

# Bill McTighe: *Chicago's Irish Santa!*

November 2019



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A historical talk creating a connection back to your parents, grandparents and great-grandparents place of birth.

This is a free event, and all donations will go towards the development and promotion of Achill Heritage Centre, opening the doors to the public on 25th March.

Immediately after opening and seeing the interest from the local people and visitors to the centre, he knew he was on to something and started looking for bigger more suitable premises. In 2017 a proposal was made to Comharchumann Forbartha Acla, the management committee for the monastery. The proposal was, to lease the buildings and land with a view to restoring the buildings and relocate the heritage Centre there, this was unanimously welcomed and from then, the plan began. In 2018, he along with Tom Moran visited

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New York, Boston & Cleveland in the US, promoting Achill heritage. Following that trip, he felt that even though the Achill diaspora were connected to each other in the area they lived, he looked at ways to connect them to each other globally and so, the Achill Diaspora Group was born. The next US trip is planned for this November, adding Chicago & Cincinnati to the itinerary. [www.achillheritagecentre.com](http://www.achillheritagecentre.com), [www.facebook.com/achillheritagecentre](http://www.facebook.com/achillheritagecentre) [www.achillheritagecentre.wordpress.com/donate-2](http://www.achillheritagecentre.wordpress.com/donate-2)



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Freedom for All Ireland (FFAI) is a national AOH/LAOH initiative that promotes one island, one Ireland with peace, justice and equality for all. All proceeds raised by this event are donated to over a dozen worthy charities/causes throughout the North of Ireland.



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## From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell

### 'Extinction Rebellion'

#### The Truth Shall Set You Free?

First there was Greta Thunberg and the Children's Crusade. Now there is "Extinction Rebellion", a growing middle class movement, originating in the UK, overwhelmingly first world, dedicated to "non-violent civil disobedience in an attempt to halt mass extinction" which threatens, according to them, as a consequence of global warming. It has grown rapidly in the year since its foundation and now boasts offshoots in a number of countries, including Ireland, as well as several branches outside the first world including India. Extinction Rebellion (ER) has become the current middle class cause celebre and, like the global warming issue itself, seems likely to run for quite some time, shortly visiting cities and countries it hasn't touched before.

It has garnered considerable publicity, by disrupting London city centre traffic, and has attracted support from a number of celebrities, academics and some of the great and the good, spearheaded by actors Benedict Cumberbatch, Jude Law, Ruby Wax and Ray Winston, musicians Bob Geldof and Adam Clayton, authors Ian McEwan and Nick Hornsby together with a selection of senior British Labour MPs. The celebrities in their open letter have acknowledged that, with their high carbon lives tied into a fossil-fuel economy, they are hypocrites but have gone on to point out that the seriousness of the current situation merits using their "profiles and platforms" to draw attention to what they term as "living in the midst of the 6th mass extinction."

The movement is about sensitising public opinion about global warming and can claim some success, though it is pushing against an already open door, to which it would respond that the door is not opening fast enough. ER has two main "demands": for the Government (initially the British, but now others, including the Irish) to "tell the truth" regarding the seriousness of the climate situation and the urgent need for action and for the Government to act immediately to halt "biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2030 (Ireland- for the UK the demand is 2025!) while reversing all policies not in alignment with that position."

There's also a third more problematic



"demand" - to "ensure a just transition", "where the most vulnerable are not expected to sacrifice the most"; this, moreover, "to be made within a global context" to "ensure that profits are not placed before our planet." This last demand is accompanied in utterances in the UK for a rejection of normal political structures and the establishment of a Citizens' Assembly to lead and decide on matters pertaining to climate and ecological "justice." So much for democracy and elected governments.

Thus far the ER's main achievement in Britain has been lots of short term disruption to traffic flows and commuting in Central London, holding up traffic, and protesters super-gluing themselves to pavements, the doors of Tube trains and the gates of Buckingham Palace, with more to come. Additionally, October included disrupting a flight out of London City Airport and minor disruption to the London Underground, where protesters sat on the roof of a morning Tube train before being dragged off by angry commuters. This last has caused some fissure in the ER ranks, with the majority apparently eschewing interfering with the Tube, but undoubtedly the incident has given cause to ponder about what the next round of actions will bring. (After all, if there is indeed an emergency threatening the future of the human race, surely minor local actions such as interfering with the Tube to highlight the emergency can be justified??)

The London police were initially cordial, in view of the expressed nonviolent nature of the movement, and in Ireland to date, where the actions have been more low-key, relations with the Gardai have been good. However the October days of action in London have strained relations between ER and the Met, which has been hard put to cope as the levels of disruption have increased from minor to major. Protesters blocking roads have had to be moved by police, with major demands on manpower and diversion of scarce resources away from combating serious crime including the growing one of people trafficking, where a recent appalling incident involving the deaths of thirty nine migrants has brought the issue into sharp focus.

The London police are treading warily, with no desire to turn the protesters into martyrs. However 1800 arrests were made during ER's autumn campaign. So far 384 protesters have ended up with criminal records, though in the case of many seasoned protesters these merely constitute badges

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of honour. Sweeping restrictions on protest gatherings by ER across London have now been introduced and are currently under challenge in the Courts on civil liberty grounds.

Whither the next step? Future protests are planned. It is all very well to declare, as spokespersons for the movement assert, that its members are willing to face arrest. It's not rocket science to grasp that the court system and prisons in Britain, Ireland and elsewhere would be unable to cope with mass arrests and imprisonment of normally law abiding middle class citizens, so for most it is likely to be a quick in-and-out process with at worst a fine (though for some, the unforeseen future consequences of having a criminal record could come back to bite).

There is also the calculation that politicians of whatever hue would be unwilling to court unpopularity by cracking down too hard on protests about a topic on which there is considerable public worry and concern. This could change. Were future protests to intensify - as the movement hints - adding to commuter frustration and generating collateral damage including causing death or serious injury to the public, the current neutral public tolerance of ER could dissipate. Former President Mary Robinson has already cautioned the

Extinction Rebellion protesters lest their tactics alienate public opinion.

The immediate "demands" of Extinction Rebellion cannot be realised easily. The Truth is already out there and well publicised. The Earth faces a major ecological crisis over the next generation or so. Shifting from a fossil fuel economy is happening - albeit slowly. Could it be speeded up? Of course. Though to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025 or 2030 would involve immediate dramatic changes in lifestyle, including severe restrictions on road, rail and air transportation as well as on the current energy consumption patterns of the general population including work, heating, lighting, cooking and cleaning, not to mention shopping and leisure. All can be addressed, and, in so far as the government CAN address them - are. But not overnight, or in a few years, even were unlimited financial resources and manpower available.

There's a further point. The Emergency is global, not regional. Its causes are rooted in massive recent population growth, the ready availability of cheap fossil-fuel based energy, and the perfectly legitimate drive to raise living standards in regions outside the OECD Golden Circle. 50% of all greenhouse gas emissions have occurred since 1988!. We may aspire to lead by example. But who will follow?





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## Geraldine 'Jerre' McPartlin, All Around Superwoman, Dies at 91

We lost another great Chicago Irishwoman, Geraldine M. "Jerre" McPartlin of Chicago, IL (formerly River Forest, IL) passed away on October 16.

She was born July 29, 1928 and raised on the West side of Chicago, attending Resurrection Grammar School, Siena High School and Rosary College.

She began her career in the labor movement as a business representative for the School Lunchroom Employees Local 129 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union (H.E.R.E.) In 1976. From her first day on the job, she took on the tough fights and dedicated her life to the working people and

achievements, leadership and dedication to strengthening the Chicago labor movement. S

She was a proud delegate many times to the Democratic National Convention and remained active fighting for justice and equality for her union brothers and sisters until her retirement at 83.

Jerre was a tireless leader devoting her efforts to many causes, including Misericordia, Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, Mercy Hospital, Amvets Post #13, the Jesuit Partnership Foundation, Concern Worldwide USA, the Irish American Labor Council and the downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and Queen's Contest, serving as Chief Judge



families of the union she represented.

She quickly rose the ranks to Vice-President of Local 1, servicing thousands of unionized workers in the hospitality and food service industries.

Jerre was appointed a member of the Chicago Federation of Labor's Executive Board in 1981, becoming the first woman elected to the Chicago Federation of Labor as First-Vice President in 1985.

In 1995 she was named "Labor Woman of the Year" by the Chicago Federation of Labor for her

for over three decades.

"Thank you for the many years of dedication and commitment to the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. You were a friend to all and will be dearly missed." **James F. Coyne, General Chairman, Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade.**

She was laid to rest at Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Donations can be made to Misericordia Home, or Mercy Home for Boys and Girls.



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## Irish Singer Rory Makem at the Irish Cultural & Heritage Center in Wisconsin December 13

A leading voice in the Irish song tradition, Rory Makem will bring A Christmas Tradition concert to the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee on Friday, Dec. 13 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 shows at Milwaukee Irish Fest with his father as well as with Makem and Spain. In addition to his solo concerts, Makem and Dónal Clancy, son of the late Liam Clancy, have been touring as a duo since their debut at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center 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 \$20 in advance, \$25 on concert day, \$10 for students with ID at the door and free for ages 12 and under. To order tickets online, go to [www.ichc.net](http://www.ichc.net) or call (414) 345-8800.



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# Bill McTighe: The Big Fella With a Big Heart, Bagpipes, and a Shannon Rover for Life!

Growing up "American Irish" on the west side of Chicago, one of four kids of a police officer and a housewife in a humble, 1950's Austin-neighborhood home, Bill McTighe, now a veteran Shannon Rovers bagpiper, a retired Streets and Sanitation general superintendent, and a father of three, couldn't have known that his love of Irish music would, one day, make him one of the most recognizable faces in the city.

I'm waiting in an Oak Park diner, a mile west of his childhood stomping grounds, to meet the man himself. Over the last 25 years, I've played alongside Bill in the Shannon Rovers Irish

Bagpipe and Drum Band, which is, remarkably, less than half his own tenure with the group. He's a musical mentor and a friend. But today we're meeting on journalistic business, to capture his legacy in Chicago's Irish American community.

He arrives early, as usual, in his typical hustle and bustle, wearing a kilt, tuxedo jacket, and knee socks. A bow tie hangs expectantly from his open collar. His head of salt-and-pepper curls are permanently tousled. An over-stuffed bag dangles from one shoulder, his



By Katherine Iannitelli

bagpipe case from the other, and he cradles a pile of scrapbooks in both arms.

Between the outfit, the paraphernalia, and his imposing frame, he's a spectacle. The other patrons watch him cross the room. Before I can say hello, a gentleman at the next table waves and shouts, "Hey, Billy!"

Bill stops to shake his hand, and asks him about his family, his job, and the people they know in common. When Bill finally walks my way, I overhear the man tell his tablemates about the time he

first met Bill McTighe.

I'm eager to start an interview, but Bill stops me. He suggests we start by looking through his snapshots from the old days. That sounds good to me. He's a captivating storyteller, the band's unofficial historian, and I suspect we'll get farther if he, with his gift of gab, unravels the memories as they come.

We page through his meticulously organized treasure trove of Shannon Rovers photo books. Peering over his glasses, he sips coffee and narrates. His phone never stops ringing, but he declines the calls in favor of our discussion (and a generous pancake breakfast).

He reminds me of how far the band has come - that in 1926, nine freshly emigrated Irishmen, in the wake of the Irish War of Independence and Irish Civil War, formed the Shannon Rovers Social Club "for promotion of Irish music and to help members who are in distress."

In those times of struggle, the Rovers celebrated St. Patrick's Day by marching a humble fife and drum corps through the West Garfield Park neighborhood into a church basement céilí. Today, Bill says proudly, the Shannon

Rovers lead the downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade, with 88 bagpipers, drummers, and color guard, and perform the gamut of Irish heritage celebrations around the globe.

Bill points out an old black and white parade shot of the legendary Tommie Ryan on State Street, circa 1969.

"That's Pa," he says, affectionately, of the band's founder. "He was my first teacher."

In 1967, Bill's father, traveling by train to the Democratic State Fair in Springfield, found himself in a car full of Shannon Rovers. He inquired about how Bill, then age 12, might learn to play the bagpipes.

"They told him to bring me down to see if I'd like it," Bill says. "So, in the second week of August 1967, my dad brought me to practice at the old boat house in Columbus Park."

At the end of the evening, Ryan sent Bill home with a practice chanter in one hand and a music book in the other. He was the youngest musician in the band.

"I was constantly playing, practicing, learning. I got bagpipes for Christmas."

By the time he was 13, he was proficient, kilted and ready to



(l to r): Tom Finnegan, Tom Conway, Ryan Jennings, Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM, Bill McTighe, Billy McTighe.



Mary and Bill McTighe



march.

"The very first night I performed, my mom dropped me off at 37th and Halsted. We marched down Halsted into the Chicago Amphitheater to play for the 1968 Democratic National Convention. I thought I was hot stuff."

But then he did his first competition. "I got completely picked apart by the judges. I realized the difference between my piping and competition-level piping."

After graduating Weber High School in 1972, he worked full time for Streets and Sanitation at night, carried a full college class load during the day, and continued to perform with the Shannon Rovers almost every weekend. He also entered piping competitions regularly, and sought out additional private lessons on the side from some of the finest musicians in Chicago. By 1979, he was competing in Grade I, the highest category (under Professional) in competitive solo piping.

Bill's phone rings again. He

turns it over, then holds it up for me to see the caller: Ryan Jennings.

"Hang on," he says with a Santa Claus smile. "I gotta take this one."

Jennings is a 25-year-old resident of Misericordia Home and a person with Down syndrome, whose unbridled enthusiasm for the Shannon Rovers (and daily cold calls to the band phone) culminated in him winning a contest, suiting up in full regalia, and carrying a flag with the band's color guard.

"Hi, Ryan!" Bill beams. "How are ya, buddy? On your way to work? Good for you! Okay! Thanks for checking in! Talk later!"

And, just like that, the call is over. He places the phone face down, sits back for a moment, grins, folds his arms, and shrugs.

"Ryan calls me to say hello three times a day without fail."

And, I think to myself, three times a day Bill answers.

This is the Bill his friends have

come to know: charitable, kind, and outgoing.

"He's a terribly generous guy," says Rovers color guard Bill Olker. "He's never said no to anything I've ever asked him."

"He always includes everyone in the Shannon Rovers for social events, as well as anyone else who takes an interest in the Rovers," says Rovers piper Vicky Foss. "I can see the amount of joy it brings him to be around other people."

"Bill is a very social person," says former Rovers drummer Dave McHugh. "He's not afraid to walk up to someone and say, 'Hi. I'm Bill McTighe. Who are you?' He has a little politician in him."

And never is Bill's inner politician more evident than when he's out with the Shannon Rovers. He handshakes his way around parish parties and parade grounds, talks to people at wedding receptions, in hotel lobbies, and while riding in elevators. He greets nearly everyone he sees walking down the street.

"It blows my mind the number of people that respond to him when he walks into a room," says Olker. "He's a unique guy and he stands out. And he has a great feel for the room and how to act. I always follow his lead when we're out."

His charisma came naturally, even as a kid. In 1970, while performing at the Hilton Hotel, 16-year-old Bill initiated an exchange with President Richard Nixon. "I was the last piper on the stairs, so I stopped playing and reached over and shook his hand. I got yelled at, but I didn't care. I didn't want to miss the opportunity." Since then, he's shaken hands with every president through Obama, even spending St. Patrick's Day 2009 with a small group of Shannon Rovers at the White House.

"I think it's very important to socialize and mingle. That ingrains us in people's lives. We become instant friends," Bill explains. "The thing that sets the Shannon

Rovers apart is that we don't just come in to play and leave. In spirit, we're still very much a social club. We focus on building relationships."

And his Irish network extends far beyond the Rovers experience. He also served as president of the Young Irish Fellowship Club, was on the board of the Irish Fellowship Club for 26 years, and still makes a yearly appearance at the Christmas Luncheon as "Green Santa" in the precious suit made by Ginger LeFevour in 1969 and handed down to him by Butch McGuire in 1983.

Bill's social reach in the Irish American Community was particularly helpful when, in 1992, differences in opinion over the artistic direction of the band led to the withdrawal of 21 members, including a majority of the officers. It happened a few months before St. Patrick's Day, with performance commitments already on the books, leaving the Rovers in a precarious situation.



(l to r): Joe Shevlin, Billy McTighe, Tim LeFevour, Bill McTighe, former President Barack Obama, former First Lady Michelle Obama, Nora Brennan, Jim Brunner, Dave Kennedy, Marty McAndrew, and Danny Sullivan.



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In the wake of the split, Bill was elected Band Manager.

"Bill was very solid in the Irish community," says McHugh. "He knew everyone we needed to keep in touch with. He was the right choice."

Bill set about reassuring clients that performances would be covered, bringing back members who had fallen off over the years, reinforcing the band's relationships within the Irish American community, and looking to enlist new members.

Tim LeFevour, now Rovers Drum Major, was one of the new recruits. "Bill led the orchestration of revamping the band. Bill's leadership during this time was strongly needed, as I'm not sure the Rovers would be around today if Bill hadn't taken the initiatives he did."

But he couldn't have done any of it without the most important person he ever crossed a room to meet.

In 1980, after competing in both bagpipes and the Scottish

heptathlon in the Alma Highland Games, Bill and fellow bagpiper Dave Kennedy drove home from Michigan for an evening out at the Abbey Pub.

Also out, with a gaggle of her sisters and cousins, was Mary Neenan, a beautiful lass with an infectious laugh. She and the girls had just taken a dancing class, so he sidled up and joked with her.

"I said, 'Just what we need here, another Irish dancer.' The girls were surprised because apparently she was the queen of blowing guys off. But she talked to me."

Bill called Mary and they started dating.

"We were both Irish. She was a lot of fun. We just hit it off."

When they married in 1986, the whole band was invited.

Mary lent unconditional support to Bill's passion for the Shannon Rovers. She simply made the band part of her life, tagging along with Bill to pubs and parades, parish parties and festivals, frequently with their three children in tow.

"Mary was a beautiful lady. I can see why Bill fell in love with her," McHugh says. "Every St. Patrick's Day, Mary and my wife were together down at the Hilton enjoying their day with the kids. We would stop in and see them and then go out and keep playing all night."

Mary, outgoing and likeable as she was, quickly became entrenched in the close-knit Rovers family.

"Sometimes I think the band liked Mary more than me," Bill jokes.

"Bill and Mary complemented each other," says Maureen Driscoll, wife of Rovers piper Pat Driscoll, Sr. "Bill and Mary were always remembering people, making friends with people, helping people."

Which is why, when Mary was diagnosed with cancer, the band rallied around the McTighe family. People visited the house regularly, provided meals, drove the kids to and from activities, and wrapped them in friendship and emotional



**Front and Center, left to right: Billy McTighe, Mary Kate McTighe and Bill McTighe.**

support. When Mary passed in 2009, every single band member came to the funeral, in uniform, to say goodbye.

"I don't think anybody missed it," says Bill. "I very much noticed it. It meant a lot to me."

Bill then faced raising his three children, Billy, a freshman at Notre Dame University, Mary Kate, a senior at Regina High School, and Maura, a sixth grader at Immacu-



late Conception, alone.

"He was working and travelling and piping and all of the sudden he was a single parent," says Maura who was 11 at the time. "He had to get up everyday, make lunch, drive me to school, drive me to practice."

In the months that followed, Bill lost his father and his brother, and, in the backwash of the economic crisis, was laid off from his job with the Teamsters Union, a position he took after retiring from Streets and Sanitation.

Mary Kate attributes his making it through difficult times to his attitude. "One of his many sayings is 'We don't have problems. We have solutions.'" She notes that while he took time away from being band manager, he never gave up going out and playing the music.

His eldest, Billy, became a proficient drummer, and Mary Kate a piper. Eventually they were all out playing jobs together, an experience that they cherish.

"It's pretty cool," says Billy. "With him a piper and myself as a drummer, we have to truly work together and be on the same page or it will be a poor performance. It's very rare to be in a position like that with a parent, and still be fun at the end of the day."

Several years later, Bill did another stint as band manager, and went on to some of his favorite moments with the Shannon Rovers, including playing at Maureen O'Hara's funeral in Arlington National Cemetery and bringing the entire band to play in the Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade.

He also prioritized teaching new



(Itor): Bill McTighe, Billy McTighe, Mary Kate McTighe, Mary McTighe, and front: Maura McTighe.

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**Tuesday:** **Pat Quinn** and friends\*

**Wednesday:** **Pauline Conneely** and friends\*

**Thursday:** **Rachel Gribben** and friends\*

**Upstairs Wedding and Wedding Rehearsal Dinners**

773-472-5555 *Soul of Ireland, Heart of Chicago*

student groups, welcoming them into his home for weekly practice sessions.

"He's very patient in lessons," says Rovers piper Terri Gillerlain. "He's the first person I call for help when something's wrong with my pipes. He's never once said no or that he's busy."

Today, with confidence in Band Manager Marty McAndrew, Bill continues to look to the future of the Shannon Rovers.

"I remember the first day Marty came to practice. Marty was Pipe Major for 12 years, and he knows the whole history of the band. He has all of the experience and knowledge of how we got here to continue growth of the band."

And for his part in the band today, Bill embraces the idea of

serving in a mentorship role.

"I feel I still have things to contribute: to be there as a reference point, a sounding board for the next generation as they step into positions of leadership within the band."

As for hanging up the pipes altogether, Bill says that's not likely to happen anytime soon.

"I promised myself when it stopped being fun I was finished, and 52 years later I'm still here."

*You can get your picture taken with Bill at the Irish Fellowship Club's Christmas Luncheon at the Hilton Chicago, downtown, Friday December 6, 2019, with a cocktail reception at 11:15 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:15 p.m. www.irishfellowshipclub.com.*



Bill McTighe at Old St. Patrick's Church.





# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## A Cháirde

This month we look forward to the Gaelic Park Players, Gaelic Park Junior Players, The Gleeson Trio and Thanksgiving, followed on December 1st by the Carraig Pub Challenge 5K.

The Players will be performing- Anyone Could Rob A Bank- and the Junior Players will perform Taddy-Spirit of Ireland for one weekend. Dinner/theatre packages are available.

The Gleeson Trio performs on November 8th. Ticket prices are modest and all are welcome. Buy tickets early for

that, and for our Thanksgiving dinner, which will sell out.

Best of luck to all those who choose to participate in our Super Fundraiser. Ticket sales are limited, the grand prize is \$50,000, and total prizes are \$100,000. And for those who want to start their Christmas shopping early, we have memberships, concert tickets and merchandise for sale.

Thank you for your support.

Is mise le meas,  
Bill O'Sullivan

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- Pub Trivia every Tuesday, October-May starting at 7:30pm
- Every Thursday Traditional Music with Pat Finnegan & The Irish Musicians

**the CARRAIG**  
IRISH PUB

Live Music in the Pub

Fri	Nov 1	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Sat	Nov 2	Gerry Haughey	8:00pm
Fri	Nov 8	Ray Gavin	7:30pm
Sat	Nov 9	A Week Back	8:00pm
Wed	Nov 13	Frank Rossi	6:00pm
Fri	Nov 15	Bernie Glim	7:30pm
Sat	Nov 16	Gerry Haughey	7:00pm
Fri	Nov 22	Joe Cullen	7:30pm
Sat	Nov 23	Kieran Byrne	8:00pm
Sat	Nov 29	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Sat	Nov 30	Rico Quinn	8:00pm

Chicago Gaelic Park  
6119 W. 147th Street • Oak Forest, IL  
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NO COVER CHARGE

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING HAPPENING AT GAELIC PARK...

### NOVEMBER

Sun	Nov. 3	Book Club ( <i>The Wonder</i> )
Wed	Nov. 6	Senior Luncheon - Gerry Haughey
Fri	Nov. 8	Gleason Trio Concert
Sun	Nov. 10	Monthly Mass & Breakfast
Wed	Nov. 13	Women's Auxilliary & Bingo
Wed	Nov. 27	Drinksgiving 9pm Gaelic Brew
Thurs	Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Carvery
Sat	Nov. 30	Landlords of Achill & Mayo - Historical talk

### DECEMBER

Sun	Dec. 1	Carraig Challenge 5K & Early Bird Drawing
Sun	Dec. 8	Super Fundraiser
Thurs	Dec 5 & 19	Mingle Jingle
Fri	Dec 13	The Noble Call
Tues	Dec. 31	Family New Year's Eve
Tues	Dec. 31	Set & Ceili New Year's Eve
Every Monday		Set Dancing 7:30pm
Every Tuesday		Ceili Dancing 7:30pm
		Ceili Lessons - 7:00 pm
Sunday Evening		CGP Radio Live WCEV 1450 AM 7:05-8:00pm

WEBSITE CALENDAR SHOWS FULL MONTH

## Gaelic Park Book Club (Club Leabhar)

Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 1:00-3:00pm  
now through May 2020

The first Sunday of the month we gather to discuss great Irish writers. Please join us!  
There is no fee & we don't require perfect attendance.  
If you have questions, contact: [Molanive@yahoo.com](mailto:Molanive@yahoo.com)

Nov 3	The Wonder	Emma Donoghue
Dec 1	This Side of Brightness	Colum McCann
Jan 5	No Ordinary Women	Sinead McCoole
Feb 2	Everybody Matters	Former Pres. Mary Robinson
Mar 1	The Devil I know	Claire Kilroy
Apr 5	Dancer	Colum McCann
May 3	Unraveling Oliver	Liz Nugent

At Chicago Gaelic Park

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# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## Celebrate Thanksgiving at Gaelic Park

Thursday November 28, 2019

A Traditional Thanksgiving Buffet With Turkey, Ham, Roast Beef And All Of The Traditional Trimmings

Choice of Soup, An Extensive Salad Bar, Vegetables, Potatoes and Dessert Served from 3:00pm to 6:00pm Live Music from 4-8pm

Reservations are required and must be paid in advance. Adults - \$24.95 Children 4 to 12 - \$14.95 Admission includes drink and entertainment. Cash bar.



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Happy Thanksgiving from Chicago Gaelic Park!



Chicago Gaelic Park invites you to Achill Heritage Centre's Presentation of

## "Landlords of Achill & Mayo Pre- and Post- Famine"

A historical talk presented by Vincent English

Create a connection back to your parents, grandparents and great-grandparents place of birth.



At Chicago Gaelic Park Saturday November 30, 2019 7:00pm

This is a free event, and all donations will go towards the development & promotion of Achill Heritage.



Website - [www.achillheritagecentre.com](http://www.achillheritagecentre.com) Facebook - [www.facebook.com/achillheritagecentre](https://www.facebook.com/achillheritagecentre)  
Chicago Gaelic Park - 6119 W 147th Street - Oak Forest, IL - 708-687-9323

Chicago Gaelic Park  
Carraig Challenge  
Cross Country 5K run / 1.5 mile walk

Thanksgiving Weekend

Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 10:00am

Chicago Gaelic Park 6119 W. 147th St, Oak Forest, IL

Returning for 2019 Carraig Challenge Hooded Sweatshirt and Pub Drink Ticket

Indoor Heated Prep/waiting Area with Bathrooms  
Fountain water / food table with hot soup  
Discount pricing for Family's and Students  
Age Group Awards

Online registration  
[racetime.life](http://racetime.life) or [raceposter.com](http://raceposter.com)

Questions, contact Chicago Gaelic Park (708) 687-9323 or [office@chicagogaelicpark.org](mailto:office@chicagogaelicpark.org)

Proceeds to Gaelic Park Charities providing to those in need throughout the Chicagoland area

Early Bird Drawing December 1st for 15,000 - Get your tickets NOW!

Gaelic Park's Super Fund Raiser  
Grand Prize \$50,000!

2nd thru 6th Place \$5,000  
7th thru 19th \$1,000

Drawing Sunday December 8, 2019  
Donation \$100.00  
Only 2000 Tickets Sold

Tickets available in the Carraig Pub or the Gaelic Park Front Office 708-687-9323

Gaelic Park's Annual Small Office Christmas Party!

Mingle & Jingle

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 free-lan open bar and a live DJ!

Thursday December 12 or Thursday December 19  
6:30-10:30pm - \$39.00 Per person - Reservations Only

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

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Paddy Homan and The Noble Call takes audiences back to the 'heart' of an Irish Christmas, filled with songs and stories. Guest appearance by Brian Cunningham, Sean Nos dancer.

Appearing at Chicago Gaelic Park

Friday December 13, 2019  
7:30pm - Tickets \$20

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.chicagogaelicpark.com](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.com) or by calling the front office 708-687-9323

Mike Broderick on Banjo! Sean Carby on Banjo! Larry Nugent on Fiddle! Brendan Butler on Fiddle!



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 cordially invite you to a  
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4:00 - 10:00 P.M.  
Dinner Buffet  
A 50 Irish New Year Champagne Toast  
Set, Ceilí, & Old Time Waltz  
featuring  
Ceoltoir Chicago  
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Reservations must be made by 12/28/19

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November 27th @ 9:00pm  
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## Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



"This fellow who jumped, we called him Tito because that was his customary drink at our

## The Hound of the Baskervilles

*Written by: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*  
*Directed by: Terry McCabe*  
*Produced at City Lit Theater*  
The production is masked by great



imagine.

This is encouraged by the beautiful, and powerful violin music that is played throughout the play. I had never seen this employed before in a play. But the music was transcendent and mesmerizing. It was played by Eugene Kaler.

Conan Doyle uses blunt, precise words that fit with Sherlock's complicated character. He is a no-nonsense, analytical person.

There are so many excellent acting performances that I don't like to single out any actors. But, I particularly enjoyed the performance of Adam Bitterman, as Dr. Watson, and James Sparling, as Sherlock Holmes.

This whole production was brought together by the Director, Terry McCabe. I have seen the out-

standing work of this director many times over the years. Great congratulations are due to Terry, because this is his and City Lit's 40th Anniversary Season.

City Lit is "a theater that specializes in literary work and communicates a commitment...to civilizing influences—a life of the mind, and trust in an audience's intelligence."

Listing Information:

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Adapted and Directed by Terry McCabe  
Performances at City Lit Theater, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. Chicago

Inside Edgewater Presbyterian Church building.

September 27-November 10  
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30  
Sundays at 3:00

Ticket prices: \$32, seniors \$27, students and military \$12

Tickets at Box Office: [www.citylit.org](http://www.citylit.org) or 773-293-3682.

## Girl: A Novel

*Edna O'Brien Surprises Again... Plumbing the Depths of a Young Girl's Despair*

*Reviewed by Sabina Clarke*

In a dazzling display of ferocity, genius and a triumph of imagination Edna O'Brien tackles a difficult tale telling the story of the 276 Nigerian school girls kidnapped by Boko Haram jihadists in the Nigerian town of Chibok in April 2014—through the articulate voice of Maryam the young Nigerian girl of the book's title.

That O'Brien even undertook the arduous journey to Nigeria not once but twice is amazing in itself for someone in her eighties and to a world far-removed from anything

## A Bump On The Leg

Actor Jim Mallon tells his story in a free reading of the play.

This will be on Monday, November 25 at Chief O'Neill's Pub and Restaurant, 3471 N. Elston in Chicago.

The phone there is 773-583-3066.

## A Murder on Wall Street A Joey Mancuso, Father O'Brian Crime Mystery

*By Owen Parr and Published by him*  
Joey Mancuso and Fr. Dominic O'Brian are half-brothers. When Fr. Dom's

dad died, his mother married Joey's father. Joey was a detective with the NYPD for 16 years. And, though exuberantly high-hearted, has remained relentless in stopping crime and pursuing the truth.

Joey says about his brother: "Fr. Dom is not your typical Irish priest. Yes, he is dedicated to his flock and his duties as a priest, but like me, he is a bit unconventional in his ways. Fifteen years my elder, he was my mentor, my

moral compass, and substitute father. Every day, Dom takes time from his busy schedule to stop in at the pub and help in any way he can. If he were not a priest, he would be a great detective, as he also loves solving crime mysteries...He is tall, thin and good looking, with blue piercing eyes, and reddish hair."

The author describes the pub: "Captain O'Brian's Tavern was established in 1948 by Father Dominic's grandfather, U.S. Marine Captain Sean O'Brian, upon his return from World War II. The tavern was a family institution in New York's Financial District, and it catered to military, and police personnel, as well as Wall Street types and other clientele."

Joey describes the tragedy and the mystery: "He humped from the twenty-first floor of his office building? I thought after my brother texted me the news. I couldn't believe it."

Irish pub and cigar bar—was celebrating last night...He bought champagne for everyone at the bar..."

"I remember distinctly when Tito told me 'Joey, my life has changed for the better. I just landed a whale of an account for my firm. Life is good.'"

"So, why would someone commit suicide after celebrating life the night before?" I asked myself. After sixteen years as homicide detective with the NYPD, I knew this didn't add up."

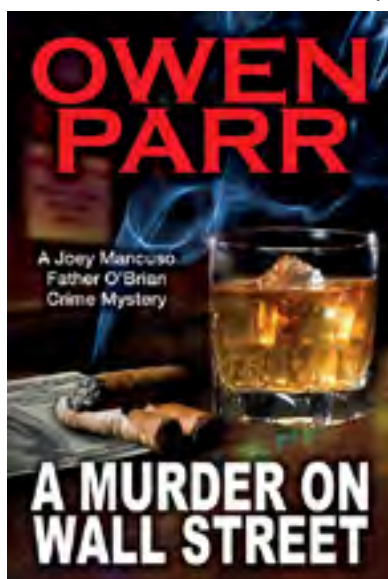
The brothers were determined to investigate and find the truth. Despite the grim topic, the book is light-hearted and breezily conversational.

In the investment firm that he worked for they find many suspects. And many motives. An FBI agent, investigating while collar crime, lists the motives: "There's a whole litany of motives for them. The alleged

Ponzi scheme cover-up, the insurance they're going to collect on his death, the money they need, the ability to keep the dead man's clientele and not share a partnership cut for him. I mean the list is large, isn't it?"

Owen Parr was raised in Miami. He owned a multi-branch real estate firm before joining the Financial Advice Industry where he has worked now for many years. "He is a financial advisor with a major Wall Street firm, he knows firsthand the world that can eat its own."

Reflecting on his experiences on this case and as an NYPD detective, Joey Mancuso says, "Who's to say what the future holds...? You can't define your future with certainty. You can plan and wish for something, but destiny is dealing the cards. The best we can do is learn to be prepared to deal with the opportunities and the challenges dealt to us."





familiar—an unknown territory both geographically and culturally.

And to add a bit of dash, intrigue, brazenness and common sense—she carried with her wads of cash hidden in her person to avoid customs knowing this would be needed to gain access to doctors, aid workers, trauma specialists and local journalists she needed to interview in researching her book. And through these contacts she met some of the girls whose stories she absorbed and transformed into one single powerful narrative—the voice of Maryam.

The novel opens with Maryam's plaintive wail, "I was a girl once, but not anymore." This is a story of brutal rape, abduction and imprisonment. Maryam is captured, abducted and married against her will into Boko Haram. She witnesses and suffers unimaginable atrocities and is soon impregnated but does not know who the father is, "There is only Babby and me now. She cries from the pit of her empty belly, hoarse savage cries and I say to her. 'You have no name and no father.' I bark at her. Sometimes I want

to kill her." O'Brien details the savagery that Maryam and other girls were subjected to in brutal chilling detail. After a particularly horrific experience, Maryam says, "Did God witness what happened and did he write it into his big ledger for the Day of Judgement. Oh God empty me of him. Is that too much to ask. Will I ever know the language of love. Will I ever know home again."

Some scenes in the book are ghoulish and shocking in their detail such as the grisly recounting of a scene where the wife of the chief emir is stoned for adultery, "She was like some ghou now, a mimicry of who she once had been, bleeding on one side and shredded on the other".... "it was almost evident that she was gone and her eyes which have been shut tight opened in a clench, opened to a knowing, aghast goggle....the strangest thing of all was her hair, so long and luxurious, it seemed to bristle with life."

This is not an easy book to read or a pleasant tale to tell but O'Brien's vast trove of linguistic gymnastics are on magnificent display while the horror of this tale is captured in full.



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## Billy Murray

Billy Murray was one of the most prolific artists of the early acoustic era (1895-1925) of the recording industry. He sold more records than any other artist of his generation. Known as "The Denver Nightingale,"

Murray was mostly known for his comic songs but his repertoire included patriotic songs, sentimental ballads, love songs, vaudeville skits and refrains for dance band numbers. Most of his recordings were done as a solo artist but he also did many duets, trios, quartets and quintets.

He was born William Thomas Murray in Philadelphia on May 25, 1877. Both of his parents, Patrick Murray and Julia Kelleher Murray were from County Kerry, Ireland. In 1883 the family moved to Denver, Colorado. In an article attributed to Murray in 1917, he talks about his early musical success: in 1896 I was trouping with a minstrel show, and finally landed in "Frisco." The

performance at which Matt Kief (Keefe), the famous minstrel, and myself sang "The County Mayo" {"The Lass From The County Mayo"}...

As a result, Matt and I were engaged to go to the store and make some records of the song.

At that time many dealers had devices by which eight records could be made at once, and Matt and I were set to work in front of one of these.

None of these cylinders are known to exist today.

Murray was soon recording for all the major labels by 1900. In 1905 Victor was boasting that Murray's "The Yankee Doodle Boy" was the top-selling record in its history. He broke that record the following year with "The Grand Old Rag." Some of these early recordings remained in catalogs for over 15 years.

According to Joel Whitburn in his book Pop Memories 1890-1954, The History of

Edison Jobbers in San Francisco were Baci-galupi Brothers, and one of the members of the firm, or one of their customers, attended a per-

American Popular Music, Billy Murray had 169 charted singles and 18 number one songs. He is listed as number five in the top 100 artists of this era. Some of his famous recordings included Irish-American hits such as; "Bedelia,"

"My Irish Molly-O," "The Irish Girl I Love," and "Harrigan." Besides "Harrigan," he was also famous for introducing other George M. Cohan songs such as "Give My Regards To Broadway," "The Yankee Doodle Boy," and "The Grand Old Rag." You may think that the last song is spelled wrong but it isn't. Murray sold many records for the first year with this title until the public demanded that Cohan change the lyrics. Cohan changed the lyrics to "The Grand Old Flag" and Victor Records changed the label, but the recording with Murray singing the old lyrics remained the same.

In 1909 Murray signed a joint contract, along with other artists, with Victor Records that lasted for ten years. Murray remained one of the country's most popular artists through the 1920's. Besides his solo recordings he began doing more work with other artists. He claimed to discover Ada Jones

who also became a major artist and with whom Murray did many duets with. He also performed with the American & Premier Quartet and the Heidelberg Quintet. All of the artists that ever worked with Murray remembered him as an energetic individual with a well-developed sense of fun.

Besides music, Murray's other love was baseball. Murray would spend days at the ballpark. Baseball is what solidified his relationship with Cohan. He would practice with the Yankees regularly and played right field for them in exhibition games around the country. He found ways to play hooky from recording sessions just to play or watch baseball. He knew every player on all of the sixteen major league teams and also played for a theatrical baseball team, the Long Island Good Hearted Thespians Society. Because of his association with baseball he was also credited with making popular the great American song "Take Me Out To the Ballgame," although no known recording exist. His last recording was made in 1943 and he died in 1954. He married three times but had no children.



## "From Ireland to Chicagoland"

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



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

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



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I well remember Don McClean's "American Pie" and singing about the day the music died. The music didn't die for us here in the Midwest, but it certainly took a hard hit with the October 13th passing of Ed Ward. A gentleman, a mentor, a visionary, an organizer, a leader, a colleague, a businessman, and a musician, he wore many titles throughout his life. He was in the Peace Corp, was a soldier, and a politician. Knowing Ed, though, his favorite roles were those of husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

One of his greatest accomplishments in music was the founding of the largest and most respected Irish music fests in the world-The Milwaukee Irish Fest. In 1981, with a very small budget, and a great idea, he launched what would become an annual event drawing over 100,000 attendees, facilitated by over 4,000 volunteers, and featuring in excess of 100 musical acts on an August weekend. While being very proud of how the Fest has grown, he was never one to turn the attention onto himself. He'd always be telling us about others who were working hard to get the event rolling. Ed was never pompous about all of the musicians he personally knew and had helped launch careers. He'd enjoy telling little stories about memorable times with them. How many of us could tell of spending hours in Tommy Makem's kitchen? He was good buds with Mick Maloney, Liz Carroll, Jimmy Keane, knew The Dubliners, The Chieftans, and The Clancy Brothers. He had helped We Banjo 3 and many other bands get noticed.

Ed wasn't secretive and closed about how to make a festival successful. He aided other groups and organizers, and hosted get-togethers during the fest to share ideas. Tight organization, controlled finances, trained leaders, and appreciated volunteers were a mantra. He went to

other festivals to learn himself, as well as to support the fest and the musicians. He forever scouted for new groups with a strong opinion of what he and fest goers would appreciate and find pleasure in. He was knowledgeable



able and self-assured, but would listen to others. I always wanted him to respect me, because I respected him so highly. After a pretty pesty, when I look back, push for Socks in the Frying Pan

## Harrington Releases 'Without You'

Born in Dublin and based in NYC, Gregory Harrington raises the bar for violinists in the 21st century. With his broad musical range, he has the unique ability to translate popular jazz, rock and pop music to violin virtuosity, juxtaposing Bach and Bob Dylan, Beethoven and Leonard Cohen, Ravel and Radiohead. Harrington's cross-cultural and wide-reaching appeal has brought him to perform for Presidents and Vice Presidents, celebrities, heads of state, the United Nations and millions of pop and jazz music fans around the globe.

### ABOUT THE ALBUM

On June 7th, Harrington released his fourth studio album, Without You, which is

to be considered for Milwaukee on their first tour here, I was ecstatic when they were chosen- over the moon happy for them, but also elated that Ed had listened to me, gone to see them and decided they would pass muster to be on the program. There have been quite a few bands since, Goitse, Connla, Cuig, Full Set, JigJam, and Back West among others, each time knowing he'd check them out, might not agree, but give me credit, as he did with so many others, for seeing something special enough to bring their names

to him.

I well remember the first time I met Ed as an inexperienced radio host. I was so nervous to be meeting Mr. Milwaukee Irish Fest which I had been at-

the artist's first release of pop and jazz standards. Inspired by Miles Davis and John Coltrane, Harrington created his own arrangements of popular songs by U2 ("With or Without You"), George Gershwin ("Summertime") Leonard Cohen ("Hallelujah"), Joseph Kosma ("Autumn Leaves"), and Rodgers and Hart ("It Never Entered My Mind"). The album also includes Michael Giacchino's "Life and Death" from the popular ABC series, Lost, Lu-



## On the Upbeat

By Maryann McTeague Keifer

tending and enjoying since its first year. I was feeling stressed, inadequate, and almost unworthy! Within minutes of being introduced, he had me relaxed and feel like he was truly interested in what I thought and had to say. He had a gift of being able to put people at ease.

Every summer after that when he'd come to do the prefest show, I'd be so looking forward to visiting with him, and experiencing how excited he was about the coming year's weekend.

I believe it was that talent of being able to make everyone feel at ease and important that resulted in him being so well liked and respected by workers, musicians and attendees. He was loved and held in high esteem by all. You'd see him walking around the grounds and visiting stages to watch the bands, speeding in a golf cart to put out a fest "fire", and up onstage singing and dancing with a favorite band or at the scattering sporting the biggest grin imaginable.

That the Fest was a family friendly event was very important to him. Safety, the Children's Area, cleanliness, and

quiet spots all were of concern. His own great family is involved in every aspect of the planning and running of the weekend. His wife Cathy was President for several years, kids and in-laws run stages, take photographs, manage the many media people sporting around, among many other jobs. It is a "Do as I do..." operation.

He had been dealing with cancer for several years, not complaining, chuckling over his "chemo curls", and fighting the good fight. This past summer found him in the hospital as the weekend began, but despite advice to stay home, and family's concern for his stamina, he made it onstage with his We Banjo 3 lads. It was a special moment! We all knew he wasn't doing well, but hoped for a rally to see him for the 40th anniversary next year. It wasn't to be. We hurt for his family, mourn for ourselves, and wonder how Milwaukee will change without him. It has been heartwarming reading all the anecdotes and tributes written about Ed and his life with us. I hope they will sustain his family.

Ed Ward was a giant among men, and to me, a treasured friend. He will be profoundly missed.

cio Dalla's moving "Caruso" made famous by Andrea Bocelli in 1997 and the ever familiar and haunting South American "Oblivion" by Astor Piazzolla. Rounding out the

album are Harrington's fresh interpretations of some of the world's greatest love songs, including Norah Jones' classic "The Nearness of You", Michel Colombier's "Emmanuel" and Victor Young's "When I Fall in Love" (made popular by Nat King Cole).

*The new album is a treat to the ears. The renditions lend unfamiliarity to the familiar tracks, offering a fresh melodic experience to the listener.* Celeb Mix "impressive" with a "natural artistry and an ability to dazzle." The Irish Times [gregoryharrington.com](http://gregoryharrington.com)







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## Checking in With Wexford's 'Music Man,' Michael Londra

We caught up with the former lead singer of Riverdance, Michael Londra when he was in town for iBAM! 2019 and were able to get a few questions in.

### When and why did you move from Ireland to the USA?

I was back and forth for a few years on temporary visas but the first long term stint was in 2000 to begin the run of Riverdance on Broadway. I had always wanted to live full time in New York so getting the opportunity to do it as lead singer of a Broadway show was quite the start. Little did I know that the 8 shows a week would mean I wouldn't have a social life for 18 months. I guess I have made up for it since though. Mind you, now I am based in Ames, Iowa so my life is a hell of a lot quieter than in my New York days!

### How was the adjustment?

When I landed in New York on day one, I just felt at home so there was absolutely no adjustment for me, ever. I have always had a connection with the States and it just felt very natural. I am lucky that whether I am singing in Europe or producing in Asia, I can stop off for a quick stint in Ireland to catch up. I usually get in about 5 trips a year. I have the best of both worlds.

### When did you know you could sing?

I can't remember not singing. I come from a singing family in Wexford town. I had no choice. I was placed front and center in the living room to sing for my granny from the age of about 3. My mother is one of the best live voices I have ever heard. Being from Wexford, one of the opera capitals of the world is also a big help. I got great singing lessons at an early age and by aged eleven I was already singing roles on stage in operas like Giovanna Darco by Verdi. I was singing opera before I really knew what it was. I didn't end up being an opera singer but the classical training really helps and now I try to never miss the opera festival at home. The opera house is the heart of Wexford town and the singing flows out into the streets. It is in our blood.

### How did u get Riverdance job?

I started singing full time late, really. My first professional job was for a musical in Dublin. I was 30 years old. Bill Whelan heard me sing at that show and I got a phone call the next day offering me the job. It was as simple as that. What a start!!! Once I jumped off the Riverdance train, that is when the hard work started. I began recording my own material and luckily my recordings were released in many countries, particularly in Asia. That

is how I got the Universal Records project, Arias Ancora with Pavarotti and Bocelli. I felt like a total fraud being on the record with them but I guess that wanted that Celtic ethereal sound that I bring to the table. It was a privilege to be part of it.

### Whose idea was Noel?

I have always floated between singing and producing theater. I love it, probably more than singing. Eoin Colfer (the author of Artemis Fowl), and I were in the same class in school since we were little kids. We had always talked of working together since we started to be somewhat successful. I



asked him specifically for a musical and we knew the best composer to work with us on it was Liam Bates. He is without a doubt the best musical theater songwriter in Ireland today. NOËL was their concept and I guess I took the ball and started to roll it.

### Did you collaborate or was it all Eoin?

Eoin, Liam and I worked very closely on fleshing out the songs and the story. A musical is difficult to navigate. The story must be gripping, the songs must be sophisticated but catchy, the plot has to unfold in a way that connects and as a producer I had to make sure the work was commercial. We spent 3 years developing the basics and even after our first national tour last year, we still had tweaks to connect the story better. NOEL is one of the great loves of my life and it will be with me for many years. This year I had to get back to singing, but NOEL will happen in a few countries next year. We have had inquiries from Australia, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK. I want it to sit down in Chicago though and I will make that happen. Already looking at theaters so let's hope we can pull it off.

Developing the show and our tour last cost a million dollars so the math has to be right for it to work.

### What can we expect you to do in your show at the Heritage Center 11-29?

I really stopped singing for a few years to develop my producing business. I thought it was time to get back on stage. I have never played Irish America before really as most of my singing focus has been in theaters around the country. I thought it was about time to get in to lovely places like the Heritage Center. My show is all about the songs really. I have written a lot of Celtic carols, I also pay homage to old Gaelic hymns and songs from home like The Wexford Carol. If I can't sing that, I can't sing anything.

### What does the future hold?

My life has changed dramatically in the past few years. I have a few more recording projects in me. I want to make a bluegrass edged album. I also want to look at an album of those old Irish American Music Hall songs. I will for sure be paying a trip up to the Ward Irish Music Archives in Milwaukee soon.

Producing is consuming my life and it will take over in the future. We have two big tours of shows to produce next year in Canada and the US. In January I go back to filming my travel/music show for public television. I loved taping the first two episodes this summer and hope to complete the whole first season in January and February. Aiming to have the first episode aired in March on PBS, nationally. My partner in Venuworks Agency, Jean Clancy and I have big plans. We started working together on Celtic Woman, right at the start and we work well as a team. Venuworks Agency builds and tours shows but we also represent artists like Nathan Carter, Chloe Agnew and shows like Dan Ackroyd and Judi Belushi's Blues Brothers Revue which begins a world tour in June 2020. Yes, we both like to be busy.

### Any exclusive news for IAN?

I have a new musical that me and my business partner have just optioned from Warner Brothers that will be in development in New York in the New Year and that will consume me for 2020. We have our first reading on January 14. It has taken a year to get the rights but I am thrilled with it. My favorite thing in the world is building musicals from scratch. Getting a group of Broadway people in a room and making something out of nothing is the biggest thrill. As soon as Warner allow us to tell, I promise you will be the first to know, Cliff!



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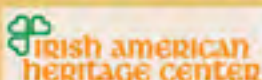


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## IRISH COMMUNITY SERVICES IMMIGRATION NEWS

### U.S. CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP

• **Saturday, November 23rd**

Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

Where: Irish American Heritage Center

4626 N. Knox Ave Suite #306

Chicago, IL 60630



Call (773) 282-8445  
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#### What to Bring

- Resident card, social security number, passport, ID
- Dates of all travel outside the U.S. for the past 5 years
- List of places lived, worked, and studied for the past 5 years
- Taxes from the past 5 years
- If married: spouse's name, date of birth, immigration ID number (if applicable), occupation, and date of naturalization (if applicable)
- If you have children or stepchildren: names, dates of birth, address, nationality, and immigration ID number (if applicable)
- If married or divorced: ex spouse's information, full name, immigration status, nationality, date of marriage and divorce
- If current spouse was previously married: their former spouse's full name, date of marriage and divorce, date of birth and nationality
- If you have ever been arrested: A Certified Disposition and a police letter
- Males: Selective Service number and registration date
- Money order for \$725 made out to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

#### Eligibility for Fee Waiver

If you have LINK, MEDICAID, or TANF, bring a letter from the public benefits office describing the benefits you receive.  
You may also bring your 2018 Federal Income Tax Return

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

### Public Charge on Hold!

On Monday, Oct. 14, U.S. District Judge Gary Feinerman ruled in favor of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights (ICIRR) by issuing an order blocking the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from moving forward with its public charge rule in Illinois. That rule, which would have further restricted who can get a green card based on past or potential use of public benefits, had been set to take effect on Oct. 15.

Judge Feinerman's order follows orders issued by judges in New York and Washington state that block the rule from going into effect nationwide, and by a third judge in San Francisco who blocked the rule in certain states.

DHS can still appeal all of these decisions and try to undo these orders so that it can put the public charge rule into effect. Also, the State Department last week issued its own public charge rule regarding people applying for visas outside the U.S., which includes some immigrants already living in the U.S. who need to go to a U.S. consulate abroad to process their applications for lawful status. This rule is very similar to the DHS rule, which covers applications inside the U.S. The State Department rule took effect October 15; however, the department is not yet implementing this rule.

The public charge rule was meant to intimidate immigrants and was designed to be confusing, which has become even more so with recent developments. Please go to ICIRR's website for more information and resources about public charge, [www.icirr.org/publiccharge](http://www.icirr.org/publiccharge).

### Immigration Legal Clinics

Free 30 minute consultations, *by appointment only*. Call 773-282-8445 to reserve your place. Additional dates may become available.

<p>Wednesday, <b>November 6th</b></p> <p>3:30-6:30pm</p> <p>IAHC (4626 N. Knox Ave, Chicago, IL 60630)</p>	<p>Wednesday, <b>December 4th</b></p> <p>3:30-6:30pm</p> <p>IAHC (4626 N. Knox Ave, Chicago, IL 60630)</p>
<p>Sunday, <b>November 17th</b></p> <p>10:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>Teamsters Local 705 HQ (1645 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60612)</p>	<p>Wednesday, <b>December 18th</b></p> <p>4:00-7:00pm</p> <p>IAHC (4626 N. Knox Ave, Chicago, IL 60630)</p>

### Irish Immigrating to the US; By the numbers:

Moving to the United States from Ireland is not as easy as it once was. This month we take a more detailed look into what immigration options many Irish avail of as well as number of Irish immigrating to the US.

First it is important to remember that many Irish coming to the US are doing so on a temporary basis. Temporary visas are officially referred to as "Non-Immigrant Visas". Non immigrant visa categories include the traditional 90 day tourist visa (ESTA), the B2 tourist visa, J1 exchange visa's (12 month & summer), student visa's, and temporary work & investment visa's. The total number of non immigrant visas issued to Irish nationals during the 2018 fiscal year was 13,094. A more detailed analysis of the non immigrant visa category is not available at this time.

To move to the US on a permanent or semi-permanent basis is slightly more complex. This is normally done through three primary avenues: family based petitions, work sponsorship, and the visa lottery program. The number of Immigrant visa's issued to Irish nationals during the 2018 fiscal year totaled 222. Of this, only 144 were granted to immediate relative & family preference category (excluding adjustment of status applications). The DV lottery program saw only 52 Irish nationals selected in DV 2019 cycle, however this number dropped further to just 19 during the DV2020 cycle. For the fiscal year 2018, 646 H1-B (work visa) petitions were filed on behalf of Irish nationals.

Irish immigration has to the US continued to slow significantly since the early 1990's. These statistics do not represent the strong bond that exists between Ireland and the US and further demonstrates the need for a more accessible immigration policy.





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## Applying for an Irish Passport

### PAPER APPLICATIONS

If you are a first time applicant, a minor, applicant changing their name, or holder of a passport that expired over 5 years ago, you need a paper application.

You can get a paper application by contacting ICS or your local consulate.

If you are a previous Irish Passport holder, with your passport expiring within the last five years, you can apply online at: [www.dfa.ie/passportonline/](http://www.dfa.ie/passportonline/)

Consulate General of Ireland  
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Chicago, Illinois 60601

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Email: [chicagocongen@dfa.ie](mailto:chicagocongen@dfa.ie)  
Website: [www.dfa.ie/chicago](http://www.dfa.ie/chicago)

### DOCUMENTS NEEDED

- A completed and witnessed passport application (AP28E) form
- 4 passport photos, 2 of which must be signed on back by a witness (with application number)
- A bank draft / money order payable to the Consulate for the relevant fee (\$120 for adults \$65 for minors)
- Expired passport book (if applicable)
- An Original Certified Copy of your Long-Form Civil Birth Certificate and your Civil Marriage Certificate (if name change through marriage)
- A notarized photocopy of a valid photo ID
- 2 original documents showing proof of your name and address or your parent's address if a minor

### ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS NEEDED IF BORN OUTSIDE IRELAND

- If applying on a basis of a parent born in Ireland: Original Certified Copy of the Long Form Birth Certificate and Original Certified Copy of Civil Marriage Certificate of your Irish-born parent
- If applying on basis of a grandparent born in Ireland: Your Foreign Birth Registry Certificate  
\* You must apply for the Foreign Birth Registry BEFORE applying for a passport
- If applying on basis of naturalization: Your Naturalisation or Post Nuptial Certificate

Several parts of your application need to be witnessed. For a list of professionals who can serve as a witness go to <https://www.dfa.ie/passports-citizenship/top-passport-questions/how-to-get-your-application-witnessed/>

### APPLICATION WITNESS

- Section 8 of the form must be signed by the applicant in front of a witness. The witness will sign Section 9
- In Section 9 the witness must also fill out the relevant information and provide a witness stamp or a business card
- The witness must also sign the back of two of the photographs and put the application number on both photos
- If a minor, Section 7 must be signed by both parents in front of a witness

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## Coming Home in Crisis

crosscare migrant project

Crosscare Migrant project and Senator Billy Lawless launched a new Crosscare report on October 14th at the EPIC museum in Dublin titled "Coming Home in Crisis". The Crosscare report recorded the real life experience of returning Irish emigrants as well as insights from eleven Irish Emigrant Support groups who work with Irish emigrants abroad, including ICS.

Setting out the main reasons Irish emigrants return to Ireland in crisis, the report offers recommendations around seven key areas of concern – Housing, Financial Insecurity, Family and Support Networks, Health, Immigration Issues, Detention/Deportation, Personal security issues around threats and violence, and Discrimination. The report also identifies key policy areas that need to be addressed to accommodate those returning in crisis: the need for efficient access to vital statutory services and supports, including to stable emergency accommodation, social welfare and medical and psychological care.

The full report can be accessed on Crosscare's website at [www.migrantproject.ie](http://www.migrantproject.ie)





*Support for people with memory loss and those who care for them.*

## CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER

Below, are 10 tips from the Alzheimer's Association to help caregivers take care of themselves.

**Take a Break.** If possible, consider using respite services that might be available to you. Learn more at [alz.org/care](http://alz.org/care)

**Find community resources.** Locally, there may be a host of dementia and ageing-related resources available such as home delivered meals, adult day programs, and in-home assistance.

**Be an educated caregiver.** There may be a variety of approaches to caregiving that you are unaware of. As the disease progresses, the person's needs and the skills required to care for them will change.

**Find support.** Learn about support groups, the Alzheimer's Association's 24/7 helpline, and local networks. Is help available through family, friends, or neighbors?

**Take care of your own health.** Eat well, take regular exercise, and rest whenever possible. You're better able to provide quality care if you are healthy and fit.

**Manage your stress levels.** Stress can cause physical problems and changes in behavior. Note your symptoms and discuss with your doctor.

**Accept changes as they occur.** People with Dementia will change over time. They may start to require more help that you alone are able to provide.

**Make legal and financial plans.** Put these plans in place early to allow to the person with memory loss to participate. Knowing these decisions have been made often gives peace of mind to the entire family.

**Know you're doing your best.** Remember the care you provide is making a difference and you're doing the best you can.

**Visit your doctor regularly.** Take time to get regular checkups and pay attention to any changes YOU are experiencing e.g. sleep, appetite, mood.

### Resources

Alzheimer's Association  
24/7 Helpline: 800.272.3900  
Online Caregiver Resources: [alz.org/care](http://alz.org/care)  
Community Resource Finder: [alz.org/CRF](http://alz.org/CRF)

Irish Community Services  
Telephone: 773.282.8445  
Website: [irishchicago.org](http://irishchicago.org)  
Email: [info@irishchicago.org](mailto:info@irishchicago.org)

## SENIOR GROUPS

Irish American  
Heritage Center  
&  
Chicago Gaelic Park



### November 2019

IAHC	Gaelic Park
<p><b>Diabetes: Treatment and Prevention</b></p> <p><i>Wednesday 6th November</i> Doors: 10 AM - Program: 10.30 AM</p> <p>Diabetes is one of the most common chronic diseases among older people. Today, we are joined by a representative from Swedish Covenant hospital who will teach us how to best manage and prevent diabetes.</p>	<p><b>Student Take Over!</b></p> <p><i>Wednesday 13th November</i> Doors: 10 AM - Program: 10.30 AM</p> <p>Irish Community Services is fortunate to often host social services students from Ireland. While they're here, we provide them with hands-on learning experiences running events and programs.</p> <p>Today, our current student - Eila McHugh from Co. Carlow and studying in Cork - will be taking charge. Come along and see what she has in store for us!</p>
<p><b>Monthly Musical Gathering</b></p> <p><i>Wednesday 20th November</i> Doors: 10 AM - Program: 10.30 AM</p> <p>This event is an opportunity for folks from throughout the Irish community to get together to share a morning of great music and good company. Music by Ray Gavin.</p>	<p><b>Only one meeting this month at Chicago Gaelic Park due to Thanksgiving!</b></p>

### Save the Date

#### Christmas Party

Wednesday 11th December  
Chicago Gaelic Park  
Bus from IAHC



All are welcome! Our programs are **Free** (excluding trips and parties) and refreshments are served. For more information call our office on 773-282-8445



# It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Over the next few years, during the depression, he returned to Ireland but set off again for Chicago in 1933. He started work with Illinois Central in 1936 and remained with them until he retired in 1970.

From 1943 to 1964 he played concertina and button accordion three nights a week at the major Irish dance-halls in Chicago, as well as at weddings and cultural events. During this time he also toured with Roche's School of Dancing. In the 1970s he performed with Mary McDonagh (piano), Maida Sugrue (vocals) and Una McGlwe (fiddle). In 1978, in recognition of his special contributions, he was voted Irishman of the Year by the Harp and Shamrock club.

After he retired from Illinois Central he played in Chicago with the Dayhills Irish Band. He received the nickname "Cuz" because he helped out newly arrived Irishmen by telling them where to find accommodation, work, etc. He would say: "Tell them I'm your cousin".

So Terry Byrne is from good stock. Terry all the best in your career. Check this young man out, he does a mixture of Irish, pop, rock, and folk, etc.

Congratulations and thanks to Ger Long, from Carlingford, Co Louth, for recording a song written by Jordan Mogey and me, called 'It's Here Again'. It's a song about living in Ireland. Ger has a mighty voice and lots of power behind it.

Also best of luck to my buddy, Jordan Mogey, who just released a song that he and I wrote called 'Billy The Kid'. A song about the infamous outlaw, who was really a good man that politicians and land thieves etc, didn't like.

This month's song is one I wrote a while back. I was thinking about when I started work when I was 14 and how different times were for me. I was fed up with getting beaten from the teachers, who had no interest in teaching me anyway. My song talks about someone living on the street, and I thank God, that part is not about me. The song is called 'You Must Be A Man'.

I wish you a very happy "Thanksgiving", and If you haven't made any plans for it, come and Join Declan and I, at Chicago Gaelic Park. Great food, craic, and a dance floor to step it out.

As always be good to one another

## 'You Must Be A Man'

Written by Joe McShane

Verse 1

*In 1967 I fell out of heaven*

*And started digging down to hell*

*In the darkness of the tunnel with an air spade and a shovel*

*Where the air is blue amidst a damp old smell*

Verse 2

*Every morning down the ladder to work a hard 12 hours*

*Inside a thing, we called the shield*

*At 16 years of age, life had turned a bitter page*

*My mind would wander back to those green fields*

Chorus

*But you must be a man and do the best you can*

*Make your family proud of you back home*

*We were raised to work, and dig down in the dirt*

*Though your heart may be heavy as a stone*

Verse 3

*Put in 6 concrete rings that's what the pit boss sings*

*You have to pull your weight or move along*

*Now the ram and shield are gone, but time keeps*

*rolling on*

*All that's left now are the words of a song*

Verse 4

*Now I'm living on the street old boots upon my feet*

*That long ago would grace any dance hall*

*In a busy London town where the rain keeps pouring down*

*In a doorway wrapped in cardboard on the ground*

Chorus

*But you must be a man and do the best you can*

*Make your family proud of you back home*

*We were raised to work, and dig down in the dirt*

*Though your heart may be heavy as a stone*

(Tag)

*I'm sure they wouldn't know me now at home*

Hello everyone!

I just finished a wonderful month in the Irish cottage. Galena, IL. Now I'm in Mickey Gilley's, Branson, Missouri, along with the very talented Nathan Carter and Chlöe Agnew and the band. I feel so lucky that I get to spend time with these folks. Although I miss my family when I'm away, at least we're blessed with technology these days. So we can keep in touch. Talking of blessed, I am so happy that the great accordion player, and dear friend, Jimmy Keane, has taking Declan under his musical wing. He is a great teacher, both musically and psychologically. I am loving watching Declan's skills develop with a man such as Jimmy. Hup!!!

Just over a month ago I was finishing my set in the Emerald Isle, Edison Pk. Next on stage was a young man called Terry Byrne, who, I'd heard of but never got to hear before. I had family visiting from Ireland so we decided to stay for Terry's show. I was so happy that I did. This guy works his butt off. I was amazed at how he was able to play using a kick drum, and tambourine's on his shoes, plus playing guitar and singing of course. I spoke to him after his show and he was so willing to give me info on where to purchase these musical extras, and I really appreciated his very open and honest way. I later found out that Terry comes from a family of very respected Irish traditional musicians. I'm sure there are folks here will remember a relation on his mother's side called Terry "Cuz" Teahan. Here's a piece about him I got from the internet -

Terry "Cuz" Teahan was born in 1905 at Glountane, South Kerry. His father died when he was very young. His mother was a popular singer, while his extended family contained many musicians who played at dances in the neighborhood. Among his neighbors were eminent musicians Padraig O'Keefe, who taught him music at Glountane School, and Johnny O'Leary. O'Keefe's father, Seán, and sister Nora Carmody also taught him at that school. In 1928 he emigrated to the United States and settled in Chicago.



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## Leadership

I watched a very interesting documentary on TV recently. It concerned the race between the explorers, Amundsen and Scott, to be the first to reach the South Pole back in 1911. Amundsen went on to win the race while, tragically, the majority of Scott's expedition died on the return journey. The documentary served to contrast and highlight fundamental differences in relation to preparation and leadership between the Norwegian and British teams.

The British team did not use



Ernest Shackleton

dogs. The men expended an amount of energy pulling the sleds, but were not taking the correct amounts of food and

nourishment to compensate. The Norwegian team used dogs, and they also went to great lengths to put food stations in place along the route before the expedition started. They also seemed to know, and which was unusual at the beginning of the 20th century, the vital constituents of food. There was a high intake of vitamin c before the journey and along the way Amundsen insisted that some fresh meat (seal and blubber) was eaten every day to ward off scurvy.

A few years later, in 1914, Shackleton took leadership and courage to the outer limits of human achievement when he kept the morale up among his men when the 'Endurance' was stuck in ice for over nine months, and also the courage he displayed on the perilous journey aboard the small boat from Elephant Island to South Georgia.

There are not many more territories to be discovered anymore and it is more a personal voyage of discovery these days. However, the ability to prepare well in advance and the qualities of leadership are still very valid in our modern world. A good leader and manager, whether in business or sport, knows that that best and most important work takes place on the training pitches and in the dressing rooms. A manager cannot do an awful lot on the day of the game, as the team pursue their own destiny inside the white lines, except maybe to alter the tactics at half-time.

The very essence of leadership is that you have to have a very crisp and clear vision; otherwise you will confuse people by blowing an uncertain trumpet. Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm. Fear of failure is possibly the greatest reason why we do not press our foot firmly on the accelerator of risk. The question we should ask ourselves is: 'what great project would you attempt if you knew you could not fail?' Perhaps you should go ahead and do it anyway.

*'If the highest aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he would keep it in port forever' - Thomas Aquinas*

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**On the Law**

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

John P. Scanlon



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

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**Nursing Home Neglect and Abuse**

Abuse and neglect of nursing home residents occurs with alarming frequency in our country. Some studies estimate that as many as 24.3% of nursing home residents have experienced at least one instance of abuse while in a nursing home. These statistics are particularly troubling because studies indicate that over 3.2 million people reside in facilities licensed to care for the elderly or disabled. The Illinois Department of Public Health reports Illinois has approximately 1,200 licensed long-term care facilities that serve more than 100,000 people.

**Illinois Nursing Home Care Act Attempts to Protect Residents**

In Illinois, our legislature has recognized this significant problem and has created laws and rules to protect the elderly and disabled. The Nursing Home Care Act was adopted because of concerns of “inadequate, improper and degrading treatment of patients in nursing homes.”

It gives residents a “bill of rights” which includes the right to be free from abuse and neglect by nursing home personnel. As defined by the Act, abuse means “any physical or mental injury or sexual assault inflicted on a resident other than by accidental means in a facility.” Neglect means “a facility’s failure to provide, or willful withholding of, adequate medical care, mental health treatment, psychiatric rehabilitation, personal care, or assistance with activities of daily living that is necessary to avoid physical harm, mental

anguish, or mental illness of a resident.”

The Nursing Home Care Act has provided residents protection from abusive and neglectful nursing home operators. The Act provides several advantages missing from typical lawsuits. First, in a nursing home case, unlike most other cases, if a plaintiff is victorious the defendant must pay the plaintiff attorneys’ fees. Also, unlike most other civil cases, violations of the Nursing Home Care Act can result in disciplinary sanctions and suspension and/or revocation of licenses to do business.

The Act also prohibits a nursing home from transferring, discharging, harassing or retaliating against a resident for making a complaint or bringing a legal action.

**Recent Amendments to the Nursing Home Care Act Address Understaffing**

A 2018 investigation by Kaiser Health News and the Chicago Tribune exposed that sepsis was one of the most common reasons for transfers of nursing home residents from the nursing home to the hospital. Sepsis is a severe and potentially lethal blood infection that can result from falls, bed sores or other wounds potentially caused by neglect or abuse. In addition to causing many transfers to hospitals, sepsis cases also resulted in death more often than other cases. In Illinois specifically, about 6,000 nursing home residents a year are hospitalized with sepsis and 1 in 5 of those residents did not survive.

Not only does this issue take a toll on the elderly and disabled in Illinois, it also takes a toll on

taxpayers. Estimates indicate that Medicare pays more than \$100 million every year for treatment related to nursing home residents with sepsis.

Many regulators and advocates argue that Illinois’s staffing levels for nurses and aides in nursing homes are to blame. Illinois has some of the lowest staffing levels in the country. Too few aides and nurses increase the chance of falls, bedsores, other wounds, and insufficient monitoring, which can lead to sepsis.

In an effort to decrease risks to elderly and disabled Illinoisans, the Illinois General Assembly amended the Nursing Home Care Act to require mandatory fines for nursing homes that fail to meet the minimum staffing requirements.

**Nursing Home Abuse and Neglect is Underreported**

In addition to understaffing, family members and advocates must also concern themselves with high levels of underreporting in regard to abuse and neglect in nursing homes. The Department of Health and Human Services recently reported that about 1 in 5 emergency room visits from a nursing home is a result of abuse or neglect.

However, the Department also found that nursing homes frequently failed to report incidents of abuse or neglect to either the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or local law enforcement, in violation of federal regulations. Thus, many instances of nursing home abuse and neglect are not reported and the abused or neglected residents never get the justice they deserve.

Our firm has also handled many nursing home cases over the years and these cases have given us the opportunity to protect and help individuals who are sometimes incapable of looking out for themselves.



By:  
Martin J. Healy Jr.,  
John P. Scanlon,  
and Emilie McGuire (above)

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## Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea  
Tom Boyle



## Ireland 1969

*(Our Journey continues)*

1969 we leave Mooncoin and head for Kilkenny City to visit my mother's brother, Jack Cooney, his wife Theresa and four cousins we never met before. John, Dermot, Bernadette, and Theresa.

The family lived at 12 Golf Links Road. There was much to see in Kilkenny starting with the castle which was given to the county by the Butler family. It is close to the river Noir, and sits on 400 acres of land.

The old stables were converted into the Kilkenny Design Center. The first building contained the showrooms. Beyond that there was another crescent shaped building where the horses once were stabled, now converted into workshops for the various artists.

I bought a silver ring from the silversmith. They had pottery, woolens and much more on sale.

Inside the castle the great hall was filled with oil paintings, and

not far away from the castle you could find St. Canices Cathedral.

Uncle Jack spent six months in the Chicago area in 1950.

He was a horse trainer for Emil Denmark. Sadly, there was a stable fire where 22 horses and the other trainer died in the fire. Uncle Jack escaped when he found a glass doorknob that proved to be the way out while feeling his way along the wall in a dense smoke.

Upon meeting the family in Kilkenny, our 15 year old cousin John let us know that he didn't have much use for Yanks!

Dermot showed up with a melodion hanging on his shoulder. Bernadette and Theresa were very personable and friendly.

Somebody recommended that we stay at Lawlor's Hotel, but the rooms were not en-suite. We wound up staying at a new motor inn, the New Park Hotel and it was great!

Jack took us to see the Kells, a monastic ruins that was being restored. We also visited Clara

Castle where there was a sign on the door that said, "key at Murphy's Farmhouse on the right." We got the key and went all through the castle and on up to the roof. 50 years ago, Ireland was a different place. You could leave anything in your car with the doors unlocked and nobody would bother it. That's not the case today.

I forgot to mention Jack's wife, Theresa, who was a Kelly from Freshford.

Like all visits, it was much to short.

Next month we'll visit the Mercy Convent in Kildare, and finally, Dublin City.

## Pete O'Donnell

Long time member of the IAHC passed away. Pete was 85 years old, and a retired journeyman pipe-fitter from local 597. A stalwart volunteer at the Center, he spent many hours in the bowels of the building tending to the boiler and the heating system.

Pete had easily over 30,000 hours as a volunteer. But who was he?

He was an Irish-American with roots on Arranmore Island and proud of it. A good natured mild mannered man, he was always willing to help wherever needed. Pete helped me with sump pumps and plumbing at my home on several occasions.

He loved his pickup truck and often picked up volunteers who otherwise couldn't get to the Center.

Another good friend has gone on ahead.

## Pope Francis

Eugenio Scalfari, famed atheist, published an article where in a conversation with Pope Francis, said, "there is no Hell." In it Scalfari has the pope denying Hell. "What happens to that lost soul? Will it be punished? And how? The response of Francis is distinct and clear: there is no punishment, but the annihilation of that soul. All others will participate in the beatitude of living in the presence of the Father. The souls that are annihilated will not take part in that

banquet; with the death of the body their journey is finished."

My dentist brought this story to my attention and said, "Hell is mentioned three times in the bible, and he went on to describe Francis as the "Liberal Pope." At my sister Jeanne's funeral, Fr. Langsdorf said, "that God is a merciful God and no one would spend eternity in Hell. This made me think of John Lennon's song, "Imagine All the People," and the profoundly agnostic first verse:

*Imagine there's no heaven  
it's easy if you try  
No hell below us  
Above us only sky  
Imagine all the people  
Living for today*

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## Sex Abuse in Pennsylvania

*News related to the Catholic Church child sex abuse scandal underscores an unending saga: a high-purposed institution placing self-interest above interests of those it exists to serve.*

In his lawsuit, Patrick Duggan of Harrisburg claims that starting when he was 13, his history teacher at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School in Harrisburg began to ply him with alcohol and drugs to then sexually molest and rape him.

Duggan, 58, claims that teacher Ronald Stewart, who lived next to the school playground and across from the church, continued to abuse him until he was 17. Stewart died in 2010.

In addition to the diocese, the lawsuit names former Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and current Bishop Ronald Gainer.

Duggan was barred from making a claim with the victims compensation fund that the diocese established in the wake of the 2019 grand jury report

that uncovered widespread and systematic sexual abuse of minors across seven decades across the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.

St. Francis of Assisi is in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

The Diocese's compensation fund, like the other programs established across the state, narrowly defined eligibility in the program to victims claiming they had been sexually abused as children by priests. Victims claiming that their predators were teachers, nuns or other employees were barred from making claims.

Meanwhile, the Pittsburgh Diocese is in a legal fight over its attempt to take money from an \$8 million trust fund for needy kids in order to help pay off adult claimants of sex abuse.

This suggests a fiscal shell game to protect other church assets.

The state Office of Attorney General, which oversees charitable trusts, argues state law bars such fund shifts.

And the Allentown Morning Call reports that during a two-year statewide investigation of child sex abuse by a grand jury, and just before its explosive findings were released last year, the Allentown Diocese moved some of its \$323 million worth of real estate properties into protective trusts.

Attorney Jeff Anderson in the past suggested at a bankruptcy court hearing that the Milwaukee archdiocese moved \$75 million out of its bank accounts after financial statements in 2003-2004. He also inquired about the transfer of separate \$55 million into a cemetery trust fund created in 2008.

Cardinal Dolan's flippant response, "So, these silly charges are baloney."

## Mike Neary

Mike was recognized as Volunteer of the Year at the iBAM! Gala Awards Dinner. We've had many great volunteers at the Irish American Heritage Center, but Mike tops the list! I'm proud to call him my friend.



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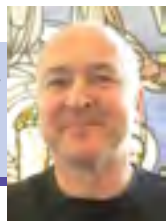
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## Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



### Hunkering Down

I remember a good friend of mine, a Benedictine monk, would use a nice analogy to show how diversity of opinion can be good thing, if we recognize use it to see our own limited viewpoint. It was an analogy that I would use myself in class. When you're standing up looking down at students, your view of the room is towards the back. They are looking up or behind you. We share the same room but we each have a different perspective of that same room. I could argue that my vantage point is the right one, and they equally could argue the same point. If we trusted each other enough and shared our differing perspectives, instead of pontificating about being right, we might find ourselves sharing information that would expand our view of the room.

It's a very simple analogy but it captures the essence of diversity. Whether it's religion, politics or any other controversial subject, there are many diverse viewpoints from a lot of different angles. Once you encounter a group who claim to have the whole truth, it's time to leave them to their elitist monopoly of the truth and find a more grounded group of individuals. In the bible there's a saying 'the beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord'. If I can be creative in my interpretation of this verse, I would say that the beginning of wisdom is admitting to not being completely right. Humility requires an acknowledgment of limitations.

I remember as a child, before the Troubles began in Derry, we lived beside a Presbyterian family. There was no discussion about religious differences. Economically, we were all in the same boat, hard-up and living from hand-to-mouth. Friendships were easily established and, on the surface, we were all the same. However, once it came to Sundays, things were different. After mass, we would play football in the park, the Presbyterians were Sabbatarians so no footie for them.

On one occasion, they invited us to come with them on a church excursion. The idea of the church providing a day out for its families was incongruous to us. It's funny how kindness and generosity can bring out the worst in our thinking. For some reason, the trip highlighted the differences between us more than not playing football on a Sunday. For one thing, I was wondering why we didn't have church outings or free lunches. Such questions led me to conclude, wrongly of course, that because they weren't part of the one true church, Presbyterians had to be compensated with 'free stuff'.

My childish reasoning was, of course, indicative of a larger problem that would later escalate to even more insidious levels in Northern Ireland. Once the Troubles began, the religious and political differences became impossible to ignore. Within a short period of time, neighbourhoods began to change. Protestants, fearing a backlash from the marauding Catholics, moved across the river to safer areas. Mixed areas quickly became

singularly territorial and homogenous.

When sectarianism sets in, it's like a disease that destroys any sense of a common humanity. Everything people do from the other side is interpreted in the worst possible way. You become blinded to the goodness in those who are different. When you feel under

attack, the natural reaction is to be defensive, and this knee-jerk response exacerbates the divisions between communities. At such times, fact rarely matters, you're willing to believe the urban myths, uncritically, because it allows you to justify your prejudice.

We all occupy the same room but we see different things. Our vision is limited. Unless we're willing to sit somewhere else, get a different perspective, or listen to someone else's view of the room, we'll continue to think and believe our view is the correct one. This kind of thinking leaves no space for critical thought. All of our energy is spent in demonizing the other side and defending our own position. The cycle of anger and re-creation intensifies and can lead to darker levels of violence. When those corrosive attitudes set in any hope of communicating in an honest and open way is lost.

I'm reminded of Plato Simile of the Cave where a group of individuals are chained and bound together in a dark cave. None of them has ever seen daylight. When one prisoner escapes, he makes his way to the sunlight. His journey towards the light is fraught with fear and trepidation. He is venturing on a path he's never taken before. His curiosity drives him towards an experience that will change him for life. When he realizes how much more there is to the world he returns to the cave to tell the others. They refuse to believe him. His good news is met with hatred. He is no longer is one of them, blind and bound, and must be alienated.

The quest towards enlightenment is not without risks. To step outside of one's community and experience life on the other side changes you. Such a journey makes it almost impossible to share in the ignorance and bigotry of your own collective. To be different is to appreciate those who are different and who see things from another side of the room.

Life intrudes at times, and we lose our perspective. We can get caught up with the politics or religious trib-

alism of the times and we stop seeing people as people but rather as, Seamus Heaney puts it, 'the other side of the house'.

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## Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

Over the summer months I returned to John Banville's masterpiece *The Book of Evidence* published in 1989 by Macmillan Publishers. It was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. When Banville received a telephone call in late September from Stockholm announcing he'd been selected a winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, he settled into a whirlwind of emotion being recognized for the culmination of his writing life.

Accustomed to winning awards, Banville received the Booker Prize, Austrian State Prize for Eu-

ropean Literature and his election as a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2007. A decade later he was named a Lavalier of the Ordine della Stella 'Italia. This essentially granted him a knighthood in Italy.

The coveted Nobel Prize, representing the pinnacle of literary achievement, is further sweetened with a hefty financial stipend by the Swedish Academy. Danville, basking in glory, revealed to the Irish Times how he understood and appreciated that his lifetime body of work was recognized by the Swedish Academy. No small

matter as he followed in the footsteps of Irish literary greats including William Butler Yeats, George Bernard Shaw and William Faulkner.

Banville admits he was not thinking straight. He phoned friends and colleagues announcing his achievement and then, with a wallop and a disappointing thud, the bottom collapsed. Turns out the phone call was a hoax prompting the organizers of the Nobel Prize to launch an immediate investigation. Meanwhile, Danville's telephone confirmed that the call came from the offices of the Swedish Academy. Shortly after the recipients were announced he received a voice-mail explaining there had been a last-minute disagreement among decision makers. Apparently, Banville was one of the recipients but in a last-minute disagreement the prize was withdrawn. Academy officials deny this allegation.

Crestfallen, Banville admitted the news was tough to absorb for about the first half hour. Then he poured a drink, then another, and more during the day until it got "quite better." The financial value of the Nobel Prize nets approximately 825,000 Euros translating at current Euro value to a million US dollars.

Meanwhile, senior officials from the Academy suspected the hoax was more a joke, while Banville surmised the hoax was not aimed at him but rather as a method of damaging the Academy. He suspects he was used as collateral damage. The laureates were noted immediately of their win, Austrian rider Peter Handke and Polish author Olga Tokarczuk. The Academy has been clouded in scandal in recent years. In 2017 sexual assault allegations linked to high-profile members of the Academy resigned resulting in the cancellation of last year's prize announcement. This year marks the first time in the award's 118-history that two literature prizes have been given simultaneously.

### THE NEW IRELAND

Once upon a time Ireland was recognized in culinary circles as the Land Of Mutton and Spuds,

and in my Irish youth the food motto was all cooked food had to emerge on the dinner plate the same color. In my recollection, that color was a tinge of grey. A forever hissing pressure cooker in the kitchen aided this culinary tradition! Ireland has always held appeal for international golfers from Europe and the United States who spend summer holidays playing the links at Royal Portrush in the North of Ireland, Lahinch, Ballybunion, Adare and Dromoland Castle in the South. Tourists pay hefty lodging prices at prestigious historic Irish Castles: Adare Manor, Dromoland and others.

Fishing is also a desirable sport and beckons fishermen from across the globe. Many lodge in posh accommodations and frequently record the joys and privilege of Irish hospitality.

As the island continues to evolve, politically, economically and financially, innovative chefs have concentrated in evolving Irish food currently ranking high in the domestic and international culinary scene. Five restaurants, two in Dublin and one each in Cork, Limerick and Belfast have been included in the 2020 edition of the Michelin Guide of Great Britain and Ireland. Irish food, as French food, has become a major tourist enhancement of visiting Ireland.

The Greenhouse on Dawson Street in Dublin, a restaurant I reviewed as a Food and Restaurant Critic, has earned two Michelin Stars, joined by Patrick Guilbaud located in Dublin's luxurious Merriam Hotel as the only two star restaurants in the south of Ireland.

Many years ago attending a wedding at Dromoland Castle the food innovation hailed as startling was brown bread ice-cream, best described as crumbs of wheaten Irish bread whipped through ice-cream. Hardly a huge success, although it read well on a desert menu.

There are now twenty-one Michelin-starred restaurants in the north and south of Ireland. A far cry from mutton and spuds!

In other breaking news a translation of James Joyce's *Ulysses*

into the Irish language has never made it into book form due to copyright and related obstacles. However, it has been self-published by two Irish scholars in pamphlet form.

According to the usually unreliable sources, the translation is housed in the archives of an unidentified Irish university. Meanwhile, the writer, retired journalist and translator Dr. Eoin Murchu a political activist and former member of Sinn Fein's Workers' Party has expressed interest in the Joyce project. Coincidentally, last month the Joyce translation was transformed and presented into a theatrical production in Dublin as part of an annual Gaelige festival.

If and when *Ulysses* is published in the Irish language it surely will sell, and utilized as a coffee table book to impress friends and family that the owners not only read Joyce's work in English but also in Irish.

## Growth of Doonbeg

Trump's Doonbeg Resort and golf course located in the West of Ireland is threatened by the Irish sea and recent environmental reports calculates if the natural erosion process is allowed to continue the result represents a loss of thirty-six percent of the dune habitat over a 50-year period.

Meanwhile, the Trump Organization firm, TIGL Ireland Enterprises, purchased the land for a reported \$15 million two years prior to Trump's election as President of the United States. The facility opened in 2002. Additional planning has been approved by the Clare County Council for a thirty-eight million dollar project, a development slated to include a restaurant and gate house doubling the size of the West Clare resort. The proposed expansion will have no significant effects on the surrounding environment, according to the release of a council report.

Additional planning has been granted for construction of a ballroom and function room catering for up to 300 people plus leisure facilities and holiday homes on a 25-acre site. A second Trump project for a forty-million

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development remains on hold.

Business men in the small rural Doonbeg region of County Clare welcome the golf resort expansions as a huge boost to the local economy, especially in light of the closure of a nearby coal-fired power station staffed by an estimated ninety employees. Local politicians, pub and restaurant owners report the developments will maintain business in the rural area and expand jobs.

Hugh McNally, owner of Morrissey’s pub in Doonbeg, said the expansion and construction of a permanent conference and wedding facilities manifests a huge boost for the resort and the local community. Others greeted the plan as fantastic news for rural Ireland. “This is a no brainer, a game changer for our business community,” noted McNally whose restaurant benefits from a steady stream of customers staying at the Trump resort. His comments were echoed by Cillian Murphy, a Fianna Fail councillor on the Loop Head peninsula near Doonbeg. He praised the County Clare politicians stressing that the decision to approve the expansion was “very welcome news.”

Murphy also tweeted, “Regardless of one’s perspective on the owner, it is a hugely important economic driver for the



whole West Clare and a massive declaration of confidence in the area as a whole.”

Meanwhile, objections to Trump’s request to build coastal protection have continued by Irish environmental agencies. In December 2017 the Clare County Council gave the go ahead for 38,000 tons of rock to be placed in front of the course at Doughmore beach. The council’s decision was appealed by several national boards.

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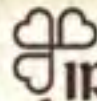
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### UPCOMING CONCERTS AND PROGRAMS



#### Winter Celtic Art Classes

##### Celtic Art by Hand and Eye

This class is an introduction to Celtic Art: calligraphy, knotwork, spirals and patterns. **Sundays, 11am-1pm**

##### Celtic Art Portfolio

An open-studies class for artists.

**Sundays, 1:30-3:30 pm, November 17-January 12**

**\$125: IAHC members, \$140: non-members**



#### Irish American Hall of Fame Trivia Night

Gather your team for the 8th Annual Trivia Night Fundraiser in support of the IAHOFF. Questions are geared toward general knowledge, current events and pop culture with prizes for the top three teams. **Saturday, November 9, 7pm • \$150 per team**



#### Heritage Rock Fest

Tear the roof off of the with a night of rock, metal, blues and southern rock from some of Chicago best rock tribute bands.

**Saturday, November 16, 7pm • \$10**



#### Vietnam Veterans Tell Their Story

The IAHC and the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 242 present a program honoring Veterans Day. Mass is at 10:30am followed by a discussion with veterans who have published their stories.

**Sunday, November 17, 10:30am • Free**



#### Spreadsheets and Genealogy

Learn to use spreadsheets to track your family tree in another in our Beginning Your Genealogy Quest series.

**Thursday, November 21, 7pm • \$20**



#### Dancing with the Moon:

##### Songs of the Irish Heart, From Yeats to U2

The Irish Heritage Singers present their annual concert.

**Sunday, November 24, 3pm • \$20 for adults**

**\$5 for children ages 5-12, and children under 5 free**



#### Michael Londra's Celtic Yuletide

Irish tenor Michael Londra brings you an evening of Christmas from Ireland in song, dance and the festive stories from his youth. **Friday, November 29, 8pm • \$30**

#### Small Business Saturday at the IAHC Gift Shop

Shop local at the IAHC Gift Shop and cover all of your holiday shopping, decorating and entertaining needs.

Save 10% off of all non-sale items, including food.

**Saturday, November 30 • 10am-8pm**



#### Parcel from America

A Christmas music that tells the tale of a family, a small Irish village and how the joy of Christmas brings love to all.

**Saturday, December 7, 7:30pm**

**Sunday, December 8, 3pm**

**\$25 for general admission and \$25 for IAHC Members and \$10 for students and children**



#### Christmas Bazaar

Deck the IAHC halls at the annual Bazaar with Mass, breakfast, craft and bake sale, entertainment and visit from Santa.

**Breakfast: \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Sunday, December 8 • 9am-9pm • Free**



#### Eileen Ivers: A Joyful Christmas

Join world-renowned violinist Eileen Ivers for a concert of American and Irish songs, original tunes and holiday favorites, centered around the true meaning of Christmas.

**Friday, December 13, 8pm**

**IAHC Members: \$25, General Admission \$30**



#### Christmas Tea

Deck the Halls of the Erin Room this December with the annual Christmas Tea. Enjoy afternoon tea, sandwiches and Christmas cookies while musicians serenade you with music of the Christmas season.

**Saturday, December 14, 11am**

**\$25 for adults, children 12 and under \$8**



#### The High Kings in Concert

The true heirs of Ireland's folk heritage, The High Kings are internationally acclaimed singers of Irish folk songs who bring a rousing acoustic flavor to new songs and old favorites.

**Saturday, February 22, 8pm**

**Sunday, February 23, 6pm**

**IAHC Members: \$30, General Admission: \$35**



#### Michael Londra's Celtic Yuletide

**Friday, November 29, 8pm • \$30**



#### Eileen Ivers: A Joyful Christmas

**Friday, December 13, 8pm • \$25-\$30**



#### The High Kings in Concert

**Saturday, February 22, 8pm**

**Sunday, February 23, 6pm**

**\$30-\$35**

For all upcoming IAHC events, visit [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org)

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**President's Message**

There is so much to be thankful for as we enter the holiday season!

Thanks to all who came out to the 11th annual iBAM! celebration last month. Congratulations to Cliff and Cathy Carlson and their committee on yet another successful weekend!

It was great to see all of the new faces touring our building as part of the Chicago Architecture Center's Open House Chicago. The Center was one of 350 buildings across the city to be featured and it was a wonderful showcase for us. Almost 1300 people attended the iBAM! gala, programs and Open House Chicago during the 3 day events.

As we move a little too quickly into the winter months, I'm happy to mention that we recently received the top rating of four out of four stars from the City of Chicago's Energy Benchmarking program, congratulating us on the efficiency of our heating system. This is quite a feat in a building of our size and with equipment almost as old as the building itself!

Thanks to our building committee who regularly work all year round to keep our boiler going, showing up on weekends, holidays and the rare occasions where there are issues. We absolutely could not keep our building open all year, day by day, without their hard work and dedication.

Speaking of the winter months, we have a full slate of programs this season. Come out for the Irish American Hall of Fame's 8th Annual Trivia Night on Saturday, November 9 at 7pm. All proceeds from the evening support the Hall of



Fame and the Center. It's a fun, casual night designed to test even the most experienced trivia expert.

The following week you can celebrate your inner rock star with the Heritage Rock Fest, a night of hard and southern rock and blues from some of Chicago's finest tribute bands. This event is a fundraiser for the Mayfair Theatre's renovation and is

sure to be quite a party.

The Irish Heritage Singers, the IAHC's resident choir, present *Dancing with the Moon: Songs of the Irish Heart, From Yeats to U2*, their annual concert exploring music ranging from choral settings of William Butler Yeats poems, to U2 songs, along with traditional and seasonal Irish favorites. The concert is Sunday, November 24 at 3pm.

Emmy-Nominated Irish tenor Michael Londra brings his Celtic Yuletide concert to the Center this month. Londra, best known as the voice of *Riverdance* on Broadway, presents a concert celebrating Christmas from Ireland told in songs, dance and stories of his youth. The concert is Friday, November 29 at 8pm.

Make sure you save the date for one of the highlights of the holiday season, our annual Christmas Bazaar on Sunday, December 8 and get your tickets now for a very special performance, *A Joyful Christmas* from Eileen Ivers and her band on Friday, December 13 at 8pm.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at the Irish American Heritage Center!

Mike Shevlin, President



*Dublin's Lankum played to a standing room audience at the IAHC's World Music Fest performance in September and Pauline Conneely and Chicago Reel brought down the house at October's iBAM! and Open House Chicago celebrations.*



**The Heritage Line Staff**

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

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

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**NOVEMBER ENTERTAINMENT**  
*Music Starts at 8pm unless otherwise noted*

- 11/1 Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor
- 11/2 Mary Cate Walsh, 7pm
- 11/8 Dave Dunne
- 11/9 Party Music
- 11/15 St. Stephen's Green
- 11/22 Finbarr Fagan
- 11/23 The Joyce Boys
- 11/29 Gaelic Brew
- 11/30 Party Music

**Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions: November 7, 14, 21 and 28**

**NOVEMBER 2019**

11/1	Mother Jones in Heaven	Erin Room	7:30pm
	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
11/2	Mary Cate Walsh EP Release	Fifth Province	7pm
	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Am Room	8pm
11/6	Tara Club Monthly Senior Group	Room 304	10am
11/7	Genealogy Research Night for IAHC Members	Library	7pm
11/9	Irish American Hall of Fame Trivia Night	Erin Room	7pm
11/10	<i>The Heart's invisible Furies</i> by John Boyne	Library	1pm
11/15	Shamrock American Club Meeting	Sham Am Room	8pm
11/16	Heritage Rock Fest	Mayfair Theatre	7pm
11/17	Vietnam Veterans Tell Their Stories	Mayfair Theatre and Fifth Province	10:30am
11/19	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7pm
11/20	Tara Club Monthly Musical Gathering	Room 306	10am
11/21	Spreadsheets and Genealogy	Library	7pm
11/23	St. Patrick Fathers Social	Room 109	8pm
11/24	Irish Heritage Singers Concert	Erin Room	3pm
	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
11/28	Thanksgiving	Building closed	
11/29	Michael Londra's Celtic Yuletide Concert	Mayfair Theatre	8pm
	Galway Fellowship Club Dance	Fifth Province	???
11/30	Small Business Saturday at the IAHC Gift Shop	Gift Shop	10am

**Regularly Scheduled Events**

Mon-Fri	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	3pm-8pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
Wed	Genealogy Consultations	Library	10am
	Fall Watercolor Class	Room 309	6:45pm
	Traditional Irish Music Session	Room 111	7pm
	Na Gael Language Class	Room 304 and Library	7pm
Thurs	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal	Room 306	7pm
	The Thursday Shindig Music Session	Fifth Province	7pm
	Fall Watercolor Class	Room 309	10am
Sat	Gift Shop		10am-8pm
	Na Gael Language Class	Library	11am
Sun	Celtic Art by Hand and Eye	Room 311	11am
	Celtic Art Portfolio	Room 311	1:30pm

Library Hours: Tues and Wed 4pm-8pm; Sat 10am-2pm



## Home is Where the Heart Is

By Aishling Kelly



When I was offered to write for this column I jumped at the opportunity. Why? Because it is a great opportunity to educate the General public about our health care system. Our health care system is changing rapidly, and it is extremely confusing on any given day let alone when you are elderly and have to

balance multiple benefits programs such as Medicare part A, B, C, and or D. Trying to Figure out what you are covered for, what's not covered, what your deductible is and what exactly your choices are in times of need? I want to be an advocate for our seniors who need to know the most up to date and

current relative information on any health care issue that pertains to this age group. We need to do a better job in educating the consumer.

On that note let's talk about Home Care. Home care is mostly used and required when a person is discharged from the hospital. I wrote an article about this a few month ago stating that by law all hospitals can only discharge to licensed Illinois department of public health agencies. That was legislation that I was personally involved in implementing with Senator Bill Cunningham and

the Home Care Association of America, with the intent to protect consumers more especially our frail elderly from Illegal Unlicensed Agencies upon discharge for our hospitals.

Being the owner of a home care agency, I would like to explain that we must abide by all the laws in protecting both our clients and our caregivers. The nature of what we do can be misleading because it takes place in the home or wherever the senior calls Home. Many folks think that what we do is casual in nature and that the consumer can direct the selection of caregivers in the home however let me explain a little further why this is not possible.

Service plans are written between the agency and the client for their service needs and clients enter into a contractual agreement with the home care agencies to provide non-medical care to their loved one being discharged home.

When using and hiring a full-service licensed home service agency, you as the consumer may NOT request or ask personal details regarding the caregiver being sent to your home. Care givers are scheduled to the home base on their skill set and capabilities to handle your needs.

All caregivers are background checked across no less than 7 registries, in addition to being screened, Drug tested, Reference checked, Trained, supervised and continually monitored during their employ with these licensed agencies. When caregivers are hired to work in agencies, we must follow the same hiring procedures as any hospital, or other licensed state business. Therefor consumers cannot dictate the nationality, gender, nor race of their caregiver providing care. We are in the business of sending the most qualified caregiver and unfortunately, we don't have endless caregivers to swap in and out when families say "I don't want that caregiver". We are dealing with humans' here.

Here is some food for thought. When a patient is in a hospital and multiple services enter the room throughout the day does the patient get to select the race, gender, and nationality of those they encounter as part of their health care team? Doctors, nurses, certified nursing assistants, phlebotomists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, housekeeping and or janitors? Do all these entities have the same personalities? Absolutely not. Do they all talk the same, no they do not. Do they all do their jobs differently? Yes somewhat. Are all these employees trained to the hospitals standards and policies and procedures for compliance to the law? Yes, is the answer.

The reality is that you as the patient don't get to select any of the employee's providing care as you have entrusted the hospital hiring department to have done a good job.

Well Home care is the same, sometimes our caregivers do a stellar job, sometimes they do a mediocre job and sadly sometimes they don't do such a good job. The same is true of the staff in any business. We are all dealing with humans and there are many variables here.

These are the challenges all licensed business owners face. We hire to the best of our ability following the laws in selecting from the pool of applicants that apply for health care positions in home health, home care and hospitals. We are all trying to meet the demand in our health care system currently. We are also experiencing a massive shortage of manpower with 10, 000 seniors turning 65 daily.

Just some things to consider when entering into a contract with licenses home care agencies. If you have any questions regarding the above, we are happy to assist you and help you understand the requirements that dictate what businesses here in Illinois must abide by for employee and consumer protection.

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**The Love Knot Cross is available exclusively at this Belleek retail partner! This piece and all Belleek purchases, may be hand-signed by the Belleek Ambassador during a signing event this fall.**



## Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



### Six Winning Traits Needed For 2020

This article is composed of some excellent thoughts from the author and my friend of many years Robert Ward who previously addressed these same traits in this space 10-12 years ago. Bob is a well known executive search consultant with his own search firm located here in the Chicagoland area. Sometime ago he shared his thoughts about what traits help people succeed in their jobs. He suggested that there are six traits that he believes allows a person to excel in any work environment:

1. Personality
2. Suitability
3. Character
4. Accomplished
5. Sense of Purpose
6. Intelligence

**PERSONALITY:** Bob spends a great deal of his time when assessing a potential job candidate trying to gain an appreciation of the person. He is striving to determine if the individual demonstrates excellent business presence, an effective communication style, a high level of energy and a positive opinion of self. Can a person develop these traits if they don't have them?

Absolutely! There are venues that can help: with communication skills, the Dale Carnegie and Toastmasters programs can be invaluable. Improving one's communication skills will likely improve executive presence and self-image: the person will be more confident knowing that s/he has the ability to handle a significant conversation.

Peter McLaughlin, the author of two books (Mentally Tough and Catch Fire) says that all of this is predicated on the elixir that controls it all, ENERGY. He recommends a good diet, a strenuous exercise program and a good sense of humor. Peter says that our brain depends on the level of oxygen it receives and that exercise begets oxygen.

**SUITABILITY:** As Bob is trying to determine if his candidate is appropriate for the client position, hopefully the candidate is doing likewise. We have all been in situations that simply don't feel right to us; you can sense it. I would recommend that you bail out of that situation if you feel your current/potential employer doesn't share your fundamental beliefs. Look carefully to determine if your experience fits the requirements of the proposed? But don't sell yourself short. If you have energy and enthusiasm, follow the advice of a wise old consultant who was a mentor to me, "Jim, you just need to stay one chapter ahead of them". A common expression that motivators use is: "fake it until you make it". Also, if your current employment gives you a daily headache, do you really

want to spend a lot of time there?

**CHARACTER:** Did you learn from the various stressful situations you have experienced? Nightmarish moments are now known as "character builders". Did these "builders" steal your enthusiasm for risk taking or simply make you more of a calculated risk taker? Ward says such experiences reveal a great deal about an individual, whether the end result was positive or not.

**ACCOMPLISHED:** I am convinced that we live in a world of wanna be's. Nothing is wrong with wanting to be more than you are currently. I always wanted to be an acknowledged scholar; instead that distinction went to my brother, Joseph. Regardless of what sort of a job you want a track record of relevant accomplishments will enhance your standing with your fellows. Potential is great, but it has been humorously defined as "ain't done anything yet". So if you want to be seen as an accomplished person, you need to succeed at things.

**SENSE OF PURPOSE:** Are there people in your work life who demonstrate they are simply without any purpose? They have wandered from job to job without demonstrating any real achievements. Bob Ward says that in his experience all successful managers have an internal compass that is driving them to the highest plateau of success.

**INTELLIGENCE:** One's academic performance can be helpful in determining this quality. However, some people blossom later in life, so any employer worth their salt will also consider their street smarts and pertinent experience. Earl Nightingale claimed that 20-30 minutes each day will make you an acknowledged expert in virtually any subject within a couple of years. But you need to be careful in such assessments because some people become complacent in their area of expertise. When was the last time you read a significant book about your field of endeavor? Did you coast through your required professional development courses or did you actually strive to learn?

How would you measure yourself against this list of six traits? Would your rating warrant you being considered as either an internal or external candidate for a significant opening? Hopefully this column will prompt you to look a bit more carefully at yourself in your role as an employee or employer. Remember, you can find insights and inspiration in many ways and places. While I was working on this column, I took a walk in a local forest preserve. Somebody had written various sayings in chalk on the asphalt, Dream.. Believe..Achieve. What great wisdom in a few words.

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:** "We are bound to lose Ireland in consequence of years of cruelty, stupidity and misgovernment and I would rather lose her as a friend than as a foe". William E. Gladstone. Four separate times Prime Minister of the British Empire (1868-1894).

James F. Fitzgerald, president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Naperville, IL-based senior executive coaching and senior executive career transition firm. #630-420-0362  
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### For Nurses and Social Workers: Social Determinants of Health and Guardianship November 21

Aishling Kelly of Aishling Companion Home Care is offering continuing education on a monthly basis on the South Side for nurses and or social workers.

All Healthcare professionals with a Nurses or Social worker license may attend on Thursday, November 21, 6-8pm at Elite Ambulance, 11551 W 184th Place, Orland Park IL 60462. The event is \$15 and includes dinner with registration beginning at

5:30pm



Aishling Kelly

Hot food provided by Elite Ambulance. Seating is limited and a reservation is required prior to the event to secure your seat and dinner. No Walk ins permitted.

Visit [aishlingcare.com/hcc1121](http://aishlingcare.com/hcc1121) to register or email [marketing@aishlingcare.com](mailto:marketing@aishlingcare.com)

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### Celtic Women 'Ancient Land Deluxe'

On the success of CELTIC WOMAN's 'Ancient Land' CD release and 2019 tour, the group is releasing 'Ancient Land Deluxe' featuring 11 tracks never before available on the original digital version of the album: 2 from Ancient Land the CD, 5 from the Ancient Land the DVD and 4 from the current Ancient Land Tour. The digital-only album will be out on September 6th.

Songs include the brand new compositions "Newgrange" and "The Enchanted Way", stunning renditions of classics "Over The Rainbow" and "Fields of Gold", traditional songs "Siuil A Ruin", "Ballroom of Romance" and "Bean Phaidin" alongside brand new versions of timeless favorites "Amazing Grace", "Danny Boy", "The Parting Glass" and 'Orinoco Flow'. Many fans have requested that they be available as they are favorite songs from the live shows.

Ancient Land was recorded in Real World Studios in the UK the summer of 2018 with the group's accompanying live performance filmed against the backdrop of the historic Johnstown Castle in County Wexford, Ireland: a concert spectacular that is still

running on PBS nationally.

Since their 2005 debut CELTIC WOMAN continue to touch the hearts of a huge audience that spans the globe. Both an accomplished recording ensemble and a world-class performing collective, CELTIC WOMAN celebrates Ireland's rich musical and cultural heritage, while continuing its remarkable legacy



of introducing some of Ireland's most talented singers and musicians onto the world stage.

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To Purchase 'Ancient Land Deluxe' go to <https://celticwoman.lnk.to/ancientlanddeluxePR>

Video of 'Ballroom of Romance' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-P1wyDW7BOQ>

#### TRACKLISTING:

- 1 Ancient Land
- 2 Homeland
- 3 Moorlough Shore
- 4 Follow Me
- 5 County Down
- 6 Love and Honour
- 7 Mná na hÉireann (Women of Ireland)
- 8 Sive
- 9 Shenandoah
- 10 Long Journey Home
- 11 Tara's Tune
- 12 Ae Fond Kiss
- 13 Faith's Song
- 14 Garden of Eden
- 15 Be Still
- 16 Going Home
- 17 The Enchanted Way
- 18 Ballroom of Romance
- 19 Newgrange (2019)
- 20 Orinoco Flow (2019)
- 21 Fields of Gold (2019)
- 22 Bean Pháidín (2019)
- 23 Over The Rainbow (2019)
- 24 Siúil A Rúin (2019)
- 25 Amazing Grace (2019)
- 26 Danny Boy (2019)
- 27 Parting Glass (2019)

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# Irish Fellowship Club to Host Christmas Luncheon 12-6

The Irish Fellowship Christmas luncheon is the unofficial season kickoff for many. This sold out event will take place on Friday December 6, 2019, with a cocktail reception at 11:15 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:15 p.m. All the fun takes place at the Hilton Chicago.

The afternoon is loaded with great entertainment. The Misericordia HeartZingers will provide background Christmas Carols for the cocktail hour. Jimmy Moore, Catherine O’Connell and Jim Dooley will entertain after the luncheon. The Hilton always provides a lively session in Kitty O’Shea’s all afternoon. Tickets are available on line or by mail and it is expected to sell out early. For more information call Kathy Taylor at 312.676.4120 or visit the website at IrishFellowshipClub.com

Luncheon chairman is Robert P. Flood from Flood Brothers Disposal. He and his wife Sue are preparing for a cheerful, enjoyable luncheon. It’s wonderful opportunity to treat your staff or clients to a memorable luncheon. Members also have the opportunity to get sponsorships as well.

Again this year, the Club is asking guests to bring an unwrapped toy, gifts or gift cards for the Catholic Charities Celebration of Giving Toy Drive which they will distribute Christmas gifts to the children and families in need for the Christmas season.

The annual Christmas luncheon also serves as the “President’s” luncheon where tribute is given to the outgoing president for their service and contributions which he or she has so generously pro-

vided to the Irish Fellowship Club. This year, the Club will honor President Kevin Flood.

The Club has had an extremely successful year under Kevin’s leadership. It set new standards for fundraising, including a record setting St. Patrick’s Day Dinner chaired by Jim Sweeney. It is also in the process of presenting “I Am Ireland” featuring Paddy Homan with the City Lights Orchestra which will be recorded at Old St. Patrick’s Church. Kevin’s year also included a fun night on a roof top at a Cubs - White Sox game.

The Irish Fellowship Club has donated over 3 Million Dollars supporting Catholic Education in the Chicago land area. Memberships are available to support this worthy cause and these fun, networking events.



The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago



**Irish Fellowship Club  
Christmas Luncheon  
Friday,  
December 6th  
Tickets: 312-676-4120**





## Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady  
chasbrady7@eircom.net



### Climate Jokers in a Pack

Clowns to the left of me, jokers to the right/ Here I am, stuck in the middle...

Well, perhaps not exactly the middle; maybe a bit more like on the fringes, feeling bewildered as usual.

'Is it just me or are things getting crazier out there?' asks Joaquin Phoenix in one of the year's most anticipated films, Joker.

Well, it's not just you, Joaquin; there are at least two of us in it.

Take James Brown - but not the James Brown - who last week climbed onto the roof of a plane at London City Airport. James is a 43-year-old Northern Irish bloke who is partially blind and, by his own admission, 'scared of heights'. Which would seem to me to be two excellent reasons for not marooning yourself on top of a plane and holding things up for everybody around you.

That's just me being selfish, though. Because unlike James and many thousands of others who are taking two weeks off... whatever they do, in order to glue themselves to trains, planes and automobiles and to merrily cause what they call 'civil disruption', I'm not a part of the Extinction Rebellion crowd. This apparently

means that I am Evil Personified because I won't join in, mumble the right platitudes or spend the fortnight in various cities, stopping ambulances and other emergency services (or even just your average Joe) from trying to go about their business.

Mind you, several firefighters had to be diverted to help James Brown down off the top of his plane. Is it just me and Joaquin, or is that kind of thinking getting crazier?

*'Clowns to the left of me...'*

Our own lot weren't to be outdone of course, chaining themselves to railings and handing in letters of protest. And if my own observations are anything to go by, most of them no doubt then went off excitedly talking on their environment-unfriendly €800 phones, walking straight into any hapless citizen in their zombie-path (glaring daggers at them) and filling themselves with a sneaky, greasy burger and chips, before dropping the litter and half-chewed food on the ground.

And if they were under 18 they were probably also telling their witless parents to get the family gas-guzzler ready to drive them 50 yards to school in the morning ('Walking? Wuzzat?'), where they were immediately going to go on strike...for the sake of the

environment.

And if you're frothing at the mouth there and saying 'What's HE doing for the environment?' then the answer is the same as it's been for the past 40-odd years: not having children. More people should try it - far more environment-friendly than hugging a hobbit.

And I was amused to see that a militant vegan organisation Animal Rebellion used the mayhem of blocked roads and bridges to take over Smithfield Meat Market. When you realise that you're sharing the planet with militant vegans then you know it's time to get off.

Suddenly the old joke about the guy who said that he would commit mass murder in order to win the Nobel Peace Prize doesn't seem funny anymore.

Neither does the 16-year-old Swedish activist Greta Thunberg. Long months of celebrities and politicians -- worried about being on the wrong end of a trend - who are sucking up to the young girl is causing her untold damage. In fact, watching her recent meltdown over President Donald Trump ignoring her should have sent out the final warning signs to everyone. She is not used to being ignored and boy, did it show.

The looks of disgust and even hate on her face were not those of a healthy passion but of the obsession of a kid suffering from what I personally see as child abuse in the way she is being dragged around from pillar to post.

'You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words', she put it, going completely OTT. But I think that Greta should take

a look closer to her own camp to see who exactly is stealing her childhood.

Or how about the Extinction Rebellion co-founder, Gail Bradbrook? She's another of the 'do as I say, not as I do' school, along with Creepy diCaprio, George Clooney and the rest of those who preach at us from the comfort of their private jets. As she says herself she's been gearing up for the old civil disruption bit since 2010 and is mighty keen for the ordinary sucker to cut out travelling by plane completely.

All of which didn't stop her boasting all over her social media pages three years ago about her 11,000 air miles trip to Costa Rica where she took hallucinogens and got in touch with 'the spirit of the otter'. As you do.

The difference was of course that she was on a voyage of 'self-discovery', unlike the nice holiday break that we carbon-footprint monsters leave behind.

And so finally to Joker,\* which certainly seems to have touched a nerve with the cinema-going public - and anything that gets people away from their streaming and into the cinema is all right by me.

Joker is well worth seeing for the quite extraordinary performance of a deeply ill man by Phoenix and for the interesting (if not so successful) way it deals with mental health and street rebellion. The latter, with its masks, reminded me of the far better film V for Vendetta.

But it was the predictably over-the-top talk of Joker inspiring acts of violence that reminded me of the late *Chicago Sun-Times* film critic, the brilliant Roger Ebert, who once wrote:

'The day after Columbine, I was interviewed for the Tom Brokaw

news program. The reporter had been assigned a theory and was seeking sound bites to support it. "Wouldn't you say," she asked, "that killings like this are influenced by violent movies?" No, I said, I wouldn't say that...

'The reporter looked disappointed, so I offered her my theory. "Events like this," I said "if they are influenced by anything, are influenced by news programs like your own. When an unbalanced kid walks into a school and starts shooting, it becomes a major media event. Cable news drops ordinary programming and goes around the clock with it. The story is assigned a logo and a theme song; these two kids were packaged as the Trench Coat Mafia. The message is clear to other disturbed kids around the country: If I shoot up my school, I can be famous. The TV will talk about nothing else but me. Experts will try to figure out what I was thinking. The kids and teachers at school will see they shouldn't have messed with me. I'll go out in a blaze of glory.

'In short, I said, events like Columbine are influenced far less by violent movies than by CNN, the NBC Nightly News and all the other news media, who glorify the killers in the guise of "explaining" them. I commended the policy at the *Sun-Times*, where our editor said the paper would no longer feature school killings on Page 1. The reporter thanked me and turned off the camera.

'Of course, the interview was never used.'

I never met the guy, but six years on I still miss Roger Ebert.

\*Personally, I preferred Judy, a biopic of the wonderful Judy Garland - but that's just me.

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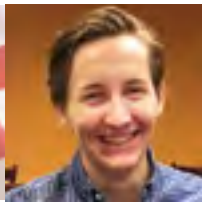


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## Generation Next

By Conor O'Connor

### Is Anything Private Anymore?

Privacy has become a topic of conversation recently. If you think about it, privacy is a pretty vague word. It's used as an explanation for countless different actions that, from most points of view, have little to do with one another:

"Why did you put tape over your webcam?" "Privacy."

"Why is your Instagram profile hidden?" "Privacy."

"Why do you need me to knock before I come in?" "Privacy."

Humans are social beings. We need one another to thrive, learn, love, and survive. That being said, time away from the herd (or "friend group" in a college student's case) is an essential part of living a healthy, balanced life.

Time for reflection, self-care, and intimacy with others keeps the mind sharp, active, and engaged with the world. Despite our inherent need for privacy, we've reached a point as a society where one must really ask: is anything private anymore?

Those hickies on your neck? Everyone in your fraternity knows who gave them to you because your brother took a video of you stealthily leaving a party with someone. Your embarrassing Google searches? Facebook knows that you searched for "Why do I like the smell of my own farts?" and will now be targeting fart and pooped-themed ads at you until the day you die.

Whether we like it or not, we live in an internet age. With each passing day, the internet becomes more ingrained in the lives of everyday people. Instagram influencers live off of the income they make posing with sponsored products. YouTubers sustain themselves with the royalties they earn from running ads before their videos. Professional video gamers compete in tournaments for prizes of over a million dollars.

The point is, the companies who provide these services are

slowly gaining more and more power over the personal lives of their clients. Twitter just about throws a riot when a server glitch takes down Instagram or Snapchat. Online banking and mobile deposit have become a staple of every big financial institution in the world. Despite the diverse array of services these companies provide, each one is motivated by the same thing: profit. Every company is in a perpetual race to determine the next thing the public will desire, whether that be a new iPhone, a new app, or a new piece of technology. How do companies like Facebook, Google, and Amazon do this? They have to know their clientele.

You've probably heard this lecture before; big websites collect personal information from their users and sell that information to third party advertisers so that they can best reach their target audience. What you may not have heard, however, is the power these websites can have over the people that use them.

In January 2012, a team of data scientists at Facebook launched an experiment targeting around 700,000 Facebook users. The goal

of the experiment was to see if the content that people saw on Facebook could alter their overall moods. One group saw mostly positive items on their news feed, while the other group saw mostly negative items on their news feed.

Scientists then monitored the words that people used in status updates during the week and compared the two groups to one another. What they discovered isn't all that shocking, but it's also not largely considered today. They found that what people see on their news feeds (or timelines, or whatever) can affect their moods. That should scare you. Hell, it terrifies me.

To know that a CEO at some Silicon Valley company could engage in high-profile, widespread mood manipulation with the click of a button is horrific. What's worse, it's already happened. That's exactly what the Cambridge Analytica scandal was about. A company harvested the personal data of millions of Facebook users without their expressed consent and used it for political advertising purposes. For all we know, the ads that people saw as a result of this scandal could have decided the election. After all, Clinton lost the swing states of Michigan, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Ohio by just a few thousand votes.

So yeah, I've become a proponent of privacy. In an era where it can be hard to tell what's true and what's not, sometimes all you can

do is trust what your gut tells you. And if you can't do that, what's left to lean on? In order to continue to exist as a society, we have to have faith in the way that things

are done. If we place faith in the wrong institutions, however, we risk falling victim to lies, deceit, and the whims of those with the means to manipulate us.

### Freedom for All Ireland Night 11-15

The Chicago Ancient Order of Hibernians present *Freedom for All Ireland Night* on Friday, November 15, 2019 at 7pm. at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, IL

tively holding those responsible to account and in ensuring that the needs and experiences of victims of the conflict in Ireland are identified and championed makes him one of the most recognizable and



60630 \$10 donation suggested.

Speaking at the event will be special guest, Mark Thompson founder of Relatives for Justice and CEO in Belfast Northern Ireland.

Mark is responsible for the strategic development and management of Relatives for Justice and has overseen the growth of the organisation from a successful and dedicated voluntary campaigning group to an established professional human rights, advocacy and support organisation that sets the bar on best practice for victims and survivors of conflict in Ireland. Mark has overseen the establishment of an holistic model of support for families affected by conflict violations, ensuring effective support for redressing human rights abuses partnered by a range of services including therapeutic support. Under Mark's tenure Relatives for Justice has become an internationally recognised and highly regarded human rights NGO. Mark's experience in pro-ac-

respected figures in the debate on how we Deal with the Past.

As an advocate in the field of human rights Mark has been central to key strategic litigation not least around Article 2 of the ECHR in both holding the UK to account but also in re-established these rights ensuring that they are upheld in all areas of legacy investigation and transitional justice mechanisms.

Mark has made representations on families' behalf at US Congress and the United Nations, European Parliament, European Court, as well as to governments in both Ireland, Britain and across the globe.

For more information, contact Sean O'Dowd at seanodowd@aoh.org.

Freedom for all Ireland (FFAI) is a national AOH/LAOH initiative that promotes one island, one Ireland with peace, justice and equality for all. All proceeds raised by this event are donated to over a dozen worthy charities/causes throughout the North of Ireland.

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## Independent Medical Exams (Ime's) In Workers Compensation Cases:

I hope this month finds all my readers enjoying the crisp Fall mornings and the lovely colors of our ever changing landscape, as we transition away from Summer days. This month I wanted to give you a little insight in to Independent Medical Exams, which are medical exams set up by an employer's insurance company in the context of a workers compensation case.

When you have a workers' compensation

case because of a work related illness or injury, your treating doctor will make decisions about what medical treatment you need, when you can return to work, whether you have any permanent disability and if so, to what extent that permanent disability may hinder your return to work.

Often times, if there is a dispute with your employer's insurance company about any of your medical treatment issues, you may be asked to undergo a medical evaluation with another doctor who is—at least in theory—neutral. The outcome of these exams, can significantly affect your workers' compensation case and how much you'll receive in benefits going forward and so it is very important to know how they work and what you can do to counter an IME report that goes against your claim.

IME's are also commonly referred to as Section 12 examinations, as they are covered by Section 12 of the Illinois Workers Compensation Act. The act states that "an employee entitled to receive disability payments shall be required, if requested by the employer, to submit him/herself, at the expense of the employer, for an examination to a duly qualified medical



## Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



can sometimes be difficult to discredit an IME doctor's opinion.

However, there are some situations where you may challenge the IME report effectively and my colleagues and I here at Dwyer & Coogan spend a large proportion of our time, fighting the legitimacy and accuracy of these IME reports.

In a recent case, where my client developed frostbite as a result of working outdoors continuously in the winter months, the insurance company set him up with an IME doctor. The IME doctor completely disregarded the notion of frostbite and said that instead my client had a very rare and little known about disease in his hands and fingers, that was related to his history of smoking and therefore not a work related condition and therefore not work related. The insurance company suspended all benefits after this IME.

I took the deposition of this IME doctor, and it was clear, very early on that he knew next to nothing about the actual disease he was now diagnosing my client with. By the end of the deposition it was clear that he simply found a reason, any reason, to conclude that my clients condition was not related to his job.

practitioner or surgeon, selected by the employer, at any time and place reasonably convenient for the employee".

In short, as long as you are entitled to benefits under the Act, your employer provides you with travel expenses and the doctor they would like you to see is not unreasonably located far away, IME's are mandatory. If you refuse to attend and are in receipt of workers compensation benefits your refusal can be legal justification for the employer to suspend your benefits until such time as you agree to attend the exam.

The Act ensures a right for the employer to have a doctor of their own choosing, exam you, to see if their doctor agrees with the recommended treatment of your treating doctor, agrees that the injury you suffered actually has a connection with your employment and/or agrees that the condition for which you require treatment is one that was caused by your job or an injury on the job. If after such an exam, the IME doctor, disagrees with your treating doctor regarding a specific treatment that is being recommended to you or worse still, disagrees that your injury is work related, then your employer will have the legal justification to suspend all or some of your benefits.

I see injured workers being sent for IME's most commonly at times when surgery is being recommended, or just before a treating doctor is getting ready to release an injured worker from their care.

An IME is supposed to be an objective assessment of your medical condition. However, whether your IME is truly objective may depend, in part, on the doctor selected and the timing of the IME and why it is being set up.

Because the doctors performing these exams are chosen by the employers insurance company, there is good reason to question the impartiality of these doctors. Remember, they receive their payment from the insurance companies and often rely on them for referrals and more business and because of such relationships many IME doctors have an incentive to lower the insurer's costs (and your benefits), by minimizing the extent of your injury and your need for potentially expensive medical treatment.

After the IME, the doctor will write a report with his or her conclusions and opinions. The results of the IME can have a very real impact on your case. Workers' Compensation Arbitrators often see IME doctors as "experts" and can give significant weight to their reports and it

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been exposed to the cold which caused frostbite and an infection. This led to the Arbitrator stating that all of my clients lost time from work, his medical bills for the treatment including surgery that he had undergone and a lump sum for the permanent injury he suffered, were the responsibility of the Employer and should be paid immediately.

If you are being sent for an IME in your workers compensation case it is a very important part of the case and you should not navigate that part of your case alone. Please give me a call and we can discuss how best to prepare for before and after your IME exam.

\*Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney practicing all types of personal injury law – including medical malpractice law, nursing home litigation, wrongful death claims, transportation injuries, premises liability claims, defective produce claims, construction site injuries and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at [cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com](mailto:cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com) or at 312-543-4642



# The Gaelic Park Players in Mirth, Mahem and Music

the Gaelic Park Players proudly present their Fall 2019 Play, *Dooley's Raid* promising mirth, mahem, and music debuting on Friday, November 8th at 8pm.

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You can also catch the Gaelic Park Junior Players in their production of *Taddy, Spirit of Ireland*, written and directed by Bill Gleason. Shows on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 22, 23, 24. *see ads right side of page for more info!*



(l-r): Michael DePriest Reed plays Kiley, Meek Azarkiewicz plays Jerryn, Brian Leo plays Dooley, and Scott Fiedler playing Scott in Mirth, Mahem, Music.



Amanda Leo as Judy in Mirth, Mahem Music.



Director, Brian Leo



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## Policing the Irish Border

Attempting to plot a train route from one end of the Irish border at the Irish Sea to the other end in South Donegal is an impossible endeavour. Though only around 100 miles separates the two places, it might as well be ten times that distance from the point of view of rail infrastructure. Travelling from one end of the border by

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## View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



rail to the other is a little like trying to travel from Key West in Florida to Havana: merely 100 miles separates the two cities, but most travel operators will route you through Canada.

Uniquely on the island, the North midlands and the North-west of Ireland are unserved by rail. This severance from the rest of the island's rail connection is symbolic of a deeper and enduring political disconnection from the politico-economic centre of the North (Belfast) and from the politico-economic centre of the South, Dublin. Even if Shane Ross remains Minister for Transport for the next thousand years, he will not lay tracks along the border.

The government's reluctance to cultivate the border area is also matched by an unwillingness in the private sector to stray anywhere near the border to invest and to develop. Some lenders operating in the Ireland today even explicitly exclude consideration of borrowing applications from border counties on the southern side such as Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal. As if these economic challenges were not stark enough, the border area stands to be more damaged by Brexit than any-

where else on the island. It is in the light of these realities that attacks on the border in recent months should be understood.

Northern governance of the border is undermined by the ongoing political inertia in Belfast. As the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Simon Byrne stated in August, the absence of the Northern Ireland Assembly has created a 'political vacuum' and a 'breeding ground' for dissident terrorism and hatred of the police. From this vacuum came a bomb attack at Wattlebridge in Fermanagh in August, which targeted the police.

Clearly frustrated, Chief Constable Byrne was unusually outspoken about the failure of politicians to do their jobs causing risk to the police: 'We have become the shock absorbers for failures elsewhere in terms of the ability of other agencies to do their job because they're not getting direction because of the lack of an Executive'.

Of all the sensitive issues that required cross-community assent to facilitate a new society in Northern Ireland after the Good

Friday Agreement in 1998, the justice and policing system was the most vexed. That a new civilianised police force, reflective of the population, in the years after the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 was successfully implemented is a great credit to (among others) former Deputy First Minister Seamus

Mallon and to Chris Patten, who chaired the commission for a new police force.

Given how elusive this new policing system was to secure, why would politicians today jeopardise it? Again, Chief Constable Byrne illustrated how an essential societal matter has been made into a political football: 'the time is fast approaching when we need to return policing and justice functions to Westminster in order to deal with the very real problems faced by our police and the local justice system'.

Such a reversion might bring narrow political gains for the Democratic Unionist Party, which still enjoys a prominent (though rapidly diminishing) political position in London. Yet restoring policing and justice functions to London's purview would be an extreme provocation to the nationalist community. In any society premised upon the check of one community being required to balance the other, the perception that the police force is once again a unionist organisation would be disastrous for the Good Friday Agreement's provisions.

Against this backdrop a most grisly affair on the Cavan-Fermanagh border occurred in September. A director of Quinn Industrial Holdings in Derrylin, Kevin Lunny, a local man, was abducted, brought to the southern side of the border and tortured within inches of his life. The attack on Lunny forms part of a long series of QIH workers who have been attacked, and who have had their homes and cars targeted. The attack on Lunny, however, was the closest that the thugs have come to murder. The background to the QIH is a complex narrative of a dispossessed businessman and competing loyalties, but the fact that it is happening on the border does not help ongoing security concerns in that region.

Garda Commissioner of Ireland, Drew Harris said in response: 'Some of the individuals involved...are very careful to ensure that their identities are concealed and the burning of vehicles and destruction of evidence is very evident in this and have made this particularly difficult'. Harris's comment is a disturbing straw in the wind. The commissioner is saying that the police forces on neither side of the border have a strategy to halt the vigilantism.

These are the on the ground effects of the political instability in Northern Ireland and of Brexit. At time of writing it is at least possible that the UK Parliament may pass the newly negotiated Brexit deal on October 19th, but, if the deal does not get through parliament, it is all but certain that the UK will crash out of the EU without deal on October 31st. If that happens, a visible border will be erected in Ireland. A spokesperson for the 'New IRA' told Channel 4 in October that 'any infrastructure would be a legitimate target for attack and armed actions against those infrastructures and against the people who are manning them'. He did not state that if Irish soldiers or Irish customs officers were manning the border they would be any the less targets. Policing the border is becoming a lethal risk.

## VIETNAM VETERANS TELL THEIR STORY

Veteran's Day Mass and Remembrance  
Sunday, November 17, 2019

The IAHC, in partnership with Vietnam Veterans of America, Chicago Chapter 242, honors those who have served and sacrificed for their country with a Veteran's Day Mass and program.

Mass is celebrated at 10:30am followed by a discussion with members of the chapter who have published their stories.

Books will be available for purchase and light refreshments will be served.



#### Mike Duffy

*From Chicago to Vietnam  
A MEMOIR OF WAR*

82nd Airborne Division, C Battery  
7th Battalion, 9th Artillery  
Ben Hoa Base Camp: 1967-1968

#### Roger McGill

*Before, During, And After Vietnam*

25th Infantry Division, HHT  
3rd Squadron 4th Cavalry  
Cu Chi, Vietnam: 1965-1966

#### John Jennings

*Napalm And Fillet Mignon*

4th Infantry Division, B Co.  
1/14th Infantry  
Plieku, Vietnam: 1969-1970



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## pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



### 'Hi, Gene' Hygiene is More Than Clean

I have worked at many, many jobs, but my vocation has been and remains that of a high school English teacher. I worked as a janitor, salesman, dock-worker, lumber cutter, meat cutter, bartender, and banjo busker. I know hard work and chose to teach high school. Merciful God and His Mom have allowed me to do just that these past forty- five years.

One of those many jobs, held ever so briefly, was that of fry-cook and burger flipper for Chicken Unlimited in 1968. I was hired by Gene Mahoney, who was an electrician turned franchise owner and operated Chicken Unlimited stations at 79th & Wood Street and at 95th & Damen.

My job was to flip hamburgers and dunk baskets of battered chicken pieces, shrimp and french fries into vats of boiling edible oil.

Chicken Unlimited specialized in deep-fried chicken, of course, but also had a very tasty burger smartly dressed with

shredded lettuce, tomato, onion and squirted with the highly suggestive Wham Sauce™ - hence the Chicken Unlimited Wham Burger™. Whamsauce™ was 1,000 Island Dressing with a hint of garlic powder.

I was seventeen years old and more than ready to make a steady bundle of ready cash and no longer work with moonlighting Chicago firemen who installed sprinklers out in rural Orland Park, or coated two, three and ten flat building roofs with boiling tar. Now, I would have my pay deducted by Social Security Administration for my old age, work regular hours and be plaid with a genuine check, as opposed to the smelly wadded up singles and fives that retained the odor of the bar over which they were exchanged for cashed personal checks and handed to Chicago's smoke-eating first responders on the moonlight.

Gene Mahoney, God embrace his lovely soul, hired me and a dozen other young persons from Little Flower High School. The girls were all stunningly beautiful south side Irish lasses with names like Bridget, Katy, Eileen and Mary Pat. The guys were . . .well, they all looked like me - awkward, pimply, awkward, clumsy, maladroit, inept, gauche, mean - not marked by ease. We were Tim, two Pats, a Kevin and a Marty.

On my first day, Gene Mahoney gave me a going over that would have made a mother chimpanzee proud, "Let's see the nails; cut em. Wash your mitts. Take that smoke out from the ear. Try standing a little closer to toothbrush, next time. Jesus, you are working with food that other people will eat, for Christ's sake! Get in the

bathroom and clean. up."

I had only just arrived from a full day at school and had yet to commit myself to the necessary ablutions. . . . nah, I was a teenage slob. I would have handled the food with, or without a soaping. That is how young men roll.

When I passed Gene Maloney's inspection, he showed me the fried poultry ropes. They were Gordian. The mysteries of the huge chicken deep fryer were positively Masonic. I screwed up at least seven batches of chicken.

"Hi, Gene" Hygiene is More than Clean The smaller basket fryers for the shrimp and french fries proved a little less daunting.

I mastered the flat Whamburger™ grill without problem or incident. Gene Mahoney watched me flip burgers with the aplomb of a Sunday feature on Ed Sullivan Show and marveled at my quick product wrap and presentation to hungry customers.

It was my work at the mainstay Chicken fryer that put gray in Gene's jet black hair. Gene watched me bathe wings, thighs, breasts and legs in a milk based marinade, coat and be-flour the ready limbs. He analyzed

my exchange of parts from the stainless steel work station to the enormous deep fryer and found no fault.

I timed the many pounds of dressed and boiling birds in those roiling oils perfectly, yet, batch after batch went in the sh. . .shrimper.

My hands, nails, hair and buckers were all brushed and

scrubbed clean and appealing, but I was a chicken ration assassin.

I came to work two days later, schedule. I lustily saluted Mr. Mahoney, "Hi Gene!" Mr. Mahoney signaled me to come closer, "Hick, I can't use you. You screw up too many baskets of chicken. Go to Gee Lumber. They need a good man on the cement mixer."

He said that without a trace of irony and a most sincere sense of God Speed, Young Man!

I went that day to Gee Lumber and worked lumber all through Junior and Senior year at Little Flower HS. I could be as unhygienic as a member of the Saudi Royal family and manage to work through the day. I cut lumber and pipe; mixed cement and paint; sold gravel, sand and fire wood and all without a trip to the jakes and thorough scrubbing. I loved working at Gee Lumber. I worked with several highly literate Vietnam veterans who encouraged my love of poetry and fiction - Jim Furey introduced me to Norman Mailer. I loved working with tough guys who were aware of Ionesco, Beckett and Cyrus Colter. Gee Lumber became my home base for other jobs and helped determine my path to Loyola University and toward a lifelong vocation as a high school English Teacher. Thus, Pullus praepratio exire et intrare doctrina (exit chicken cooking; enter studies).

I would not be teaching at Marquette Catholic High School today, were it not for the late Gene Maloney's hygiene inspections and my valedictory "Hi, Gene" on a sunny November Day in 1968.



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## GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



Hello again. What beautiful weather we are having. It was so beautiful I decided to go 'SKY DIVING' for my birthday. My husband and son, daughter made the arrangements. We headed off to Indiana on beautiful sunny morning. My children kept asking me if I was nervous and what if my parachute failed to open could they please have my car and valuables. Thanks. Yes I have real witty kids. I wasn't feeling nervous if anything I felt very calm. I was actually thinking about my younger brother and sister who recently passed from cancer and whose lives had been drastically cut short so I guess in essence I wanted to do it for them too. Originally I wanted to do it as a family activity but my daughter was under eighteen years old, my son said it wasn't his cup of tea and my husband has knee problems but they gave me their

support.

When we arrived I saw the planes and skydivers laying out the parachutes double checking they were in order. There were three young girls ahead of me with beautifully braided hair later I would see my hair on video and realize why they braided their hair. They asked for a package deal with video and photographs. I got the same deal especially for my insurance company in case my parachute didn't open. Just kidding, seriously I was confident nothing would happen to me until they asked me to step on the scales, I didn't want to look as I had been in Ireland with my daughter for a month over indulging in Irish cuisine {fish'n'chips with salt, vinegar} and treats. I don't generally have a sweet tooth as my mother gave us dessert seven days a week.

I also had under taken a six

week 'Sweatshop' challenge to build up my stamina. The terms of the agreement were that you work out at least three times a week either in a group setting to music with intervals of strength training or individual classes. They are open six days a week. I went every day. I thought I was going to have an asthma attack or something worse but I slowly found my happy place sometimes venturing back for the evening classes too. Naturally I dragged a few friends with me but I haven't seen them since, just joking they did amazing and actually loved it so much they took out gym memberships. I didn't as I have my own gym membership but enjoy challenges so I'm looking forward to signing up for the fall or spring challenge. I want to shout out to Matt. Congratulations upon opening your new 'sweatshop' premises in Palatine. Your coaches, staff are amazing and made us feel so welcome.

Sorry my minds wondering all over the place. Ok, so I'm now getting strapped into the skydiving harness I'm telling myself this is really happening. We are taken over to another corner for instructions which literally lasted 4 minutes. The main instruction being to keep your feet up upon landing and listen closely to your tandem coach who would be strapped on behind you. Wow. Thats it.

I thought it was going to be at least an hour long class on safety etc. I was still in shock when my coach came over to introduce himself. A nice tall young fella from New Zealand.

He checked my harness again and motioned to me that we should walk towards the airplane.

I was hoping I wasn't too heavy for him after all those Irish treats. I looked back at my husband and kids waving and snapping pictures. I knew they were looking for an inkling of fear on my face but I waved back with both arms and a fearless smile on my face. I didn't realize I was the last one to get in and would be the first one out. My coach and I sat on the floor with the door wide open his foot was dangling over the edge.

I could see my family below getting smaller and smaller. I was given goggles to protect my eyes and fastened with another harness onto my coach who then told me to shift myself over to the edge of the plane and smile for the camera that he was holding to video everything and suddenly BOOM.

We were out of the plane flying high in the sky. The air just hit you in your face like a ton of bricks [cleared my sinus] Once

you adjusted to it the feeling was exhilarating out of this world such a rush of emotions you don't know whether to laugh or cry.

I had every confidence in my sky diving coach he was wonderful and kept talking and joking with me the whole time and captured my emotions on tape. I felt wonderfully empowered, strong, brave and very peaceful all at the same time. The landing was very gentle better than I thought.

I couldn't wait to see my children's faces and give them a huge hug hoping that I showed them their mother comes from a long line of strong Irish women and nothing not even cancer can take me away from them.

Dedicating this to all the strong mothers out there past and present. Wonder what escapades I can get up to for my next birthday. Bye for now. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

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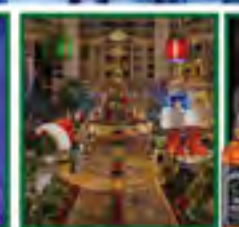
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**A Word With  
Kathleen  
Donahue**



Each year in June, Catholic Charities looks forward to honoring older adults at our Senior Unity Mass. This year's 46th annual event, which will take place June 13 at the historic St. Casimir Motherhouse, will include singing from Catholic Charities' talented staff choir, an information fair on senior services, opportunities to socialize with old and new friends, and a delicious hot lunch. Each senior is made to feel extra special on this day. It is a beautiful way for seniors from all over the Archdiocese to come together in fun and fellowship to celebrate the joys of elderhood.

The careful planning and dedication that make the Senior Unity Mass so special is indicative of the same loving care that goes into all Catholic Charities services for older adults. Catholic Charities is profoundly grateful that more than 300,000 seniors are entrusted to our care each year, and we are honored to treat them with the compassion and esteem that reflects their essential human dignity. We offer seniors a multitude of services that act as a complete continuum of care, helping them remain in their own homes, relocate to affordable senior apartments, or make the transition to nursing care.

One of the ways seniors and their families look to Catholic Charities for assistance is through our Care Coordination program, in which caseworkers visit seniors in their homes and conduct a comprehensive assessment to identify needs. Then, we assist the senior in setting up needed services, many of which are offered by Catholic Charities. For example, Catholic Charities Home Care Department helps seniors with daily activities such as cleaning, cooking, bathing, grooming, and shopping. We also oper-

ate the Home Delivered Meals program, which offers a hot noon-time meal delivered with love by dedicated volunteers. Oftentimes the daily hot meal and routine visits from a home care aid are all that are needed for a senior to gracefully age in place, remaining safely in their own homes and communities.

Catholic Charities also operates three Adult Day Care sites. These are wonderful places for seniors who cannot be alone during the day. We provide transportation to and from the sites as well as breakfast, lunch and a snack. We engage the seniors in a variety of activities throughout the day focusing on health, exercise, socialization, and creativity. In addition, Catholic Charities manages numerous Congregate Dining locations and five Senior Centers, offering cheerful and welcoming gathering places where seniors can make new friends, enjoy a nutritionally-balanced hot lunch, and engage in a wide array of activities.

For seniors who are looking to downsize or make a move

into senior housing, Catholic Charities offers 1,500 affordable apartments in 19 buildings that are specifically designed for the unique needs of older adults. Affordability, accessibility, and numerous safety features make these apartments a great option for low-income seniors who want to maintain their independence but desire the camaraderie of living near other older adults.

For seniors in need of nursing care, Catholic Charities operates Holy Family Villa, a licensed skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility in Palos Park that offers 24-hour nursing staff; physical, occupational and speech therapy; social services; pastoral care; nutritious meals; and social and recreational activities. Long-term care and short-term rehab are available.

Pope Francis has reminded us that our seniors are a treasury of wisdom and a gift of love and beauty for the Church and the world. We need only look to some of our favorite Bible stories to see God's love for elders and their significant contributions to His unfolding purposes. Catholic Charities is blessed to care for so many of our treasured seniors in the Archdiocese of Chicago, and we are committed to meeting their needs with grace and dignity so that we all may celebrate the joys of elderhood together.

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# Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler

Who was Bridget "Biddy" Early? (O'Connor) (1798-1872) She used her mother's maiden name. She was a traditional herbalist, folk healer, (clairvoyant) a wise woman. She was said to have predicted the future. Some would she used supernatural energies, traditions, superstitions. She practiced with different plants, remedies and recipes that her mother taught her.

She was born in Co. Clare. She helped her neighbors and people with different ailments. The priests in the area and landlords accused her of witchcraft. She couldn't read or write but that was not uncommon at that time. Biddy's mom taught her the craft; she gave her the family secrets of healing. Sadly, Biddy's mother died when Biddy was sixteen, leaving Biddy in charge. Shortly after her mom passed her father died of Typhus. (bacterial infection)

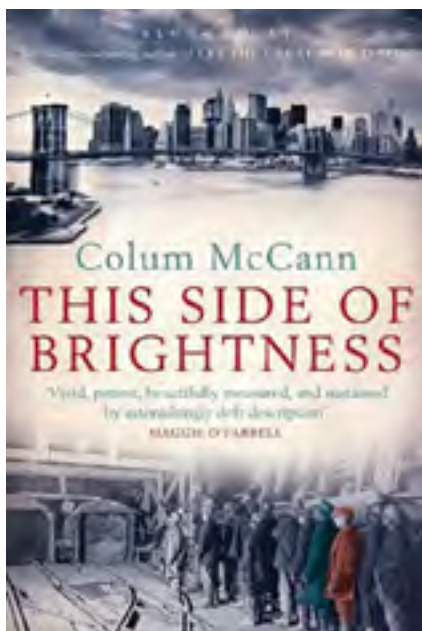
She met her first husband Pat Malley. (a man twice her age) They had a son named Paddy; it would be her only child. She began to earn a reputation for her cures & remedies. Biddy never requested money for her services. However, her clients would pay her in Whiskey. Tragically, Biddy was widowed at twenty-five. Later she would marry her stepson John Malley. Unfortunately, John died because of liver failure leaving Early a widow again at forty. She married again to a man named Tom Flannery, he also died leaving Early widowed for the third time. She was married a fourth and final time to Thomas Meaney. A much younger man he was 40 years younger than her, in exchange for a cure. They lived in her cottage until he died, within a year of their marriage. He passed from a "fondness of the bottle".

When people didn't get the help, they wanted from doctors or if they couldn't afford a doctor they would turn to Early. She was insightful, intuitive which helped her recognize people's needs. She was also called upon occasionally to treat animals. Although the church didn't approve of Early's practices, she encouraged people to listen to their priests. Priests banned people from visiting her, but they went in anyway in secret. People believed she was good. They thought the priests were afraid that she would be getting the money meant for



the church. Early eventually was accused of witchcraft under the witchcraft act 1586. She was released for lack of evidence.

The locals supported her and would not testify against her. Early died in poverty in 1874. Several priests were present at her funeral. One of the many stories surrounding the life of Biddy was that she had a special bottle, she used for mixing her tonics. It was said to be a gift from the fairies. Before she died, she threw it in a small lake and over the year people have tried to find it...



There are basically two types of medicine, conventional & alternative. (complementary/integrative-when you use both) We have naturopathy, homeopathy, Chinese, Ayurveda, bioenergy, chiropractic, reiki, religious faith healing, etc...Biddy was our alternative healer and her legend will continue.

Meda Ryan & Edmund Lenihan wrote a book about Biddy, In Search of Biddy Early.

There is a bar in Co. Kilkenny named, Biddy Early's.

### Gaelic for the month:

Healer-leighis (lice)  
Cure-leigheas (lias)  
Medicine-leigheas (lias)  
Herbs-luibheanna (liveanna)

May the strength of three be in your journey-

**December's Book Club at Gaelic Park** will be on December 1st, 1pm.

The book we're discussing is titled, ***This Side of Brightness***, by **Colum McCann**. Available at Amazon and Good Reads.

email me: Molanive@yahoo.com

## Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler

### In My Father's Time

I think back to the threshing days and how those days will never be repeated because of advances of technology and maybe a different approach to work. A threshing machine or thresher is a piece of farm equipment. That was very common in rural Ireland when I was young. It threshes/separates the grain, meaning it removes the seeds from the stalks and husks. It does my beating the plant to make the seeds fall out. Before these machines were developed threshing was done by hand with flails, it was a very arduous/grueling job and very time-consuming. Mechanization or modernization of this process removed a considerable amount of labor from farm work. The thresher was invented around 1780's by a Scottish engineer named Andrew Meikle.

Some Amish communities still use pedal-power threshers and horse drawn binders and threshers. The swing riots in England were partly because of the threshing machine. Following years of war, high taxes, and low wages, farm laborers revolted in the 1830's. These farm laborers faced unemployment due to the introduction of the machine and the policy of enclosing fields. No longer were thousands of men needed to tend to crops. The rioters smashed threshing machines. The demonstrators were dealt with harshly. Some were killed and almost 500 were transported to Tasmania. Threshing is just one step of the process in getting cereals to the grinding mill and customer. The wheat needs to be grown, cut, bun-



dled, hauled, threshed, dechaffed, straw baled, and then the grain hauled to a grain elevator. For many

years each of these steps was an individual process, required teams of workers. These machines could be very dangerous if not used properly. I will never forget that a ten-year-old boy was standing on a threshing machine, I was standing on the ground collecting some type of grain. The boy fell in the machine and was killed instantly. That day they carried out ten bags of dust and blood. The memory stays with me. Gaelic park has a "heritage and harvest day", they showcase animals and a variety of equipment from the past to explain this process to kids and what a threshing machine was in years gone by.

I will leave you with this inspiring story. The Four Seasons of Life

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So, he sent them each on a quest, in turn to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away. The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer, and the youngest son in the fall. When they had gone and returned, he called them together to describe what they had seen. The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent and twisted. The second son said it was covered with green buds and full of promise. The third son disagreed; he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most graceful thing he had ever seen. The last son disagreed with all of them; he said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment. The man explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen only one season in the tree's life. He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season. That the essence of who they are, are the pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life, can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up. If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, and the fulfillment of your fall.

If you have any comments please call me at (708) 425-7021



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**Sarah Keating, the Irish Vice Consul, addressing the crowd**









*(L to R): Stephen Travers; Person of the Year, Denis Brown; Visual Arts, Barry Stapleton; Music, Eoin Colfer; Literature, Mike Neary; Volunteer of the Year and Rita and Frank Thornton accepting the award for Performing Arts on behalf of their son, Michael Patrick Thornton. Not pictured; Maureen Dowd, Media/Journalism. Awards provided by Belleek.*







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- Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Bruges, Belgium
- Paris (Le Havre), France - *Tour the Beaches of Normandy or Spend the Day in Paris*
- Bilbao, Spain
- Lisbon, Portugal - *A Tour to Fatima will be an option*
- Gibraltar, United Kingdom
- Malaga, Spain - *Tour Costa del Sol*
- Cartagena, Spain
- Rome, Italy - *An additional post night will be offered along with tour options to the Vatican and Colosseum*

**CALL OUR OFFICE FOR PRICING + AVAILABILITY**

**INCLUDED PERKS:**

- Classic Beverage Package (Alcoholic and Nonalcoholic Drinks)
- Complimentary Gratuities
- Dinner for 2 at a Specialty Restaurant
- Chocolate Covered Strawberries + Champagne in Stateroom on Arrival
- All Taxes

**A deposit of \$450 per person required at the time of booking**  
*Deposit is REFUNDABLE until final payment date*

**CALL GADABOUT TRAVEL AT 708-974-1300 OR EMAIL**  
**GADABOUTTRAVEL@HOTMAIL.COM**