public pressure to wear a poppy today mirrors the distribution during WWI of white feathers to 'cowards', conscientious objectors who did not sign up to fight. Plus ça change...

It is a pathetic sight to watch now people who presume to advocate republicanism buying into same fraud in the name of 'maturity'. That is another lie. In one version of 'Waltzing Matilda', a survivor of WWI, having returned from the Gallipoli peninsula without his legs, is forced to witness commemorations of WWI back in Australia. He ruefully observes: 'And the young people ask, "What are they marching for?" And I ask myself the same question.'

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



When in Doubt

If there is one thing that defines the time we live in, it's uncertainty. I used to think that the 'free floating sense of anxiety' (a byproduct of our modern psyche) was nothing more than a matter of living in an age of 'non-answers'. After all, we live in a world where nothing we think of is absolutely true then the only thing we can be sure of is doubt, and that's not very reassuring. It's frustrating when you believe you have the measure of some problem, only to find that it evaporates like the morning mist and soon you begin to doubt if it was there at all. Such times leave us vulnerable to all sorts of exaggerated fears.

When dangling over an abyss of uncertainty, it's easy to be duped, conned, and cheated into believing the worst of human nature. Fear mongering has eaten away at our heart's core, and destroyed our faith in humankind. For too long we have been fed a diet of racist rhetoric, misogyny, and lies. It's high time to return to sanity and depart from the xenophobic cul de sac we find ourselves. Hopefully, it should be clear to us that negative talk can lead to death and destruction as demonstrated by the recent acts of sporadic violence. When places of worship, supermarkets and the home are no longer safe, we doubt whether we will ever find peace again.

Hope is renewed through acts of kindness. Altruism restores our faith and suddenly, our doubt is dispelled. However, we can only regain our faith when doubt is turned toward the forces of negativity whose lies breed divisive sectarianism. When we read about the Muslims who raised 200,000 dollars for those who suffered at the

recent tragedy at the Tree of Life synagogue, it flies in the face of racist propaganda and disarms the hatred of the foreigner. It's a terrible indictment against us when we find ourselves surprised by human kindness. When kindness, joy and common courtesy become strangers to us, we have become derailed from the route to progress.

It's when we lose our sense of wonder and fortify walls that divide us that we risk short-changing ourselves on grace to become mean-spirited. In a selfish, self-satisfying culture, it's easy to dole out superficial judgments on race, colour and creed without realizing the harm we do to ourselves as humans. Our doubt in the goodness of others is self-destructive and can threaten our very existence. In such hateful climate, it's time to reject the politically driven divisiveness that harms instead of helps. We need to seek out prophets who can lead us back to appreciate diversity as a beautiful not hateful thing.

Have we honoured our forefathers who inspired us to become democratic, humane, and charitable, or will they turn in their graves because we have abandoned all faith in humanity? Are we undoing what they fought to preserve? Our future depends on how we act now. We need to think about how our descendants will judge us. How are to be remembered?

I am reminded of Viktor Frankl's book *Man's Search for Meaning*. Frankl, a holocaust survivor, survived the worst conditions of the concentration camps. What he witnessed in those places of horror was to become his life's work. Among those captured, there were those who continued to hope, while those who lost such hope, folded up and withered away. From this experience, he coined

the phrase, tragic optimist, which I think is particularly helpful for the times we live in. Despite the evil machinations of genocide, Frankl advocates hope as key to our survival.

While it is true that we are not living with the same level of dehumanization that Frankl and others faced during the second world war, there are ominous signs that bear some of the same ethnic prejudices. The rise of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and fear of all things foreign, are reminiscent of an age we should never forget. We need to remind ourselves that when we lay aside our belief in common decency, goodness and beauty, the cost to our humanity is palatable. We need to doubt those who are driving us to repeat the past horrors by sowing discord and mistrust; for what we sow, we will reap in tragedy.

There is no getting away from the fragile sense of safety we have created for ourselves and no wall, with tighter borders and fighting talk, will make us feel safer. Instead, we may be creating our own prison, and eroding the very freedom we wish to preserve. When the art of diplomacy loses integrity, we have made a pathway for an existential despair that will haunt us for generations to come, and before long our own integrity will come under scrutiny.

Soon, we find ourselves afraid of saying or doing anything out of step with the rest of the herd. In such times we sleep, one-eye open, with the monster of our own making. What Frankl has to offer us is the gift of hope. When living through the horror that humans can do, he doubts we are simply evil. His faith in human kindness keeps him from despair and as such, doubts the obvious signs of brutality as the absolute truth of who we are. If we want to redefine the negative characteristics of our times, we, like Frankl, need to embrace the role of the tragic optimist and reject intolerance to ensure our survival.

Rory Makem at Wisconsin Irish Cultural and Heritage Center 12-15

One of the leading voices in the Irish song heritage, Rory Makem will bring A Christmas Tradition concert to the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Born in County Louth, Ireland, Makem continues the lineage of an Irish music dynasty begun by his grandmother Sarah Makem, who was sought after for her vast collection of Irish songs. His father, the legendary Tommy Makem, who died in 2007,



is widely known as the modern Bard of Armagh. Touring with the Clancy Brothers, Tommy brought Irish music to an international audience beginning in the 1950s.

A seasoned performer with more than 25 years on the road. Makem captivates audiences with his skilled musicianship, his charisma and passion for the songs, his extensive knowledge of poetry and history, and his sense of humor. An adept interpreter of folk songs, he is also a multi-instrumentalist.

Makem is well known to Milwaukee audiences through frequent performances at Irish Fest accompanying his father and with Makem and Spain. Makem and Dónal Clancy, son of the late Liam Clancy, made their debut as a duo at the ICHC in 2017.

Not limiting himself to the

stage, Makem has performed on movie soundtracks and his compositions can be heard woven into a number of PBS programs. He has recorded with many of the luminaries in folk music including Noel Paul Stookey, Tom Paxton, Schooner Fare and Gordon Bok.

Concert tickets are \$25 in advance, \$29 on the day, \$10 for students with ID and free for ages 12 and under. For information or to order tickets online, go to www.ichc.net or call (414) 345-8800.

The Celtic Christmas Boutique and bake sale in the ICHC Parlour will begin prior to the concert at 6 p.m. and remain open during the concert and intermission. The Hallamor or great hall, will be decorated for the holidays.

Irish Cultural and Heritage programs are supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. The ICHC supports the Irish community by serving as a venue dedicated to enhancing, promoting and preserving Irish culture and heritage along with serving the community at large. The center, housed in the landmark 1880s former Grand Avenue Congregational Church, is the site for concerts, art exhibits, Irish dances and genealogical research.

First Annual Hibernian Hooligans Ball

The Hilton Chicago hosts the first annual Hibernian Transmedia fundraiser on Sunday afternoon December 16, 2018 from 3-7PM in The Boulevard Room.

The event is epochal, and the first in the history of Hibernian Transmedia, which was founded in October of 2013 by radio personality Mike Houlihan and his wife Mary and sons Bill and Paddy. In addition to celebrating the 10th year anniversary of The Skinny & Houli Show, The 5th year anniversary of their annual Irish American Movie Hooley,

(which takes place each September at the Siskel Film Center), The 4th year anniversary of The Houli's Hooley Radio Show, (broadcast every Saturday night on WSBC), The 3rd Anniversary of The Craic Radio Show, (taped at Chief O'Neill's and broadcast every Saturday night on WSBC1240AM), this shindig at the Hilton will also celebrate Mike "Houli" Houlihan's 70th Birthday!

Hibernian Transmedia is a public charity founded by the Houlihans, to promote and pre-



serve Irish and Irish American culture across a wide swath of media.

The Houlihan family has been telling stories collectively for almost a century. Mike started his professional career as an actor in Stratford, CT with The American Shakespeare Theatre in 1973. He met his wife, Mary Carney, in a production of "All's Well That Ends Well" at the Folger Shakespeare Theatre in Washington DC in 1976. Mary

was starring in "Ryan's Hope" on ABC when they married in 1978. Two years later along came sons Bill and Paddy. Their careers have traversed regional theatre, Broadway, major motion pictures, network and public TV, newspaper columns, radio and recently stand-up comedy, community web blogs and indie filmmaking. Through it all they have especially delighted audiences with performances that trumpet their pride in their heritage and

their faith.

As members of the Irish Diaspora and artists working in a variety of media they now work together professionally as Hibernian Transmedia NFP, providing a platform to present, produce, and create educational content that promotes and preserves Irish and Irish-American culture through film, TV, radio, theatre, literature, concerts, and the Internet. "Telling stories to enlighten future generations while honoring our ancestors", is how they put it.

All are invited to join in the celebration on Sunday December 16th from 3-7PM in the Boulevard Room of the Hilton Chicago at 720 South Michigan Ave. Guests will be treated to plenty of Irish music, with Patrick Quinn, Paddy Homan, Katie Grennan, Larry Nugent, Catherine O'Connell, Max Dunne, and The Murphy Roche Irish Music Club on the schedule with more to come. They will also be screening several of their films, including OUR IRISH COUSINS, HER MAJESTY, 'DA QUEEN, TAPIOCA, and OUR IRISH PUB. Suggested donation to the fundraiser is \$100, or you can donate online at hiberniantransmedia.org

Hibernian Transmedia NFP is a 501c3 public charity, and all contributions are tax deductible under Internal Revenue Code Section 170.

Come help celebrate the First Annual Hibernian Hooligans Ball! RSVP to Paddyhoulihan10@gmail.com or call 312-431-8700.

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The Feds Could be Knocking at Your Door, are You Ready?

As a bar or restaurant owner, you worry about many things, something probably not on your radar is a visit from federal liquor investigators. We presume that since the state and local governments issue the liquor license, that the federal alcohol regulatory agency would never be stepping foot in your place of business.

That has changed!

On September 21, 2017 the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), the federal liquor investigators, and the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) announced that they were conducting a joint operation targeting alleged "pay to play" schemes in Chicago, the Quad Cities, and Peoria.

A "pay to play" scheme is an operation where a manufacturer or distributor of alcohol pays a retailer (restaurant or bar) for preferable treatment.

In layman's terms this could mean that the manufacturer or the distributor pays a certain amount in order to predominant the tap handles in the retail establishment. This payment is known as a "slotting fee."

The concern of state and federal enforcement agencies is that paying a slotting fee to a retailer will hurt law-abiding industry members and limit consumer choice.

These investigations labeled as "Trade Practice Investigations" are common and very aggressive.

How does this effect your liquor license?

The government entities that issue the liquor license are the ones that can issue fines, suspensions, or revocations against a license holder.

The TTB issues licenses to distributors and alcohol manufacturers and thus can act against their license.

The ILCC issues licenses to distributors, manufacturers, and retailers, and can act against these entities.

Hence, the TTB can't sanction a retailer, which may lead to the surprise of why they would bother visiting a retailer.

So why should we worry if the TTB can't sanction your license?

I spoke on a Trade Practice Investigations panel at a national conference with Rob Tobiassen, the former General Counsel of TTB, and he brought up an interesting point, the TTB has reversed their investigative approach. In the past TTB conducted trade practice investigations by going after distributors and manufacturers initially. Now they are starting their investigations with retailers first.

What does this mean, your business all the sudden became the front-line for major federal investigations!

Along with the ILCC, the TTB could come to your place with an aggressive approach. Which would include looking through your books and records, heavily scrutinizing your business, and most importantly questioning you about your business operations.

The whole purpose of the TTB investigations is for you to provide as much information to help them in their investigation of a distributor or a manufacturer.

This may lead to you being put in a tenuous position. All the sudden one day, you are being questioned aggressively by state and federal authorities!

Whatever you do, do not lie to the federal investigators! Making false statements to a federal agent could lead to prison time under 18 U.S.C. Section 1001. For context, this is the same offense that sent Martha Stewart

to jail. If you are not sure of something, tell them you want to confer with counsel before providing any testimony.

Further, if you state something out of speculation and do not know 100% of the facts and it turns out to be false, you could also be tripped up by 18 U.S.C. Section 1001.

So proceed cautiously with answering any questions from the TTB, if you are not 100% sure of the answers.

The state is entitled to your book and records and they can provide any written questions they may have for you.

What can I do to prevent these investigations?

There is no guarantee that the TTB or the ILCC won't visit your place of business. However, it is very serious if the TTB visits. An ILCC visit without the TTB could occur even if your place has absolutely nothing wrong. Sometimes these are random investigations conducted by a state agency.

As far as potential TTB investigations, you should consult with someone on whether your place of business could trigger an investigation by the TTB.

What you should be thinking about is whether your bar allows adequate consumer choice, if it does not allow adequate consumer choice, this could be problematic?

Also, why does your bar not have adequate consumer choice, were you provided with incentives by a distributor or manufacturer to take on more tap handles?

Remember, the distributor or manufacturer needs to pay a slotting fee to the

retailer in order to violate the law.

Traditionally, we think of slotting fees as providing cash payments for more tap handles at the retail establishment. However, other items could be considered slotting fees.

If the distributor or manufacturer's sales representatives regularly runs up large bar tabs or has a large amount of bar spend, this may be evidence of slotting fees. If the distributor or manufacturer has big or many events at your retail establishment, this could be considered slotting fees.

Final words

The federal government in conjunction with the state is conducting a very aggressive trade practice investigations campaign. Surprisingly, they may come to your door. If that is the case be ready!

Do not lie under any circumstance. If you're not sure about the situation, seek counsel.

Please contact me with any questions at 773 490-6738 or

sean.oleary@olearylpgroup.com and check out my blog at irishliquorlawyer.com



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Irish Musicians Association of America Fall Ceili Honoring Past President Frank Burke November 25, 2018



Gaelic Park past president John Devitt (right) hosting his friend, Mike Simpson, (center) from Dublin, with some Co Cork and Co Cook friends.



Jackie Moran Family



Theresa Shine and son



Irish Music Association plays in honor of Frank Burke

New Van Morrison CD: The Prophet Speaks

The Prophet Speaks is Van Morrison's 40th studio album and will be released on December 7th on Caroline International. This fourteen track album follows a recent run of hugely acclaimed albums (Roll With The Punches, Versatile and You're Driving Me Crazy), each of which has delved deep into the musical styles that have continued to inspire Van throughout his life – vocal jazz and R&B. Here, Van takes on a series of unarguable classics by the likes of John Lee Hooker, Sam Cooke and Solomon Burke (among others) and makes them unmistakably his own. Alongside these reinterpretations, The Prophet Speaks features six phenomenal new



Van Morrison compositions.

Van Morrison says of The Prophet Speaks: "It was important for me to get back to recording new music as well as doing some of the blues material that has inspired me from the beginning. Writing songs and making music is what I do, and working with great musicians makes it all the more enjoyable."

The Prophet Speaks again finds Van working with the incredible multi-instrumentalist Joey DeFrancesco (the artist co-credited on You're Driving Me Crazy) and his band (including Dan Wilson on guitar, Michael Ode on drums and Troy Roberts on tenor saxophone).

The title track from *The Prophet Speaks* is available now. The tracklisting is:

1. Gonna Send You Back To Where I Got You From (Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, Leona Blackman)
2. Dimples (John Lee Hooker, James Bracken)
3. Got to Go Where The Love Is (Van Morrison)
4. Laughin' and Clownin' (Sam Cooke)
5. 5 am Greenwich Mean Time (Van Morrison)
6. Gotta Get You Off My Mind (Solomon Burke, Delores Burke, Josephine Burke Moore)
7. Teardrops (J.D. Harris)
8. I Love The Life I Live (Willie Dixon)
9. Worried Blues / Rollin' and Tumblin' (J.D. Harris)
10. Ain't Gonna Moan No More (Van Morrison)
11. Love Is A Five Letter Word (Gene Barge)
12. Love Is Hard Work (Van Morrison)
13. Spirit Will Provide (Van Morrison)
14. The Prophet Speaks (Van Morrison)

The Prophet Speaks pre-orders - <https://vanmorrison.lnk.to/TPS>

Van Morrison US shows this Fall and in 2019:

Nov 14, 15, 2018 Van Morrison at Fox Theatre, Oakland,

Jan 25, 26, 2019 Van Morrison at Caesars Palace Las Vegas

Jan 30, 2019 Van Morrison at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas

Feb 01, 02, 2019 Van Morrison at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas

Feb 05, 2019 Van Morrison at The Wiltern Theatre, Los Angeles

Any tickets still available can be found at <https://www.vanmorrison.com/live>

Praise for You're Driving Me Crazy:

"Thrilling" Mojo 4*, "Irresistible" Record Collector 4*, "The sort of album carping fans have wanted for a long time" *The Mirror* 5*.

Praise for Versatile: "A curious little joy of a record" the Guardian 4*, "A masterclass in jazz phrasing" *The i* 4*, "At 72, Van seems to be speeding up rather than slowing down... and that's no bad thing" *the Sun* 4*.

Praise for Roll With The Punches: "Proof that, at 71, Morrison can still perform with gusto" Mojo, "His 37th album brings an intimate, ad-libbed feel to standards by Bo Diddley, Lightnin' Hopkins and Fifties R&B queen Ruth Brown" *The Mail* 4*, "Joyous" Uncut, "Knockout" *The Mirror* 4*

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Tom Boyle



a meal had in poor homes was the result of generosity from employers or richer neighbors, or meat won in raffles

Ireland Christmas

A feature of the decorations in Munster was a wooden cross with two holly sprigs attached. The animal houses were also decorated. There was a belief that today at midnight cows and donkeys kneel in adoration of the Christ child and receive the gift of speech.

They were never intruded upon. Many

or by gambling.

This was the last day for shopkeepers to give little gifts to regular customers, and also for families to visit relatives' graves before festivities started.

Work ceased at midday and families gathered together. Meat for the Christmas Day dinner was prepared that day: beef mutton, bacon, boiled ox-head, goose and chicken were all eaten. In Co. Wexford Cut-lin Pudding was a favorite, a thick wheaten porridge containing sugar, spices and dried fruits, wrapped in a greased cloth and boiled. As this was a fast day the evening meal was simple, usually potatoes with fish and white sauce. Afterwards the festivities began, and there was also divination.

Before going to bed, the family would lay places at the table for Mary, Joseph and Jesus, put a candle in the window for each member of the family, and leave the door unlocked.

In Co. Cavan, Christmas was heralded from hilltops by the blowing of horns.

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Election

The midterm election resulted in a Blue tidal wave crashing on the shore of Lake Michigan. Pritzker said, "Are you ready for the fight" What fight? "Public Office" the victory goes to the candidate who can spend \$170 million on TV ads.

Election reform needs to happen! A limit on the amount of money anyone can spend, and more public forums, debates between the candidates on the issues.

It was reported that Kwame got 3 million from JB, and 1 million from Madigan.

Joke

My grandfather voted Democratic, he never would have done that if he was alive.

Comptroller

The campaign ads were somewhat juvenile and over zealous for Susanna Mendoza. Her behavior in her acceptance speech was all over the place screaming about how she beat Rauner.

Now she is running for Mayor. at 46 years old she has never worked in the private sector, at least it didn't show up on the internet. She has been city clerk, state representative, and comptroller.

White Nationalism

Nationalism: Identification with ones own nation in support for its interest, especially to the exclusion or detriment of the interests of the other nations.

Ergo nationalism is an ideology that emphasizes loyalty, or devotion, or allegiance to a nation state, and holds that

such obligations outweigh other individual or group interests.

Samuel Johnson said, "patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel." He applied that to self-proclaimed patriots, not true patriots. President Macron of France said, "Nationalism is a betrayal of patriotism."

White Supremacists

I picked up a few items at a local food store and as I was putting the groceries into my car, a man pulled up on an angle to my car. He called me friend and handed me a flyer through his passenger side window and drove away. I looked at the flyer, and it was an anti-Semitic rant telling me that David Duke was my friend. I tried to get his license plate number but wasn't quick enough. Fortunately he was arrested by the Park Ridge police the next day near Lincoln school on the Southside of town.

Speaker Pelosi

Harpier cries! It's time! It's time! Double, double toil and trouble, fire burn and cauldron bubble. Scale of a dragon, tooth of a wolf . . .

That was Macbeth . . . This is Pelosi's cauldron. Hair of Trump, toenail of Pence, affordable care, tongue of Al Sharpton. A witch shouting, open borders, raise taxes, and to hell with the national debt.

She raised the immigration flag! "Trump separated babies from their mothers." I believe that policy also existed while Obama was president. What happened to bipartisanship?

Catholic Bishops

The U.S. Catholic Bishops meeting in Baltimore, have delayed action on clergy sex abuse at the request of the Pope. They have delayed action until March.

I'm pretty sure they didn't hire a public relations firm! After 40 years in sales, I had one customer say, "your company has no sense of urgency!" Apparently, there is no sense of urgency in Rome.

Is the Pope fiddling while the Church burns?

Every Catholic I know is furious and wondering, who's on the alter? Lord have mercy! Merry Christmas!

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Christmas Bingo: It's a Ho-Ho-Holy Night Returns to the Royal George Theatre for Holiday Season

You Don't Have To Be Catholic To Enjoy These Shows. But It Pays To Love Bingo!

Did Santa babysit the baby Jesus? Why were the Three Wise Men so lost? Do you know what the holiday classic Silent Night first sounded like? The answers to these and other humorous questions are answered in the hit holiday comedy *Christmas Bingo: It's A Ho-Ho-Holy Night*.

Written by Vicki Quade, one of the creators of the hit comedy Late Nite Catechism, CHRISTMAS BINGO brings together two of the best things about being Catholic: Christmas and Bingo.

Tribune's theater critic.

In this interactive comedy, audience members play bingo while also answering questions about Christmas traditions, the origin of St. Nick, where do candy canes come from, miracles in the Bible . . . and a clever re-creation of the Annunciation, complete with audience members in angel wings and halos.

In its review, *The Chicago Reader* recommended the show, saying, "Vicki Quade has made a career out of Catholic comedy (Late Nite Catechism, Bible Bingo), and she's in top form here."

Today's Fan, an online review site, calls Christmas

Bingo, "delightful." "You will be engaged by the show's uniquely interactive approach that involves a bingo game with real prizes. Its entertaining aspect comes from the hilarity that ensues as Quade tackles off-beat myths and outrageous facts about Christmas."

Christmas Bingo will run for six weeks only throughout the holiday season, starting Friday, November 23, through Sunday, December 30. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. All performances are at the Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted, Chicago.

Ticket prices are \$30, group rates available. For tickets, call the box office at 312-988-9000.

Go ahead.... resurrect your social life in this guaranteed night of divine entertainment!

More fun than Sodom and Gomorrah!!

So much fun, you'll have to confess it!!!



The comedy has been a fixture in Chicago since 2012, and now returns again to the Royal George Theatre, Chicago. Christmas Bingo is the second installment in Quade's bingo series, which also includes the long-running hit Bible Bingo. The show was selected as one of 10 holiday shows highlighted by Chris Jones, the Chicago

Dwyer & Coogan, P. C.
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as its newest **Partner**, effective November 1, 2018.



Caroleann originally joined the firm in August of 2017 bringing an abundance of real experience representing injured people. She has demonstrated tremendous talent in the practice of law, derived from her many years as an Attorney, both in Chicago and Ireland. Caroleann has worked tirelessly to protect the rights of injured workers and those injured by the negligence of others. Her wealth of experience, strong work ethic and commitment to her relationship with her clients has contributed to the growth and success of our firm. We are very excited about what she will accomplish as a Partner in the future.

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Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



From There To Here....

Last month I was given the honor and privilege of being promoted to Partner level, here at my firm of Dwyer & Coogan P.C. In many ways, this promotion has been a long time coming, in many more ways than one. Although, it has happened very quickly. For this month's column, I wanted to give you all a little background of where I came from and how it is I ended up here in Chicago practicing law.

Arranmore Island is a small island off the north west coast of Donegal. It is the most beautiful, quaint and rugged place in the world. You take a ferry to cross the 3.5 miles from the mainland. The population of Arranmore is made up of about 500 people. Everyone, knows everyone! There is no crime on Arranmore, there are no drugs, there is no stranger danger, we don't even have a

resident police force. It is the closest knit community I have ever experienced and I was privileged to grow up there.

However, with it being so small and so disconnected to the Mainland – there were some prices we paid to grow up on this beautiful Island. There is little to no employment opportunities on Arranmore.

The population of people in the 22 to 45 age group is virtually nonexistent. As much as we love it and loved growing up there, we inevitably have to leave.

I grew up with three older brothers. Our Dad worked away from home, all of our lives. It was not his choice. It was a necessity to survive. My Dad is a tunnel miner and the best in his trade. He has worked all over the world in places like Singapore, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea and all over Europe. He came home at Christmas, Easter and for two to three weeks in the Summer. He missed out on a lot of our lives and we missed him. But he did it for us and he never saw it as a choice. Our Mum, stayed home on Arranmore to raise us, in the place our parents felt was best for us to grow up in. We were all born in London and Scotland,

but my parents left their lives there and returned to Arranmore, feeling that it was a safer place to raise us kids.

Before 1990, Arranmore did not have its own secondary school (What Americans call High School). That meant, that at age 13 or 14, our kids left the island, Monday to Friday and went to boarding schools with priests and nuns, on the mainland. Those were dark and difficult days for the



children and parents of Arranmore. My three brothers were schooled that way. The people of Arranmore fought for over twenty-five years for a secondary school on Arranmore. They were continuously ignored by the Irish government, as such a small population did not warrant such funding. But the people of Arranmore are resilient, and they never gave up.

I was due to go to boarding school in the Fall of 1990. At the end of that Summer, we got the news we had long waited for. Arranmore would get its own secondary school and I was one of the very blessed and lucky kids that was literally saved by the bell! That first year there were 24 of us, in the entire school. The next year, there were 48. We had the best of teachers who

traveled in every day, from the mainland, to teach us. It was quite literally a one to one education and it gave me the finest start in life.

From the age of 14, I knew I wanted to be lawyer. I don't really know why- but I liked to analyze things and problem solve. As a young child I played "office" all the time. My Mum says she remembers me always being "a boss." I knew I wanted to help people figure out things they could not figure out or navigate on their own. I knew I would be good at that. I don't come from a long line of lawyers.

In fact there are no lawyers in my family and save for a few people with some distant connection to Arranmore – I believe I was in fact one of the first Arranmore Islanders, to actually become a lawyer.

When I was attending the secondary school on Arranmore, although we had great and gifted teachers, we did not really have a designated teacher for career guidance. I believe my career guidance teacher wore many hats. I remember in my second to last year at school, I went to her and I told her I wanted to be

a lawyer. She looked surprised. She told me "maybe you should be a teacher." I said well that would be fine, except I don't want to be a teacher! She encouraged me again to think about teaching, repeatedly, in response to my reassertions that I wanted to learn how to become a lawyer. That's when I realized that the only way I would get the information was to find it for myself. So that's what I did, I wrote to all the colleges in Ireland and Northern Ireland, who offered law programs to find out the admission criteria and process and applied. After my final year exams, I was accepted to University in Galway to study law.

Qualifying as a lawyer in Ireland is a grueling and long seven-year process. I got through it and gained my admission to the Roll of Solicitors in Ireland in 2004. I practiced as a lawyer in Ireland from 2004-2008. I was fulfilling my dream and was more than happy. My family was really proud of me and I had a steady and good career and was sure I was going to make a difference. However, a short trip to Chicago in 2008, turned my life

completely upside down! During that trip, I met the man who would one day become my husband. If you had told me then that that trip would mean I would up sticks, change careers and countries I would have told you that you were crazy! But that is what happened. I moved to the Windy and awfully cold Chicago in 2009 – a "not-qualified," unlicensed, 30 year old Lawyer....ready to start again! I am not sure I can say my family and friends were fully supportive of that move – but nevertheless, I persisted. I guess like all the people from Arranmore, I am resilient.

The night before I left Arranmore, a friend came to say goodbye and as she was leaving, she handed me a business card. She told me it was from a man she had met in a bar and that he was a lawyer in Chicago. She told me to give him a call when I got here. I did. That guy took a huge chance on me and hired me the very next week. I worked there with him initially as a paralegal while the Illinois Board of Admissions checked my qualifications and credentials and eventually after a long eighteen-month process, they approved me to sit the Illinois State Bar Exam. I did that in February of 2011 and was sworn in that May. That July, Patrick and I got married. It was quite the year!

From there to here, has been quite the journey. Has it been hard at times? Absolutely. Did I falter at times and want to just go back home? Absolutely. But if being the daughter of my parents and a resilient islander, taught me anything, it was, that if you work hard, you'll get whatever it is you want.

I joined Dwyer & Coogan P.C. just last August and after just over a year, was offered and accepted this Partnership role. I am beyond proud of where I now am. I wanted "The American Dream" and I have gotten so far to achieve that. I now have two little girls who are just four and six – they are the children of immigrant parents and they too will be taught, that if you want the dream, it is reachable, you just have to work hard to get it.

Pictured are my parents reunited with my girls on Arranmore this Summer....

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



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Celtic Fest: August 24, 2019

IBAM: October 18-20, 2019
Annual General Meeting:
November 3, 2019



Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

The Craft Of Whiskey

Northern Ireland: This past summer a heat wave embracing Ireland, Scotland, the United Kingdom and sections of Europe benefited tourists while Irish farmers carried on about sun scorched crops, spreading hysteria and warnings of food shortages. Driving over the Coastal Route from Belfast to the northeastern tip of Ireland, the Irish Sea meets the North Channel, eventually flowing into the North Atlantic Ocean. The journey looms large as the scenic drive of a lifetime.

Scattered over the countryside the vivid golden hue of hay fields, sun-burst blonde, strikingly beautiful under blue skies, awaiting the thresher to cut, bind and transport hay to stables protecting livestock, horses and cattle, over the long wet Irish winter. Union Jacks fly profuse-

ly in the North dominating poles, dotting residential lawns and occasionally one catches a glimpse of the odd tricolor flying solo, the Irish flag a sight to behold, a welcome act of defiance in the British ruled six counties of Ulster.

The north is tidy, hedges pristine, winding roads liberally populated with small towns, villages hamlets, ancient forts and castle ruins. Mounds of flower gardens and chestnut trees stirring memories of young boys gathering shiny brown chestnuts in the autumn, engaging in games of conkers, tying the nuts through a hole on a string, launching into playful combat with the boys on the corner. The first who breaks a chestnut loses, and immediately commences to string another set, and the boyhood rite of passage resumes.

Sheep scattered across meadows and mountainsides highlight the landscape, and the Slemish mountains are visible in

the distance where according to legend Saint Patrick shepherded his sheep. In another direction one catches a glimpse of the Glens

of Antrim, a sweeping range of nine glens, hills and valleys and rugged cliffs stretch north for eighty miles in an exquisite array of nature, memorialized in song and poems, a magnet for tourists and hikers.

Many towns, villages and hamlets dot the roadways, flowers dazzling in colors adorn village centers, pub doors open in the sunshine, old timers sitting outside enjoying a noonday pint. The beauty so marvelous one wonders why American tourists are not flocking in droves to the North, enjoying a myriad of golf courses including the famous Portrush, the location for the famed Irish Open and an opportunity to see and perhaps meet Rory McElroy, the world renowned Irish golfer.

Enough about landscape, my assignment is to write about Bushmills

Irish Whiskey and visit the world's oldest distillery in the village of Bushmills located on the North Coast not far from the outstanding beauty of the Giant's Causeway and its mystical Celtic legends.

The town is Bushmills, the Bush River runs through it, and generations of local men have been distilling Irish whiskey for centuries. Bushmills ranks as the oldest licensed distillery in Ireland. In fact, as early as the 13th century there is mention of Uisce Beatha - Gaelic for The Water of Life. Distilling in this most northern Irish hamlet

traces back to the 14th century, although the firm did not receive a license to distill until 1608. It's worth mentioning for readers of Irish American News that the City of Chicago in 1803 granted Bushmills the highest award for production of malt whiskey. Earlier, King James

The First, in 1608 declared Bushmills the oldest whiskey on earth.

Currently there are a hundred employees working on site to process whiskey. Father-son duo Alastair and Chris Kane are third and fourth generation coopers who work side by side, dating back to 1935. In an interview Helen Mulholland, who has worked at the distillery for twenty years, commented that traditionally the making of whiskey "has been credited as a man's job," adding with a sense of pride that women "currently have a large presence at the Old Bushmills Distillery in a variety of roles. She cites herself as an example, and serves as a Master Blender, maintaining an important slot, as the first female Master Blender in Irish whiskey.

The distillery purchases its water from Kildare, second hand barrels from Kentucky, once holding bourbon, which makes the whiskey sweeter, glass bot-



Helen Mulholland

tles from the town of Enniskillen in the southern region of northern Ireland and used casks from Spain and Portugal. The majority of Bushmills is produced for export its key markets North America, Ireland, Germany, Great Britain, France, Russia and Eastern Europe. "We hope to replicate the success we are seeing in Russia, Bulgaria and other Eastern European countries, as we continue to expand our presence globally," Mulholland explained.

Tours at the distillery are ongoing, lunch is served in a cafe, a tasting room allows one to taste a rare Bushmills, priced at several hundred dollars, the bottle etched with the purchasers name on a special label. Nial Drumm a collector of rare whiskey purchased a high priced bottle and passed it around to show interested visitors who sipped on complimentary whiskey and mockingly chided Drumm for not opening his expensive bottle. He smiled, kept the cork secure, purchased a second bottle for sipping at home. He drinks his whiskey straight up without ice.

How to describe Bushmills? Whiskey drinkers cling to their opinions. Sweet, malty, full bodied, a nutty taste, smooth, well balanced, good aroma. In the filling process bottles are lined upside down on a moving belt, washed out with the same whiskey sold in the bottle.

In the mid-eighties Irish poet Seamus Heaney, winner of the Nobel prize in Literature Heaney served as Commencement Speaker at the graduation of Fordham University. He delivered his remarks in verse, ending with a line urging graduates to go forth and celebrate with a glass of Bushmills whiskey.

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l to r): Rita O'Hare, Sinn Fein representative in the U.S., Mary Lou McDonald, Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, Teachta Dala ,TD, of DAIL EIREANN & past president of Sinn Fein Photo/ Nuala Purcell.

Friends of Sinn Fein Dinner in New York

Mary Lou McDonald delivered her first address as Sinn Féin party president to the annual Friends of Sinn Féin dinner in New York on Thursday evening, November 8. The packed gathering was told that Brexit was a disaster for Ireland, north and south. "There is an onus on of us all to protect Irish interests. Sinn Féin

has stood shoulder to shoulder with the Taoiseach and with European leaders to defend the interests of our peace agreements, our economy and our people. In the face of British bad faith and intransigence the Taoiseach must stand firm and the Irish government must be resolute," McDonald said.



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The Irish are recognized in the United States as the most successful and accomplished immigrant group in America, with the possible exception of the Jews. We began arriving in the early seventeen hundreds and as pointed out by the late Dr. Garrett O'Connor, "The Irish have excelled in business education, medicine, law, religion, the military, entertainment, construction, professional sport and organized crime."

Yet, despite that impressive litany of success, there underlies the bogey man of Irish malignant shame that gurgles to the surface as we review our history. O'Connor, a psychiatrist nationally recognized as an expert in treating alcohol and drug addiction, commented at a California Conference for professionals in the fields of addiction and recovery "despite our accomplishments, (the Irish) are still known as a race of drunks."

Growing up in Ireland in the fifties it was compulsory to take the pledge, committing to a life without alcohol, reciting each morning the Heroic Offering making up to the Sacred Heart for the sins of intemperance committed in the world that day. A lofty ritual, those of us roped into the temperance movement proudly wore a heart shaped emblem in our lapels. We were recognized as pioneers. While I am free of alcohol I find it difficult to shake off the shackles of malignant shame when I read one more time in the Irish Press the sordid details of the history of Irish orphanages and Industrial Schools. Tales of horrendous documentation of abuse of children by nuns and priests, both physical and sexual.

The spotlight is harsh and relentless when recent discoveries in Tuam uncovered remains of hundreds of babies dumped in a cistern on the grounds of a mother and baby home run by Catholic nuns. The savagery adds to our collective grief and shame. These institutions sheltered Irish unmarried pregnant women



Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

and girls in secrecy and shame to have their babies. Efforts are underway to identify hundreds of baby remains through DNA, and a team of exerts are expected to exhume the remains and make arrangements to conserve the burial site.

The news announced four weeks ago that the United Nations Committee on Torture agreed to hear evidence from a 69-year old woman and others on the systemic human rights violations at Industrial Schools and other dens of punishment including the notorious Magdalene Laundries.

Elizabeth Coppin, the woman to testify before the United Nations, spent five years slaving without pay in a laundry run by nuns. She has devoted much of her adult life in vain to bring attention to the abuse, the merits of her work finally recognized. Ironically she is not targeting the sisters but the island of Ireland. There apparently is sufficient culpability to spread around to involve the entire country.

We might object to words like shame, but as additional reports come forward about institutions rendering countless young ones

mentally ill and physically broken by the now defunct network of reformatories and state funded orphanages, we hang our heads in collective shame. The Church should do likewise.

When Pope Francis arrived in Ireland in August to focus on families, another bomb was dropped when the Pontiff admitted he was unaware of the history of abuse of children in Catholic staffed facilities, another example of the secrecy within and among the hierarchy. They circled the wagons when the sexual scandal erupted and lived by the sacrilege of silence. A classic example of control, self preservation and the boldness of evil. The Irish laity needs to keep pushing and support the Irish survivors in our midst both here and in Ireland. It's our responsibility, so let us stand behind 69-year old Elizabeth Coppin when she testifies before the United Nations Committee Against Torture and articulates her abuse, challenging the deaf ears of religious, political and civic leaders who ignored her requests to be heard as she pleaded in vain for an end to human destruction. She has been shamed, her pleas rejected, but she's an example of dedication and persistence. Her work is beginning. Let us follow along.

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Home is Where the Heart Is

By Aishling Kelly



My name is *Aishling Dalton-Kelly*. I'm excited, and very honored, to have this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My Irish heritage means I was blessed with the gift of the gab. My father would say, "Aishling you are so honest you will get yourself in to trouble; you need to stop talking."

I'm going to consider that statement a compliment and do what my mother always used to say "when someone pays you a compliment say "Thank you" and wear it proudly!

I mention this is because I'll need that gift to write my new regular Column on "*Home is Where the Heart is!*" I want to use this column to give you the resources and education to help you navigate the road of supporting aging and sick parents.

A road I, and my family traveled for many years. A road with many unexpected twists and turns, with so many ups and downs that is seemed never ending. A road that led me personally through many a dark forest. But it was also a road ending with a beautiful rainbow and a new dawn.

I'm the owner of *Aishling Companion Home Care*. A non-medical, full-service home care agency licensed by the state of Illinois. My agency offers high quality and caring services to clients throughout Cook, DuPage, Will and parts of Kankakee Counties.

What is a non-medical home care agency?

It's a valid question and one I myself would not have been able to answer 7 years ago. But I certainly can now. Non-medical agencies are simply the troops on the ground every day, assisting seniors with the necessary activities of daily living.

What sort of activities?

Just think of the things you do on a daily basis to get up and get out of the door. Get out of bed, walk to the bathroom, eliminate, wash your face, teeth, undress, shower, dry, dress, eat, drink, navigate to work and get there safely. That's 11 activities as you start your day, and that doesn't include things like taking medications, cooking breakfast, house chores - the list goes on.

Imagine, if for some reason you couldn't do many of those things. Imagine if you could not do any of them? How would you get through your day? Every human being has to function daily and if they can't, for one reason or another, that's when you would call in the licensed home care professionals. That is what I train my staff to do with care, compassion and a smile.

My business was never planned. I was led to it by an unknown, a higher force so to speak. It was a culmination of events that led me to give serious consideration to opening my own home care agency. Real life scenarios, personal situations which I knew could be improved if the right pieces were put in place.

I wanted to make a difference. It's amazing how sometimes in life you experience something so powerful you never forget it. There is no going back once you experience this. Life is simply never the same.

We, my family and I, watched our mother disappear right in front of us, day by long day over the course of 7 years. She looked the same as she always did at first. But we knew something was wrong and so too did she, we just didn't know what "we didn't know." Our beautiful mother had dementia. At the same time my father was taken under the loving caring hands

of hospice.

Two very different situations which presented the family with multiple challenges, decisions and emotions that could never be predicted. They were situations that we were never prepared to deal with. We didn't know where to turn to get education, or resources to help. Even when we might have opportunities we didn't know the right questions to ask, or the right people to surround ourselves with. We felt alone and adrift in a world turned upside down.

Much of the stress we went through as a family could have been prevented - if we knew then what we know now.

Many of you reading this article will be able to relate already. And, as we face an aging population, there's a good chance that more and more people will need to know how to deal with elderly parents with physical illness, injury or some form of cognitive decline.

I'm here to tell you that not only is there hope, there is a solution to every problem. There are some truly wonderful resources available to meet your every need. We live in a wonderful country that has many, many options available to you. You just have to know how to tap in to the connections that can get you what you need.

I'm all about community and helping one another. We're all

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in this together some are ahead, and some are behind. Ultimately, we all must take that journey with our parent's or loved ones.

It's ironic that my parents christened me Aishling. A true Gaelic name which translates to "a dream." I am truly living the dream of owning my own home care agency serving families such as mine - and it all began

with our own experience of caring for my mom and dad.

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Mike Morley



Free For All

Joe Crowley is a ten-term US Democrat congressman from New York who for 14 years faced no primary challenger from his own party. In January Irish-America's oldest and largest newspaper, the Irish Echo named him "Irishman of the Year."

Though Irish Catholic, Crowley is strongly pro-abortion and earned ratings of 100% from both the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League and Planned Parenthood... 0% from the National Right to Life Committee. The fourth ranking Democrat in the House, he planned to unseat and replace Nancy Pelosi this year as leader of the House Democratic Caucus, and positioned himself as leader of the "resistance" against President Trump's agenda.

But his opponent, newcomer Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, staked out territory even farther left. While Crowley denounced the US Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as "fascistic," Cortez

campaigns for its outright destruction. Cortez was more gobsmailed than anyone on election night when she realized she had beaten Crowley decisively with over 57% of the vote.

The fact that Crowley's 14th Congressional district's population is 46.8% foreign born (second highest in the nation) surely made a difference. Democrats and demographics are ranging farther left.

Just a couple days ago the decidedly anti-Trump Irish Central online magazine made a rare right turn, offering paeans to the American president: "Let us give thanks and praise to President Donald J. Trump on the issue of Irish people gaining legal access to the United States." (The topic is one I've discussed here before.) The 1965 US Immigration Act, though steered through the Senate by Ted Kennedy, was a disaster for Ireland. And it only got worse. Currently, Ireland gets one-tenth of one percent of green cards issued far behind almost every country in the world." This year Ireland received just 52 visas, half the amount awarded

Ireland last year. "Kyrgyzstan, a former Russian republic got 693." Clinton, Bush and Obama all promised help, with no results. Until Donald Trump. He is negotiating a deal for unused Australian visas, about 5000 this year, for Irish immigrants to use to come to America. The idea was discussed when Tioseach Vradakar visited the White House St. Patrick's Day. Trump signaled his support at the time and unlike other administrations, they have stuck to their word.

Compare America with China. Ten years have gone by since China became the second-largest economy in the world, and *Fortune* predicts China will be top dog over America before 2030. But Chinese green cards are called the "hardest to get in the world." China's population of over 1.2 billion is nearly 92% Han Chinese, with a smattering of 55 other Chinese and Asian ethnic groups scattered throughout. But As of 2017, there were only about 988,800 foreigners living in China, a country of 1.386 billion people. China's immigration law will detain foreigners between five and 15 days if they're caught residing or working illegally. They'll also be fined from 5,000 to 20,000 yuan (US \$721.00 to \$2885.00) and face deportation. Their employers can be fined up to 100,000 yuan (US \$14,426.00) for each illegal person employed.

America's political divide is evident over illegal immigration. Pew Research shows that since 2001, the share of Americans who favor increased legal immigration rose from 10% to 32%, while the share who support a decrease declined from 53% to 24%. That shift is mostly among Democrats, an overwhelming share (86%) of whom say they are sympathetic toward illegal immigrants, compared with about half (48%) of Republicans. Does press influence have a role in this change of view?

In 1956 an American National Election Study found that 66% of Americans thought newspapers were fair. But Gallup Polls since 1997 reveal most Americans do not have confidence in the mass media "to report the news fully,

accurately, and fairly." In 2013, a 59% majority reported a perception of media bias. The perception of bias was highest among conservatives 78% of whom believe the mass media is biased, compared with 44% of liberals and 50% of moderates. Only about 36% view mass media reporting as "just about right."

Life in the US public square is now akin to walking on the set of "The Body Snatchers," the definitive version of which was released in 1978 and set near San Francisco. In that movie, at first all seems normal. But then people begin to notice a few friends and neighbors are acting peculiar, starry-eyed. They're calm but emotionless, and a bit zombified; like true believers, or people possessed or drugged.

Things become really strange when groups of people on the streets take to staring in unison at passers-by. Anxiety escalates to alarm when these groups begin pursuing normal citizens, attacking them as though they posed some unseen, unspeakable threat... as though they were wearing invisible red hats. They are forcibly captured and dragged off. When they reappear, they too sport the new, lobotomized look.

Hippies wanted to "turn on, tune in and drop out." Their children now want to "burn up, tear down and throw out." Busloads of Blackshirts regularly arrive at demonstrations nationwide to add drama and destruction. China, too, destroyed its old culture and civilization with a decade-long Cultural Revolution. There are few official records of those years, as the government was non-functional; but two barely functional Chinese products became briefly fashionable here: Mao suits and little red books. In China, meanwhile, ancient artifacts, statues and works of art were being willfully destroyed by young Mao zealots. Many noted figures, including once revered scholars, died in the chaos, along with their centuries-old customs and culture. The American left is also intent on tearing down America's culture and replace it with a Babel of beliefs, genders

and open borders. Is this a path to strength? Is this "who we are as a nation?"

As I mentioned in October's column: it's revealing that when confronted about job losses and industries moving overseas, Obama said he was "trying to negotiate trade deals that raise wages in other countries, so they're not undercutting us." And addressing Trump's promise to bring jobs back Obama replies, "He says he's gonna negotiate a better deal. Well how exactly are you going to negotiate that? What magic wand do you have?"

It appears no magician can charm a huge portion of the press that continues to yearn for an oligarchy of the oppressed where customs enforcement and borders are abolished, enterprise taxed to the nines, and GDP is devoted to making America equal with the third world.

A large and very influential segment of the press claims daily that America is terrible. We have nearly 4 million new jobs, the highest number of Americans ever employed, economic growth over 4%, median household income- highest ever recorded, the US again a net natural gas exporter- first time since the '50's, NAFTA replaced, the US-Canada USMCA trade deal pending. And lest we forget: the threat of instant global warming was removed when those missile shots toward Japan and US territory were stopped. Yet the press drones on to readers and viewers daily that the country is led by an idiot, a rapist, a racist and Russian spy who refuses to defer to foreign leaders as did Obama. He should never have been elected, and deserves to be removed from office immediately, if not sooner.

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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello Everyone!

As I write this I'm in Branson, Missouri with the Nathan Carter Band. He is playing for a week at Mickey Gilley's Theatre. Mickey Gilley is a cousin of the rock n' roll legend Gerry Lee Lewis and a superstar in his own right. Nathan is starting to make a big name for himself down here. So much so that he'll be back next November starting the 7th for two weeks. Mickey Gilley even bought one of his CDs. I am in the same Hotel room as the production manager. A man called Duke Carlisle who has been production manager for a lot of big names in the business. People like Andy Williams etc. So we are having some great conversations and he's a really nice guy. By the time the newspaper comes out,

Nathan will have done his show in Chicago and I know you're going to love it. Just up the road from here the Pride of Donegal, Daniel O'Donnell is performing and every day at 2:30 PM Nathan goes on stage with Daniel and sings a song. Daniel has been so gracious in helping to put Nathan on the map and it is working.

I will catch up with you in the next edition, but for now, we're on the move constantly. Before I finish off I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and good health in the coming year. The song for this month is a Christmas song written by Nathan Carter, Jordan Moge and myself. It's a little play on words called 'We're Gonna Throw A Snowball'. As always, be good to one another. Joe

'We're Gonna Throw A Snowball'

© Copyright Nathan Carter © Copyright Joe McShane

© Copyright Jordan Moge

Chorus

We're gonna throw a snowball
Let's give our friends and family a call
Staring out the window snow is falling down
It's Christmas time in our little town

Verse 1

Decorations hanging on the tree
There's happiness for all the world to see
Yes love is shining way across the moon
Sleigh bells jingle singing joyful tunes

Verse 2

The pretty colors green and red and gold
Christmas cheer and fancy ribbon bows
There's mystery in the children's eyes so true
Keeping it alive for me and you

Verse 3

Turn the music up we'll all join in
Let the festive season begin
Everything is feeling Oh! so right
We're gonna throw a snowball tonight

Chorus

Oh! Yes we're gonna throw a snowball
Let's give our friends and family a call
Looking out the window the snow is falling down
And it's Christmas time in our little town

(Tag)

Everything is feeling Oh! so right
We're gonna throw a snowball tonight

The Craic Radio Show Abides at Chief O'Neill's Irish Pub

By Izzy Cusack

It was a little over three years ago that then Irish American Heritage Center President Geno Cooney spotted radio personality and controversial Irish American News columnist Mike Houlihan in a crowded Heritage Center hallway and introduced himself. Houlihan says, "It was a moment of pure serendipity. I've been known to ruffle some feathers of certain members of the Irish community, so I was kind of surprised to be welcomed like that. Geno turned out to be a terrific guy and is now my weekly radio partner on 'The Craic' radio show."

Houlihan is the chairman and founder of Hibernian Transmedia, a public charity dedicated to Irish culture, and was looking to add another radio show to his trinity of weekly Irish American radio broadcasts. He'd been writing a column in The Irish American News for almost twenty years. He invited Geno on to The Skinny & Houli Show to talk about the Heritage Center. The two geniuses hit it off.

Houli invited Geno to host a new radio show direct from the Heritage Center every Thursday night for broadcast on Saturday nights. They asked musician Kathleen Keane to co-host the show and she dubbed it "The Craic". After a few dry runs in the solitude of the Fifth Province, the show debuted in December of 2015 and was almost immediately a hit, with its weekly infusion of live music to the pub and live session afterwards. Some of the ol' spirit of the Heritage Center had returned, at least on Thursday nights.

In fits and starts, The Craic put money in the cash register and smiles on the faces of pub patrons while showcasing some of Chicago and Ireland's greatest living legends of Irish music. In

August of 2016, Kathleen Keane left the show. But Houli and Geno said, "The show must go on!" And it did.

Almost every week for the next two years Geno and Houli trotted

guests to enjoy an elegant dinner and hear the music up close, as well as a new special segment from "Matt the Mixologist", as Matt the bartender showcases the week's drinks specials. Or is that just another way for Geno and Houli to enjoy more booze? Whatever the case, it works!

So the show STILL goes on, starting last September at Chief O'Neill's Irish Pub! Thursday nights have a whole new charm to them on Elston Avenue as The Craic presents more of Ireland and Chicago's most celebrated traditional musicians, including recent appearances by Liz Carroll, Pauline Conneely, Ger Carrey, Jimmy Keane, Marta Cook, Devin Shepherd, John Williams, and many nights the proprietors of Chief O'Neill's, Siobhan & Brendan McKinney, join in



out their old jokes and wisecracks while introducing Chicagoland to some of the best talent in traditional Irish music from all over the world. They asked renown musician John Williams to start booking musicians and he brought a laconic wisdom to the show as he

as well.

So "The Craic" abides and mightily, every Thursday night at Chief O'Neill's Irish Pub, 3471 North Elston Ave in the Avondale neighborhood, starting at 7PM for one full hour of great music, laughs, delicious food and hearty



dubbed the Fifth Province Pub, "the Taj Mahal of Traditional Irish Music". And so it was.

When Geno retired as President of the IAHC, an opportunity presented itself to relocate the show to Chief O'Neill's Irish Pub at the invite of owners, Siobhan and Brendan McKinney. The new format still includes all the great live entertainment, and the free raffle each week, but also the option for

drink.

Please join us! There's a free raffle every week and you never know what you could win, from gift certificates to complimentary McCann's Irish Oatmeal! On Thursday December 6th Geno and Houli will be celebrating their official third anniversary of the show along with their Christmas party, so please stop by. Santa Claus might even be there!

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Co. Cavan

This Christmas season I'd like to cover Co. Cavan which is in the province of Ulster and it's part of the border region. It has a population of about 76,000. The county is characterized by Drumlin countryside sprinkled with many lakes and hills. The northwestern area of the county is sparsely populated and mountainous. The Breifne mountains contain the highest point Cuilcagh, about 200 ft high. Cavan is the source of many rivers, Shannon port on the slopes of Cuilcagh is the source of the River Shannon. Ireland's longest river at 390 km. Many American girls are named after the Shannon. The river Erne is a major river, home to ancient ruins, Christian and pagan. Some include: crom estate, Gad Island, Devenish Island, White Island and Boa Island. Many of these locations can only be reached by boat. Other rivers in the county include Blackwater river it rises near Baileborough and flows through lough Ramor joining the river Boyne at Navan. The river Dee which springs near Baileborough the river Annalee which flows from lough Sillanano joins the Erne and the Claddagh river which rises from cuilagh and flows into Fermanagh the Glyde and the Owenroe also source into Cavan. Many songs have been inspired by the various lakes in Ireland and we had to remember their names in school. Cavan is known as the Lakeland county and reputed to contain 365 lakes. Cavan has mostly hilly

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landscape with all the lovely water. In medieval times the area was part of the kingdom of east Breifne, O'Reilly after its ruling family. For this reason, the county is known as the "Breifne county" a high degree of defense was achieved by using the natural landscape of drumlin hills and loughs. The poorly drained soil with heavy clay contributed as an obstacle against invasion. Historically Cavan was part of Connacht but was transferred to Ulster in 1584. Parts of Cavan was subjected to Normandy influence such as Castlerahan and Clogh oughter castle and several monastic orders owe its origin to this time. As for sport Cavan won the all-Ireland 5 times between 1933 and 52. Cavan is the only county without a senior hurling team. Cavan has two rugby football clubs. A few common surnames in Cavan include: McGovern, Lynch, Clarke and Sheridan. A few famous people include: Seamus Dolan, (politician) Cathal bui Mac Giolla Ghunna (poet) and Neven McGuire (chef & tv personality) A few songs for Cavan: Blue hills of Breffni, Cavan girl and As I roved out from the Co. Cavan. I'll leave you with an enlightening story. " Every Sunday morning I take a light jog around a park near my home. There's a lake located in one corner of the park. Each time I jog by this lake, I see the same elderly woman sitting at the water's edge with a small metal cage sitting beside her.

This past Sunday my curiosity got the best of me, so I stopped jogging and walked over to her. As I got closer, I realized that the metal cage was in fact a small trap. There were three turtles, unharmed, slowly walking around the base of the trap. She had a fourth turtle in her lap that she was carefully scrubbing with a spongy brush.

"Hello," I said. "I see you here every Sunday morning. If you don't mind my nosiness, I'd love to know what you're doing with these turtles."

She smiled. "I'm cleaning off their shells," she replied. "Anything on a turtle's shell, like algae or scum, reduces the turtle's ability to absorb heat and impedes its ability to swim. It can also corrode and weaken the shell over time."

"Wow! That's really nice of you!" I exclaimed.

She went on: "I spend a couple of hours each Sunday morning, relaxing by this lake and helping these little guys out. It's my own strange way of making a difference."

"But don't most freshwater turtles live their whole lives with algae and scum hanging from their shells?" I asked.

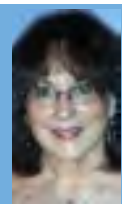
"Yep, sadly, they do," she replied.

I scratched my head. "Well then, don't you think your time could be better spent? I mean, I think your efforts are kind and all, but there are fresh water turtles living in lakes all around the world. And 99% of these turtles don't have kind people like you to help them clean off their shells. So, no offense... but how exactly are your localized efforts here truly making a difference?"

The woman giggled aloud. She then looked down at the turtle in her lap, scrubbed off the last piece of algae from its shell, and said, "Sweetie, if this little guy could talk, he'd tell you I just made all the difference in the world."

My wife Mary & I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas & we hope 2019 brings you all blessings & good health.

Up Cavan! if you have questions/comments please call (708) 425-7021



On the Upbeat

By Maryann
McTeague Keifer

As the Christmas season approaches and many hectic days ensue, I am hoping you will have time to sit by the fire in your favorite chair with a toasty drink and enjoy some of the traditional American and the beautiful Celtic Christmas music that is available to us. Several new listeners have asked me about Irish Christmas albums they should look for. There are so many, and much depends on one's preferences, but looking through

my stash, I thought it was time to remind us where we can find those special holiday songs and tunes. All the albums I mention, some quite old, are still

available for download or purchase.

My favorite Christmas album-the one I first bring out each year, is Aengus' *All On A Christmas Morning* Celtic Christmas Celebration by Jimmy Keane and Robbie O'Connell with guest musicians Liz Carroll, Dennis Cahill, Kathleen Keane, and Click Horning. The tunes are exceptionally done, and the songs touching. It will get you right in the mood for what Christmas really is. Robbie singing To Drive the Cold Winter Away, and the lovely tunes How We Spent Christmas.

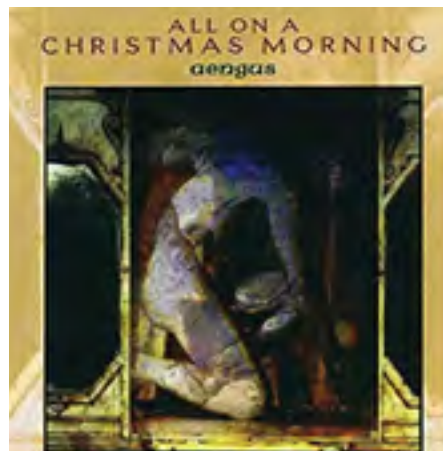
A second favorite also is by Jimmy Keane this time with Pat Broaders bringing us upbeat tunes, lovely watzes to twirl around in the kitchen, and of course, Pat's roaringly funny renditions of three favorites-Miss Fogarty's Christmas Cake, Dear Nuala, and The Recipe. Pick up their

Bo-ho-ho-ho-la.

Another album which features several well known musicians is *Celtic Christmas Sojourn Live* where you can listen to Robbie O'Connell do his version of Miss Fogarty's Christmas Cake, and O Holy

Night by Karan Casey.

An album many do not know about is *A Murray Christmas* on which you can enjoy songs from the delightful Henry Girls and the very talented John Spillane



playing A Christmas Childhood. Add in a must have-The Chieftan's *The Bells Of Ireland* from 1991 which includes The Wexford Carrol, O The Holly She Bears a Berry and many guest musicians, and

Teadá's *Irish Christmas in America,*



and you will be enjoying special tunes from Ireland.

The great radio host Fiona Ritchie's *Thistle & Shamrock Christmas Ceilidh* includes Altan, Andy M. Stewart, Liz Carroll, Patrick Street, Niamh Parsons and Manus McGuire. WOW, that is a lineup to celebrate the holiday with!

Cherish the Ladies fans will enjoy their *On Christmas Night* and Heidi Talbott singing O Come Emmanuel, Angels We Have Heard on High, and Little Drummer Boy. Tunes are festive and will set the mood. Speaking of festive, don't pass up Eileen Ivers' *An Nollaig: An Irish Christmas*. Her energy would carry anyone through the holidays!

Heading up to Canada, the Barra MacNeills' *The Christmas Album* has one of my favorite versions of Carol of the Bells and a gorgeous recitation by Tommy Makem, Singing in the Streets. Ashley

MacIsaac will pep you evenings up with his A Cape Breton Christmas.

Trad tune lovers will really enjoy *Shamrocks & Holly: An Irish Christmas Celebration* with Frankie Gavin and friends doing tunes like Tommy Coen's Christmas Eve and the Holly Reel. Add to this Kevin Burke and Miceal O'Domhnaill with their Celtic Christmas, and you can be in TRAD holiday heaven.

We can't have Christmas without Cathie Ryan singing the best version of It Came Upon a Midnight Clear on the *Best of Celtic Christmas*. The Boys of the Lough do The Mummer's Fig, and Natalie MacMaster does the aching Get Me Through December. These are just a few that grace this album! Natalie and her husband Donnal Leahy's *Celtic Family Christmas* is always a welcome addition for this time of year. Their Silent Night is special!



The Celtic Christmas Silver Anniversary Edition is chock full of great musicians playing tunes and Carols to enhance your holidays. You'll be listening to Phil Cunningham, Triona Ni Dhomhnaill, Paddy Glackin, Liam O'Flynn, Cormac Breatnach, Kathleen Keane, and Mairtin O' Connor.

Maire (Moya) Brennan has a lovely album, *An Irish Christmas* which includes a variety of songs done in several different genres. The harp accompaniment makes it a gorgeous hour of listening pleasure!

Celtic Thunder, Celtic Women, Enya, Irish Tenors, Phil Coulter, Narada, and Whyndam Hill all have several Christmas albums each for those who love the fancily done songs and quiet ethereal tunes.

No matter which music you choose, know that I am sending out the warmest and happiest wishes for a wonderful holiday for you and your loved ones. Sharing the music with you is a great gift that I truly treasure!

Nollaig shona dhuit!

Maryann



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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Reasons to Be Cheerful

Good old Sinead O'Connor. Well, as was. Between the jigs and the reels I haven't found a lot to smile about these past few months, but Sinead's latest shenanigans are... oh, different. Even for her.

As you'll know by now, Sinead O'Connor is no more. Earlier this year she changed her name to Magda Davitt. Something to do with wishing to rid herself of 'parental curses;' you know – the usual problems that beset all of us. Nobody seems to have noticed or cared and so now she's done the big one: converting to Islam and changing her name once again, this time to Shuhada Davitt. Apparently it means something like 'martyr' which would appear to be appropriate considering how the lady has always viewed herself.

With a proper sense of occasion Shuhada/Sinead wrote in October:

"This is to announce that I am proud to have become a Muslim. This is the natural conclusion of any intelligent theologian's journey. All scripture study leads to Islam. Which makes all other scriptures redundant."

She then went on to burst into song with a rousing rendition of the Islamic call to prayer which, if recorded, one suspects will probably NOT equal 'Nothing Compares 2 U' in selling power. Or even on a list of memorable tunes to hum along to.

Naturally enough, Shuhada Magda's conversion – ah hell, I'm just going to write Sinead for the sake of convenience – is her own business. And if she wants to share her happiness with us, that's fine too; whatever floats your boat, says I. But Sinead being Sinead, she has never been one to leave things alone and so of course she had to go that extra step and – having given it possibly no thought whatever – added a few days later:

"I'm terribly sorry. What I'm about to say is something so racist I never thought my soul could ever feel it. But truly I never wanna spend time with white people again (if that's what non-Muslims are called). Not for one moment, for any reason. They are disgusting."

Uh...yeah. Right. Received and understood. And speaking as a disgusting



white person I'm more than happy to oblige. Might be a bit of a problem when it comes to being with your children or their

fathers, I would have thought, but what do I know, not being an expert on theology, like Sinead. Come to think of it, the singer might even have a problem when she looks in the mirror of a morning; but I'm sure that she has enough fake indignation to get over that minor hurdle.

All a bit looney-tunes, really. But the part that really made me smile was when her new best friends were a bit put out by her rambles, one of them (@FatiSada) even telling her: "Easy, sister. All are equal in the eyes of Allah."

I think the ship has sailed when it comes to telling Sinead O'Connor to take it easy, but you really do have to laugh when you manage to even annoy the people that you've just joined up with.

The good news is that Sinead is only 51 and, having explored the far reaches of extreme Catholicism and now diving head-first into Islam, she still has plenty of time to convert to Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, the Way of the Jedi or whatever-you're-having- yourself.

Word is that the Scientologists are in a pure panic in case she decides at some stage to come over to their side.

Heck, they get enough bad press as it is. They don't need Sinead suddenly taking up for them into the bargain.

Let's face it, no one needs that.

Another person who made me smile this week was the truly awful ex-British Prime Minister and ex-human being, Tony Blair. Tony, as all who have watched him in action over the years know, is a guy that if he shook your hand, you would not be just checking for your wrist watch but for how many fingers you had left.

A creep of the highest order, he actually came out and said that he was in an 'unholy alliance' with Boris Johnson over the never-ending BREXIT debacle.

'An unholy alliance'...think about that.

A guy with the blood of thousands on his hands, totally unrepentant about what he has done to the families of those who saw their sons/daughters/ wives/ husbands/ die in a useless bloody war that he and his boss George Bush orchestrated. And this guy has the SHEER NERVE to talk about 'unholy alliances'.

Yeah, it made me smile alright. Just not in the way that mentally ill (by her own

admission) Sinead made me smile.

There's very little funny about Tony Blair, a guy who should be getting tried for war crimes instead of being lauded as someone that is worth listening to.

On a different note, I want to sincerely thank all of you who emailed to ask how my mother has been doing since her stroke several months ago. I have been so touched by your kind thoughts: after all, few of you who have emailed know me, nor I you. But it has been a huge comfort to me.

Nan Brady is a woman who often took me to task over things I'd written – by God, did she do that! She didn't always agree, you can be bloody sure about that.

Nor did she get my love of and obsession with silent horror movies, for example. Even though it was Nan who introduced me to them half a century ago.

How many times did I hear her say: 'Ach, ah don't know what you see in that tripe; I sometimes think you're no a' there in the heed.'

I suppose that she thought I would grow out of my love for those ancient old movies; instead, I never did.

I've been travelling back to Scotland every few weeks now just to hold her hand and tell her how much my brothers and I love her.

But if I'm honest with myself, then I have to admit that she never has really recovered from that stroke. More often than not, I doubt very much that she knows who I am anymore.

And that hurts more than anything I can ever explain.

Yet she seems contented now. She smiles a lot; and in her own way, I suppose she is happy; that in her closed-off (to us) mind she has found her own reasons to be cheerful.

And I like to think that somewhere inside she is remembering the happy, happy times that she had with my late dad. And with my brothers and I, her sons, when we were carefree little nippers.

When I was sitting with her last I found myself wondering about the worlds of memories that must be going on in her head. And I got to thinking about a passage from Neil Gaiman's 'The Sandman':

"Everybody has a secret world inside of them... Inside, they all have got unimaginable, magnificent, amazing worlds. Not just one world. Hundreds of them. Thousands, maybe."

Mum, whatever world you're in now, I wish with all of my heart that you are happy. No one deserves to be more than you do.

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(l - r) Irish Consul General Brian O'Brien, Lee Brophy, Ginger in the City's Catherine Gallagher & Band Slam Winner, Easy There Tiger. Mary McSweeney



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